

# CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

## The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation*

3243 Fulton Street  
(Route 49, near Route 11)  
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Central Square, New York  
13036-0429

*Our church building is  
handicapped accessible.*

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Church website:  
[http://www.  
centralsquareuu.org](http://www.centralsquareuu.org)

Facebook page:  
[http://www.facebook.com  
/pages/UU-Central-Square  
/199139743511564](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

"We think it possible to have a Church, and even a denomination, organized, not on a creed, but on a purpose of working together. Suppose that the condition of membership was the desire and intention of getting good and doing good."

James Freeman Clarke, Unitarian minister, *Orthodoxy: Its Truths and Errors*, 1866

### *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.

Please have articles for the MARCH newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than 5 p.m. on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com.

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.**

### **A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE**

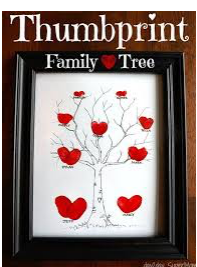
No sooner are the Christmas wreaths down than the stores are stuffed with red hearts and roses. February is a month of many parts. Groundhog Day, Darwin's Birthday (a Unitarian-Universalist fave) and, of course, the month dedicated to Black History. But the hearts and flowers predominate. We celebrate romantic love, love that ends in the fantasy of happily ever after, Hollywood love. For most people that kind of love is fleeting and is soon either gone or replaced by a more demanding love, love that changes and adapts, that evolves into something that is at the same time more difficult and more satisfying. We also are not always as aware of love that is not just between the two people who make up a couple. When we begin our affirmation of faith with the words "Love is the doctrine of this church" we are talking about love that reaches out from the self and encompasses the world, both humans and other species. The rest of the world, not just our own lives, becomes a focus of our concern. It is this love, the love that Unitarian-Universalists have long espoused, that we need to reaffirm as the heart of our faith.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott

### **THE REV. WEISSBARD: THE TRUTH ABOUT RELIGION IS COMPLICATED**

The Rev. David Weissbard has chosen "Religion May Be Hazardous to Your Health" as the title for his sermon at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 5. He writes, "We generally focus our attention, or our lack of attention, on the positive dimensions of religion. The truth is a bit more complicated; religion is a bit more complicated. Next Sunday we will be looking at 'the rest of the story'."



### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN FACE BUSY MONTH**

February will be a busy month for our children.

We start the month creating our thumbprint church family tree. We are asking the entire congregation for help making sure our tree is blossoming and full.

Gratitude and love really rock. Giving and receiving is part of what makes us a loving community. Let us share our gifts with you as we learn how even the smallest of gestures can make a big impact.

When was the last time you got a shot? Did you get a cute band aid? Probably not. When a child gets a shot he or she is scared and, yes, it hurts. Bring in a box of fun band aids to be shared with the children's hospital. We can't make the hurt go away but we can put a smile on a child's face. We will spend the month collecting and then distributing our smiles.

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.**

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.**

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE ACTIVE ON MANY FRONTS**

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, January 15. The committee will meet next on Sunday, February 12.

The first Adopt-a-Highway pickup will be conducted at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 9. Following previous years, it is unofficial, but the remaining two pickups will be on July 10 and October 9.

We saw a good profit from our Christmas fundraiser.



**Janet, Nancy, Janie, Ellen and Mary Fran**

Several members planned to participate in the Women's March on Saturday, January 21. We decided to do so outside the James M. Hanley Federal Building on South Clinton Street in Syracuse on Saturday morning. We followed up at the Central New York Solidarity Coalition's "People's Inauguration" at All Saints Parish Center on Lancaster Avenue in Syracuse. All went very well and we came away inspired to remain supportive of our issues.

A donation of \$250 was made to Pure Water for the World in December. This means that a total of \$500 was donated in 2016, compared to \$475 in 2015.

A visit to New York State Senator Patty Ritchie's office is planned to emphasize our support of the New York State Health Care Act. Join me?

The recent New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) newsletter is available. It includes current progress on criminal justice and immigration issues.

