

# CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

## The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation*

3243 Fulton Street  
(Route 49, near Route 11)  
Post Office Box 429  
Central Square, New York  
13036-0429

*Our church building is  
handicapped accessible.*

Telephone: 315-307-3400

E-mail:  
andreaabbottuu@gmail.com

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)



### 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.

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

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

I am indeed musing as I write this for the newsletter — musing about a week or two ahead of this date when this piece will actually reach you. I am sending this in well before April 1st because

Arn and I will be in San Miguel De Allende, Mexico, when the newsletter comes out. We will be joining the UU congregation in that city for about a month. I will be speaking there on the 2nd and the 9th while Arn is organizing a conference on dream work for the end of March. This is our third year with this congregation, most of whom are Americans who have either relocated to Mexico or spend a good portion of the winter there. It has been said that every UU congregation is different and, though this is true to some extent, every congregation can also feel familiar. Like most congregations, they sing from the grey hymnal but there are other ways in which they are on the same page as those of us far in the north.



There is a concern for the common good, a concern for the world in which we live, a trust in individual conscience, a striving for truth and a respect for each seeker on their journey that can be found in every UU congregation. And, most importantly, this is a community of people who care about each other, caring that makes this more than a gathering of individuals. I think this is the heart, and I mean the heart, of our congregation as well. And so, I am happy to bring news of our congregation to this community (I like to brag about us) and will bring back their wishes to us. Thousands of miles apart, we join hands in our common endeavor. Happy April. May spring have found Central Square before you receive this.

The Rev. Andrea Abbott

### **HELP OUTREACH COMMITTEE, YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

You may continue to help the environment and make money for the Outreach Committee by leaving your returnable bottles at the church. A barrel into which to place your bottles stands near the entrance to the church kitchen. Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, returns the deposit bottles and cans for the committee treasury.



The Executive Board has designated the second Sunday of each month as the date for the collection of food for our Downstairs Scotty. The committee also continues to accept non-food items for the Downstairs Scotty 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.

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

**Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions.**

## **THE REV. DAVID WEISSBARD TO FEATURE DR. KING'S SERMON ON APRIL 2**

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for Sunday, April 2:

"This Sunday I am going to do something I have done just three times during my 51-year ministry: I am going to deliver a sermon which consists entirely of someone else's words, responding to a call from Rabbi Arthur Waskow who has pointed out:

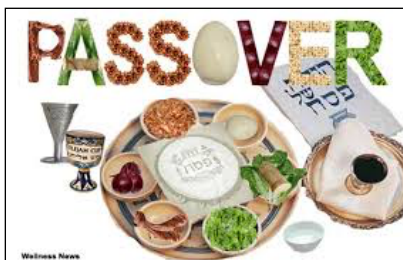
"April 4, 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prophetic sermon, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," at The Riverside Church in New York.

"Fifty years ago our nation was challenged by millions of people who would no longer accept segregation, denial of the right to vote, poverty and the tragic waste of lives and treasure in an immoral, illegal war in Vietnam. Dr. King offered an activist leadership to our efforts to build a just society as well as a prophetic voicing of how we can give real life to the dream of "the Beloved Community."

"During the last year of his life, he struggled in the midst of war and governmental abandonment of the poor to create new multiracial, multi-religious coalitions of action -- coalitions rooted in the spiritual vision of a society committed not to "things" but to people.

"All across America, we can on the weekend from March 31 to April 2 join in churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples; in neighborhood associations and labor union halls; in schools and colleges -- everywhere! -- to read or listen to and watch the speech and then ask ourselves -- what does this mean today? How can we carry this courage, this wisdom, into our own action?"

"We are going to do our part. I am working to cut Dr. King's hourlong sermon in half for our use Sunday. 'It Is Still a Time to Break Silence'."



## **THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO FOCUS ON PASSOVER**

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for Sunday, April 9:

"Sunday, April 9, is the day before the start of Passover. My sermon will focus on why I believe the Passover story is relevant to us and why 'Our Liberation is Not Complete'."

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please have articles for the May newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 30. Bob prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is [rhaskell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com).



