

**Circle of Fellowship**

**The First Universalist Church of Central Square**

**A Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**The Rev. Margaret Hart, Minister 439-8375 (cell), 668-1268 (home)**

**Andrea Abbott, Lay Speaker 635-7122**

**Janie Garlow, President 436-2238**

**Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Coordinator 623-7685**

**Rita Thornton, Director of Music 699-4824**

**Our church building is handicapped accessible.**

**Routes 49 West & 11, Post Office Box 429, Central Square , NY 13036**

**Telephone: 668-6821**

### **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.**

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**June 2008**

### **MINISTERIAL MUSINGS**

**Dear Friends,**

**I don't know about you, but I have found this to be a long and challenging year. I feel that many of us need a break, a change, a bit of**

rest and relaxation this summer. I look forward each summer to a trip to Vermont to visit my family in the place we spent our summers when I was growing up. I'll be heading there for my vacation in early August.

Vacations can be stressful, as well as enjoyable. Sometimes just working to get ready and packed is more than we can bear. And then, if we think we have to empty our "in boxes" and make plans for everything that might happen in our absence, it hardly seems worth leaving.

Going on vacation can be seen as a spiritual discipline or pilgrimage. It is something we know will be good for us when we actually do it, but how we go about it is important. There is a certain amount of intention, planning, and preparation involved, and then there needs to be a time of letting go and being present in the moment. I hope you all experience peace, revitalization, and a bit of humor this summer and truly enjoy yourselves.

I also hope to see you from time to time in church this summer. I'll be around most of the summer, so I'd love to talk with you. You can reach me by e-mail ([marghart@a-znet.com](mailto:marghart@a-znet.com)) or phone (315 668-1268 or 439-8375).

With love and respect,

Margaret

#### **UU CIRCLE FUND-RAISER POSTPONED**

The UU Circle has postponed its fund-raising event scheduled for

**Saturday, June 14.**

**The event was to include a rummage sale and an auction as well as vendors from the Central Square community.**

#### **CONGREGATION RE-ELECTS JANIE GARLOW**

**Janie Garlow was re-elected president of the congregation for the church year 2008-2009 at the congregation's annual meeting on Sunday, June 1.**

**Those elected include Bob Haskell vice president, Chester Perkins treasurer, Kim Shuler-Teachout recording secretary, Chrishanthi Squires corresponding secretary and Steve Shuler registrar. Ann Peterson was elected trustee for three years. Winfield Ihlow continues as trustee for one year, and Arne Hook for two years. John Landers was elected to the Nominating Committee for three years. Marilyn Nye continues on the Nominating Committee for one year, and Mary Perkins for two years.**

**In other business, the congregation approved a budget of \$37,300 for the coming church year as presented by Chester Perkins of the Finance Committee. Because the church has less money than it hoped for, the budget proposes that the minister's position be reduced to one-quarter time, the repair of a stained-glass window be postponed and the position of administrative assistant be eliminated.**

**Judy Linder presented the treasurer's report and cited a shortfall in**

**money contributed to the church.**

**The Rev. Margaret Hart made her annual report.**

**Kurt Schindler presented the UU Circle report.**

**Committee reports were presented by Ann Peterson, Ministerial Advisory Committee; Winfield Ihlow and Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee; Arne Hook, Building and Grounds Committee; Nancy Haskell, Worship Committee; Chester Perkins, Membership Committee; and Rita Thornton, Music Committee. Arne Hook also read a report by Nancy Hallock, chair, Social Justice Committee. The congregation voted to accept the reports.**

**Those present voted to accept the following recommendation forwarded by Patricia Cerro-Reehil, chair, Worship Committee, to Chester Perkins, who presided over the meeting:**

**“It is the recommendation of the Worship Committee to keep the church open every Sunday of every month. Members of the congregational community need a place to worship and feel comforted by fellow members and friends. If the doors are closed, we are not fulfilling our mission.**

**“Services during the summer months can be led by congregational members, visiting ministers or lay speakers. The summer services can be slightly less formal in style (still following the "template" for services, but with less focus on a sermon per se). Following the "template" is most important as our Unitarian Universalist routine becomes a significant part**

of the spiritual experience. In place of a sermon, meditation and/or music or spiritual readings by members will nicely fill the time.

“It is our hope that the Board will endorse the recommendation of the Worship Committee and keep the church open every Sunday of every month.”

Chester Perkins reported that three people had joined the church during the past year.

It was announced that the Community Fun Day planned for Saturday, June 14, had been postponed.