WCNY is presenting "Being Poor: Real Stories of Poverty." Susan Arbetter hosts the 6-part Connect: NY series that takes you into the world of poverty to look at the choices both the urban and rural poor must make every single day as they lack enough food, clothing, housing or money. The first program was broadcast at 9 p.m. on Monday, January 30. We encourage you to watch and help plan a discussion of each program.

Many of you read "Just Mercy," by Bryan Stevenson, last year. If you are interested in seeing the author in person, contact me. This program on May 2 is part of the Friends of the Central Library's Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series in Syracuse. The cost is \$35 for the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the John H. Mulroy Civic Center at 421 Montgomery Street in Syracuse.

Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.**

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.**

### GREEN MINUTE: NEONICOTINOIDS

Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides chemically related to nicotine. Like nicotine, they act on certain kinds of receptors in the nerve synapse and are much more toxic to invertebrates, like insects, than they are to mammals and birds. These insecticides are popular because of their water solubility which allows them to be applied to soil and be taken up by plants, thus reducing the risks for insecticide drift from where they are being applied. These insecticides are especially effective against sap feeders such as aphids. They also provide good control against certain beetles like fleas (in topical and pill applications we commonly use on our pets), white grub larvae in lawns, certain wood-boring pests, flies and cockroaches. These pesticides make up about 30 percent of the global insecticide market.

A study co-authored by a University of Guelph scientist that involved fitting bumblebees with tiny radio-frequency tags shows long-term exposure to a neonicotinoid pesticide hampers bees' ability to forage for pollen. The study shows how long-term pesticide exposure affects individual bees' day-to-day behavior, including pollen collection and the choice of flowers worker bees visited. Researchers said that repeated exposure to this type of pesticide seems to prevent bees from being able to learn essential skills. They said that bees from untreated colonies got better at collecting pollen as they learned to forage but that bees exposed to neonicotinoid insecticides became less successful over time at collecting pollen, thus necessitating sending out more foragers to try to compensate for the lack of pollen from individual bees. Studies also suggest that the bee's ability to find the way home to the nest or hive may be impaired. It is still not known whether these effects explain bee colony collapse disorder.



If you're interested in finding out more about this subject there are several articles regarding it on the Internet. You may also want to look up concerns surrounding the use of neonicotinoid-coated seeds in Canada.

Ellen LaPine,  
Social Justice Committee



### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WORKSHOP TO FOCUS ON AGING

The Rev. Libbie Stoddard and Ann Peterson are working on an Adult Religious Education Workshop on Aging. At this time we have not set a date for this workshop. It is our aim to include the views of church members of various ages in this workshop.

Ann Peterson

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.**

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**

### **UU CIRCLE PLANNING TO DINE OUT**

We are planning a Lunch and Chat or Dinner and Chat at Tabatha's Family Tree Restaurant. Tabatha has been very generous to us, donating pasta to our pasta dinner as well as advice and more. She also donated cookies to our bake sale. Let's show Tabatha's that we appreciate her thoughtfulness, generosity and support. The date will be announced soon.

Ann Peterson



### **ADDITIONAL CHURCH MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN WOMENS MARCH ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**



**Army and Lucy Stieber in Chicago, Illinois**



**Joan Haskell, at left, in Anchorage, Alaska**



### **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 Thursday, February 16. All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies. For further information, contact the Rev. Andrea Abbott via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via e-mail at [andrea279@verizon.net](mailto:andrea279@verizon.net).

**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.**

## FEBRUARY 2017 CALENDAR

- 2** – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 5** – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The committee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.
- 6** – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.
- 9** – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 12** – 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee meets. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Noon, The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.
- 13** – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.
- 16** – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 19** – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.
- 20** – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.
- 23** – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.
- 26** – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program.
- 27** – 6 to 7 p.m., Peer-guided meditation at the church. All are welcome. In addition, the sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation. 7 p.m., Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers meets in the Goettel Room.

FEBRUARY 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

**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.**