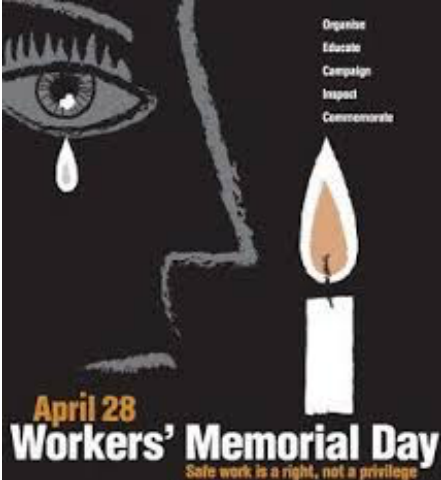
**Unitarian Universalists are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good.**

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

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE RALLIES AROUND HEALTH CARE, WORKER RIGHTS**

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, March 12. Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 23, following the 8:30 a.m. highway cleanup. Please note the change in date for the highway cleanup.

The annual Central New York Workers' Memorial Day observances will be slightly different this year than in previous years. Events are planned for several weeks surrounding April 28, the International Workers' Memorial Day, which remembers workers killed, injured or made sick by their job. Events planned are:



-- An exhibit April 8 through May 20 at ArtRage Gallery in Syracuse of photojournalist Earl Dotter's photographs of workers. You may have seen these photos if you've visited the Occupational Health Clinical Center in Syracuse.

-- A talk at ArtRage by Dr. Karen Messing about her latest book, "Pain and Prejudice: What Science Can Learn about Work from the People Who Do It." The book focuses on the hazards facing workers, including those facing women workers who stand all day at work. The date for this presentation hasn't been determined, but it is expected to be between April 19 and 25.

-- An outdoor activity in downtown Syracuse about noon Friday, April 28, will recognize workers killed, injured or made ill.

-- Earl Dotter will speak Monday, May 1, at ArtRage in honor of

International Workers' Day.

Our friends at the Workers' Center of Central New York are helping organize these events in Syracuse.

Meanwhile, activists including Karen Wells are organizing events in the North Country. Karen has written a musical about workers, which will be performed Friday through Sunday, April 28, 29 and 30, in Canton. Several church members are planning to attend the 2 p.m. performance Sunday, April 30. Is anyone interested in joining us?

Several church members will be driving to Albany on Tuesday, April 4, to participate in the Health Care Is a Human Right Day of Action. We have an appointment to meet with Sen. Patty Ritchie.

Several church members are attending a talk at 7:30 p.m. May 2 at the John H. Mulroy Civic Center in Syracuse by Bryan Stevenson, author of the memoir, "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption," and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, which works to free people unjustly convicted. We will have dinner before the talk at The Mission Restaurant, housed in a former church and Underground Railroad stop in downtown Syracuse.

Ann Peterson reported on her most recent meeting of the Sanctuary Committee of the Central New York Solidarity Coalition.

That's all, folks.

Nancy Hallock, 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.**

## **CHILDREN MAKE CHANGES THAT HAVE HELPED OTHERS**

Believe. One word with such great power. Our children believe they can do anything. Sometimes they need a little help or guidance and that is where we come in.

I believe. Add a single letter and the journey becomes yours.

If you believe, even the smallest among us can make the greatest change.

For the last several months our children have been making changes.

They have made scarves to help keep people warm, raised money to help families and individuals become self sustaining through the Heifer Project, and helped around the church. They have put smiles on our faces and warmed our hearts.



We will continue our quest of awareness and change as we learn about how we can help our furry friends. Both domesticated and wild. It is important to understand the power we have as a human being and how we can use that for good.

Easter brings our egg hunt and the great outdoors.

We will be planting flowers and picking up the remnants of winter. Spring cleaning for our spiritual home.

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

## **“THANK YOU” TO THESE VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, March 26 and many other Sundays, and Judy and George Tennant, April 9.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social time on Sunday mornings: Janie Garlow, March 26; Nancy Hallock and Linda Begoske, April 2; and Judy and George Tennant, April 9.

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Winfield Ihlow.

Volunteers are needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Judy Tennant.



**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.**

## **GREEN MINUTE: EARTH DAY 2017**

According to EarthDay.org, “The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.”

On this 46th annual Earth Day, nationally there is a March for Science taking place at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 22. Closer to home there are several observances as well. In Oswego County for several days surrounding Earth Day there is the Canal Clean Sweep. In Onondaga County the Oneida Lake Association has a trash cleanup on April 22 by the Route 81 bridges over Oneida Lake and the Onondaga Cycle Club is picking up trash on Caughdenoy Road. OCRRA has scheduled litter cleanup in several places around the county as well.