Mary Perkins, recording secretary, read the minutes of the congregational meeting of June 2007. The minutes were approved.

Those present thanked Kurt Schindler for the refreshments provided prior to the meeting.

## **A LETTER OF THANKS**

**Dear Friends:**

Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the Guest at Your Table gifts of \$360.00, which we received on February 4, 2008.

Since 1939, supporters like you have helped UUSC become a leading voice in advancing human rights worldwide. We pledge to honor your commitment to us through our efforts to defend the human right to water, to abolish U.S.-sponsored torture, to ensure workers' rights, and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

You can learn more about our work, our courageous program partners,

and ways you can become involved in the struggle for human rights at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Thank you again for your generous contribution to our work promoting human rights and social justice. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of people in the United States and around the world.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Clements, President and CEO  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

### **GREEN MINUTE: DO GREEN BULBS CONTAIN MERCURY?**

Yes, the energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) each contain a tiny amount of mercury but this amount is too small to pose a health threat according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Exposure occurs only if the bulb breaks.

If a CFL breaks, do not use a vacuum to clean it up. Instead, ventilate the room for at least 15 minutes, use a damp paper towel to clean up the broken glass and powder while wearing rubber gloves and place the materials in a sealed container. If you would like more information on safe cleanup, check out the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Web site: [dec.ny.gov/chemical/8787.html](http://dec.ny.gov/chemical/8787.html).

What do you do when that CFL eventually burns out since it lasts 10 times longer than the standard incandescent bulb? Don't throw it in the trash; instead, contact your community's recycling coordinator because most communities accept these bulbs during household hazardous waste collection events. To find out when your community is having one of these events, go to [dec.ny.gov/chemical/8780.html](http://dec.ny.gov/chemical/8780.html). You can also find local recycling sites at [epa.gov/bulbrecycling](http://epa.gov/bulbrecycling) or [Earth911.org](http://Earth911.org). If your community doesn't have hazardous waste collection, most Ace, True Value stores will recycle them.

Replacing three extensively used incandescent bulbs in your home with CFLs is the third step of the 1-2-3 Pledge. If you haven't pledged to reduce your thermostat setting at home by one or more degrees, reduce your driving speed by two or more miles per hour and replace at least three bulbs with CFLs, please take a minute to consider this — you can save nearly \$100 per year and save 1,320 pounds of carbon released into the environment if you take these three simple

steps. If you want to know more about the 1-2-3 Pledge, check the bulletin board in the church dining room or ask a member of the Green Team.

— The Social Justice Committee's Green Team

## **THE MARTINS BREAK THEIR HIPS**

Mary Perkins and your newsletter editor have received several notes from Linda Martin-Morris of Seattle :

The first reads:

“Jane and Hartley Martin (of Central Square , then Lehigh Acres, FL) have each suffered sequential hip fractures. Jane also fractured her shoulder. Both are rehabilitating in Lehigh Health and Rehabilitation Center ( 1500 Lee Blvd. , Lehigh Acres, FL 33936). Jane expects a full recovery and to be discharged by June 1. Hartley's injury was more serious and his rehabilitation (both mental and physical) is more challenging. We are currently unsure he will return to a semi-independent life. The Martins are planning to sell both homes and move nearer to their daughter Cathy in Maryland .”

An update received by Mary on Thursday, May 29, reads:

“Mom goes home today. David and his youngest daughter will visit her starting Sunday to do her chores and get her to her appointments. “No update on Dad. One day I think it will be – nursing home bound, another day I think he might pull off enough recovery for assisted living. It's getting kind of frustrating for all that he is so variable.”

(Mary points out that David is the Martins' son.)

## **A HAPPY ADDITION**

Madelena May was born to Cheryl and Mike DiGiovanni at 11:08 p.m. on Friday, May 23. She weighed 8 pounds and measured 20.5 inches. She joins her sister, Marra. Happy grandparents are Chet and Mary Perkins of Hastings and John and Gina DiGiovanni of Rochester .

