



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.

NOVEMBER 2010

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

Those darn geese are flying south again. The leaves are almost off the trees. It's getting colder. And, to add insult to injury, we're supposed to be grateful. November brings Thanksgiving, the one day of the year when gratitude is honored. Of course, we are told we should be grateful more than one day of the year. We are told that, not only should we be grateful, but that the attitude of gratitude is good for us. All of this is undoubtedly true; however, when gratitude is presented like this, it feels like something else to go on the "to do" list. Go to the gym, pick up the dry cleaning, be grateful. One more thing in a busy day. We do have much to be grateful for. There is no doubt about that. Each of us can think of people who live in far worse circumstances than we do. Somehow, that realization doesn't always inspire gratitude. Perhaps another way to think of gratitude is enjoyment. When we stop for a moment and recognize that we are enjoying ourselves, rather than letting the moment slip away, I think we are better able to approach true gratitude. Whether it's a moment when we see a beautiful red maple against a blue sky, or whether we are quietly at home, snug with a good book, those fleeting moments deserve our attention. It can be hard to recognize enjoyment. Those Puritans brought us more than Thanksgiving dinners. But when we let ourselves be simply joyful, the way children are joyful, without expectations or qualifications, I think we come close to the real feeling of thanksgiving.

– Andrea Abbott

HARVEST SUPPER SMORGASBORD COMING UP

The UU Circle will sponsor a Harvest Supper Smorgasbord fundraiser on Saturday, November 20.

Last year our Smorgasbord Dinner raised more than \$400. What did we do with that money, you might ask. It went into the church treasury to keep the church running, to pay for the heat and lights, etc. It also paid for flowers or gifts from the church to members who were ill as well as paying for part of the costs for the annual picnic and other social gatherings.

Last year we had a great variety of dishes and a wonderful turnout. So, please start thinking of a favorite dish that you would like to contribute toward the Harvest Supper Smorgasbord this year. Your help and support are deeply appreciated. There are sign-up sheets on the East Room table at church.

For more information contact Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer, at abpeterson@localnet.com.

Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27. His address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332; his telephone number is 315-635-5294; his e-mail address is rhaskell@twcnny.rr.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

I want to thank Ann, Ellen, Jane, Chet, Marilyn and Steve for helping with the October 17 Adopt-a-Highway pickup. This is an ongoing project coordinated by the SJC.

Several church members plan to attend the Saint Lawrence District Social Justice Conference on Saturday, October 30. We hope to have fresh ideas to share at our meeting at 9 a.m. on November 14. At this time, we will discuss ongoing and new social justice issues to study. Please feel free to join us or make suggestions to a member.

The Rev. Libbie Stoddard has suggested a "Magazine Swap." We can bring in magazines to pass on. We will set them up in the dining room and you can help yourself. Let's start November 7 and continue the first Sunday of the month and see how it works.

I hope we have a productive year.

– Nancy Hallock, Social Justice Committee chair

GREEN MINUTE: WHY BUY FAIR TRADE?

People around the world are discovering that they can get the things they need while honoring and protecting workers around the globe by buying Fair Trade food and household items. By using Fair Trade items – from soap to clothes, sugar to toys – throughout our lives, you help people around the world build secure and rewarding lives.

For a product to be considered Fair Trade, the company selling it will ensure that its producers and distributors adhere to several Fair Trade principles including 1) paying workers a fair, living wage; 2) providing healthy, safe and empowering labor conditions; 3) fostering transparent, cooperative partnerships so farmers and artisans have a say in how the business is run; 4) cutting out middle merchants to strengthen relationships between producers and distributors to ensure more profits get into the hands of workers; 5) paying a premium that allows workers to improve their communities; 6) providing education to help workers to use environmentally sustainable production methods.

To be sure that a product is truly made or grown under Fair Trade standards, look for Fair Trade certification or for items from companies that are members of the Fair Trade Federation. There are many products that are Fair Trade, such as coffee for which farmers receive at least the minimum \$1.35 price per pound, that allows them to meet their needs and improve their villages. Look also for tea, sugar, bananas and other fruits and rice. Did you know that 20 percent of sugar is imported from countries where workers are endangered by unhealthy working environments and copious use of pesticides? Under Fair Trade, farmers receive the funds and training they need to protect the environment and reduce pesticide use. One out of every two flowers sold in the United States comes from Colombia, where workers, primarily women, are regularly exposed to carcinogenic pesticides and exploitation. Fair Trade empowers women in the flower industry and beyond so they can earn a sustainable living and achieve independence. Other Fair Trade items to look for are vanilla, olive oil, wine and, of course, craft items where the Fair Trade Federation screens companies for a strong commitment to Fair Trade.