You can enjoy a day-long celebration of Earth Day at the Beaver Lake Nature Center beginning with a bird walk at 8 a.m. on April 22 and then participate in educational activities for adults and children, a guided walk and a concert in the evening. The day-time activities are free; there is a fee for the concert. On April 23 Thorndon Park in Syracuse will have Earthfest which includes music, speakers, artists and activities for children and adults. If you would like some exercise, Baldwinsville is having a half marathon on April 23 in honor of Earth Day.

I am sure there are other activities you can find locally and nationally to celebrate Earth Day or you can certainly celebrate at home by planting a tree, committing to recycling more, taking steps to make your home or car more energy efficient or any number of other actions that will support our beautiful blue and green planet.



Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee

## **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, April 20. All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

**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.



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE  
8 A.M. - NOON SATURDAY, APRIL 29**

We will have one of our regularly scheduled blood drives from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 29. If you can donate blood,

please schedule an appointment by calling 1 800 Red Cross or you can sign up online by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Walk-ins are always welcome.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the dining room for volunteers to help with the drive. If you can help for even a short time on that day it will be much appreciated.

Ellen LaPine

Social Justice Committee Blood Drive Coordinator



**TEAM HART PARTICIPATES IN MS WALK AGAIN**

Many thanks from Margaret and Tim Hart for the support church folks offered to the MS Walk on March 5. Nancy Hallock and Priscilla Sparks walked with Team Hart (even when we couldn't). And many people donated to the cause. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

**The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.**



### **JOIN THE UNIRONDACK5K EFFORT!**

Our second annual Unirondack 5k takes place May 5! Right now we have race locations happening at camp as well as in New York City, Albany and Philadelphia.

Founded in 1951 by the New York State Convention of Universalists, Unirondack is a Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center located in the forever wild forests of the Western Adirondack Mountains.

The Unirondack Foundation has grown substantially in the last few years as we continue our work toward raising \$1 million to make certain the camp is here for people in generations to come. We currently have \$350,000 which means we are more than 1/3 of the way to securing Unirondack's future! Last year we raised over \$50,000 and in 2015 we raised over \$51,000. This year we are hoping to raise \$50,000 toward the foundation. We have raised over \$17,000 so far this fiscal year and are confident that with your help in the Unirondack 5K we will meet our goal.

Without this effort we are unlikely to be able to maintain and improve our facilities in the years to come. Even after spending over half a million dollars in the last 5 years on renovations of the Evelyn Anderson showerhouse, Chadwick, Gilman, and the Hollands Boathouse/Macphee Artshop, we are still lagging behind in crucial infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

We know we will get all the way there with your support. Our community is ready for the challenge.

The 5k at Unirondack is held during the opening work weekend. Come walk or run with us and see if you can beat Eli Wipf who took first place last year! (According to Eli Wipf.)

**The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against the idolatries of the mind and spirit.**



**The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.**

**APRIL 2017 CALENDAR**

2 – 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 – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>APRIL 2017</b>						
						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	29
30						

9 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., The Rev. David Weissbard 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 – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

16 – 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.

17 – 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

20 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

23 – 8:30 a.m., Social Justice Committee conducts Highway Pickup, followed by its monthly meeting. 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.

24 – 5 to 7 p.m., the Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours. To set up an appointment, please contact her via phone at 315-635-7122 or 315-857-1086 or via email at andrea279@verizon.net. 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.

27 – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Gentle yoga.

29 – 8 a.m. until noon, Red Cross Blood Drive.

**In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.**

**As Unitarian Universalists, we do not have to check our personal background and beliefs at the door: we join together on a journey that honors everywhere we've been before.**

**THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 427  
CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK 13036-0427**

**JUNE 1, 2017, THROUGH MAY 31, 2018, PLEDGE FORM**

**AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE  
WORK OF THE CHURCH:**

MY ANNUAL PLEDGE IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE GIVEN IN INCREMENTS OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) WEEKLY      ( ) MONTHLY      ( ) ANNUALLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

( ) FAIR SHARE FUND ~ I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO FAIR SHARE.  
THIS YEAR THE DUES ARE APPROXIMATELY \$75/MEMBER.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A ONE-TIME GIFT TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Together we can "LIGHT THE FLAME"

It is understood that it is YOUR intent to complete payment of this pledge by May 31, 2018.  
Circumstances do change and you may modify or cancel your pledge with a call or letter to our treasurer.

Thank You.

**Unitarian Universalists are united in shared experience: our open worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; and our expressions of love.**