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Thanks to Andrea Abbott and Arne Hook, Marcia Burrell-Ihlow and Winfield Ihlow and Kim Shuler-Teachout for serving as greeters and/or hosting the coffee hour. We need volunteers for June. If you would like to help, see someone on the Membership Committee or use the signup sheet in the dining room.**

**Don't forget to give our guests a warm welcome to our church and get to know them better during coffee hour.**

**— Chet Perkins**

## **SOME THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

**My Dear Friends,**

**There is a saying that I see on tee shirts, caps, cups, what have you. I have two or three items myself. It reads: "LIFE IS GOOD." I have learned that part of having a good life is about the choices we make. It is not always easy to make the right choice and there is no absolute choice. We should not run others' lives, but we do have a responsibility to shape and form our own life through our good choices. Affirm and reaffirm life by taking the high road. I have learned the hard way that if we are indecisive or procrastinate it will keep us from moving forward and drain our energy. If I waited long enough there was no choice to be made -- good or bad.**

**During our stewardship campaign, I enjoyed meeting with one of our new members. She told me an analogy she recently read in a book by James Patterson. It went something like this: Life is like juggling five balls. One ball represents work; the other four are integrity, family, health and friends. If you drop the work ball, it is made of rubber and will bounce back, if you drop any of the other four they will chip or break because they are made of glass. Take care and honor these four balls by making the right choices. They are priceless and once broken not easy to mend.**

**On the other hand, we can make every effort to live a good life but there are circumstances we do not have any control over: for example, the recent floods and earthquakes in Asia . Good luck is a blessing. The unpredictable role of existence does play a role in all our lives for good or for bad. Our determination**



to always make good choices will help us grow through, not merely go through, misfortune. "LIFE IS GOOD!" Choose well!

Namaste,

Janie

## **VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Video Discussion Group will meet at the church at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 13. Subject to change of course, plans call for the showing of some of the following segments from the PBS program, "Bill Moyers Journal":

- International lawyer and law professor Philippe Sands, author of "Torture Team," talks about the approval of coercive interrogation by high-level American officials.
- The California Nurses Association proposes "CheneyCare" for what ails America.
- Melody Petersen talks with Moyers about her new book, "Our Daily Meds," and how pharmaceutical companies market medication.

## **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 18.

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 information about the women's group, you may contact Nancy Haskell. For information about the men's group, you may contact Chet Perkins.

## **EXTENDED CHOIR PRACTICE**

**Extended choir rehearsal will be conducted from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 14.**

**– Rita Thornton**

## **DOWNSTAIRS SCOTTY**

**Remember the Downstairs Scotty as you shop. Our congregation's contributions to this local program are non-food items: soap, detergent, bathroom and facial tissues, toothpaste, and the like. Our collection box is in the East Room, under the water dispenser.**

## **RETURN THOSE BOTTLES**

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

**For some time now, Larry Linder has been taking the bottles from the church bottle recycle can to a deposit center and giving the cash to the church treasurer.**

## **CALENDAR**

### **June**

**8 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, lay speaker. 11 a.m., RE classes.**

**13 – 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group.**

**15 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Margaret Hart. Flower Communion. Please remember to bring a flower or leafy twig with you. 11 a.m., Last day of religious exploration classes until September 7.**

**18 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread.**

**22 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. To be announced.**

**29 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. To be announced.**

## **July**

**6 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service. To be announced.**

**10 – 12:30 p.m., CNY Cluster.**

**13 – 10:30 a.m., Worship. Rita leads; dress as your favorite hymn.**

**16 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread.**

**19 – Board Retreat at the Garlow home.**

**20 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Margaret Hart.**

**22 – Sunset service to celebrate centennial of the church.**

**27 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, lay speaker.**

## **August**

**3 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, lay speaker. (The Rev. Margaret Hart away for vacation.)**

**10 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service. To be announced.**

**17 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Margaret Hart.**

**24 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service. Spiritual Journeys.**

**31 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service. To be announced.**

## **September**

**7 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Margaret Hart. In-gathering Water Ceremony. Please collect a small vial of water (a film-canister size) during the summer and bring it to church on this Sunday.**

**11 a.m., RE begins again.**

## **Regular meetings:**

**Mondays – 6:30 p.m., Tai Chi. Kim Shuler-Teachout**

**Tuesdays – 6:45 p.m., Chanting and Meditation. Tim Hart**

**Wednesdays — 6:47 p.m., Men's Group. Kurt Schindler**

**Second Wednesday of the month — 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., CNY Cluster.**

**Second Saturday of the month — 10 a.m. to noon, Extended choir meeting.**

**Third Wednesday of the month — 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread.**

**Nancy Haskell/Chet Perkins**

**Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON ON SATURDAY, JULY 5. Bob would be grateful if everyone would have articles to him as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute. His address is 29 Grove Street , Baldwinsville , NY 13027 - 2332; his telephone number is 635-5294; his e-mail address is [rhaskell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com).**