Our Social Justice Committee offers Fair Trade coffee and chocolate for sale in the church dining room. These are premium products that will not disappoint you. If you want to know more about Fair Trade, go to the Web site www.fairtradeaction.org and download Green America's free "Guide to Fair Trade."

– 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.

The next food collection will be observed on Sunday, November 14.

Remember the Downstairs Scottie as you shop.

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

My Dear Friends,

It is 10:20 a.m. on a Sunday morning. There is a scattering of people in the pews. Soon it is 10:25 and a few more people have arrived. I call this UU time. Now it is 10:30, more people have arrived and the pews are looking quite respectable. The sanctuary becomes still, someone has lit the candles, and Rita Thornton begins playing the prelude. This is our call to worship. We have come together from different places, both spiritual and physical, to worship together, to worship as one. I know that I will be hearing another great sermon. We are very blessed to have a variety of wonderful ministers, including our soon-to-be minister, Andrea Abbott. Not too many religious organizations can boast this claim. Libbie Stoddard used to say, that if you didn't like what you heard this week, wait, next week will be different. That is what is so great; every week is wonderful and every week is different. I never want to miss Sunday mornings at church. It is my time for reflection, meditation and prayer. It is my time to be with my friends, to share and, yes, to enjoy coffee. May it be your time, too. Hope to see you in church.

With warm appreciation and blessings,
Janie

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

We are looking forward to having a choir again. We need to have some voices, and don't worry if you can't read music. The songs are learned at Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. before service. If you are interested, please contact me or just show up at rehearsal.

– Rita Thornton, music coordinator

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We are planning to decorate the church after the service on November 21. The decorations need to be up before the first Sunday of Advent, which falls on November 28. Bring a bag lunch if you wish, and some holiday and Christmas music to keep us energized. It won't take long with many hands working together. If you have any questions, contact me for more information.

– Rita Thornton

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view the second hour of part 1 of the PBS series "God in America" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 5.

"God in America" explores the tumultuous 400-year history of the intersection of religion and public life in America, from the first European settlements to the 2008 presidential election. A co-production of "American Experience" and "Frontline," this six-hour series examines how religious dissidents helped shape the American concept of religious liberty and the controversial evolution of that ideal in the nation's

courts and political arena; how religious freedom and waves of new immigrants and religious revivals fueled competition in the religious marketplace; how movements for social reform -- from abolition to civil rights -- galvanized men and women to put their faith into political action; and how religious faith influenced conflicts from the Revolution to the Cold War.

Again, we plan to have supper before the discussion group at the Akropolis Restaurant on Route 11 in Central Square. Please let Janie Garlow know at mjgarlow@aol.com or at 436-2238 by Thursday, November 4, if you plan to attend so that she may make a reservation a day ahead.

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 17.

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.

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.

CALENDAR

October

- 29 – 6:30 p.m., Book Club will meet at church to review the book, “Water for Elephants,” by Sara Gruen.
- 30 – Saint Lawrence District Social Justice Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth present “Spinning the Interdependent Web: Eco-Justice and Unitarian Universalism” at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse.
- 31 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister.

November

- 2 – 6:30 p.m. until 8ish p.m., Discussion group from “Magic of the Mind” class and “Shamanic Journeying” classes meet in the Community Room.
- 5 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis Restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group will view the second hour of part 1 of the PBS series “God in America” in the Goettel Room. Everyone is welcome.
- 7 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. “Magazine Swap” sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.
- 11 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets.
- 12 – 6 p.m. until 8ish p.m., Open Drum Circle meets in the Community Room.
- 14 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee meets. All are welcome. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 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.
- 17 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 20 – The UU Circle will sponsor a Harvest Supper Smorgasbord fundraiser.
- 21 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. Decorate the church for the holidays after the worship service.
- 28 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister.

December

- 5 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. “Magazine Swap” sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.
- 9 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets.
- 10 – 6 p.m. until 8:30ish p.m., Drum Circle.
- 12 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 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.
- 15 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 19 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams.
- 24 – 7 p.m., Christmas Eve service.
- 26 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister.

Chanting and meditation

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

REMINDERS

If you have an announcement you would like included in the church’s weekly e-mail announcements, please send it to Janie Garlow at mjgarlow@aol.com by 5 p.m. on Sundays. Earlier submissions would be appreciated. Don’t forget to send your articles for the December newsletter to Bob Haskell at rhaskell@twcny.rr.com by noon on Saturday, November 27. Earlier submissions would be appreciated. Please help spread the word to anyone without e-mail. Thank you!

We respect your privacy and if you prefer not to receive future announcements, just hit Reply and put the word REMOVE on the subject line.