

Circle of Fellowship

Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY

May, 2018

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

The First Universalist Society of

Central Square, New York

3243 Fulton Street

(Route 49, near Route 11)

Post Office Box 429

Central Square, New York 13036-0429

Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

Church Phone: 315-307-3400

E-Mail for Reverend Andrea Abbott:
andrea279@verizon.net

Church website: centralsquareuu.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/



Happy May Day

In This Issue

Page 2: Ministerial Musing

Page 3: Blood Drive News

Page 3: Ellen's Green Minute

Page 4: Winfield Ihlow found these great pieces of share with us. Continues on Page 5.

Page 6: Mary Fran Invites Us to Enjoy and Help with Upcoming Musical Concerts.

Page 6: Social Justice from Nancy Hallock

Page 7: Notice of Annual Meeting

Page 8: Ann Peterson reports for the UU Circle

Page 9: May, 2018 Sermon Schedule

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

Ministerial Musing

May Day! And, just in time, we have a day worthy of that glorious holiday. After this prolonged winter and a spring that seemed to be stuck somewhere in Manitoba, we finally have the temperatures that go with the calendar. Everything is making up for lost time—tulips are shooting up by inches, daffodils unfolding as I watch and buds literally jumping out of their skins. It is with great effort that I affix the seat of my jeans to the seat of the chair rather than wandering aimlessly around my yard.

It is interesting that this day has at least three meanings. To take them in chronological order, this is the day for baskets of flowers secretly hung on people's doors and for dancing around the maypole on the village green, if you happen to have one of those. It is an ancient spring festival in the northern part of Europe, and by extension, here as well, all places where spring really means celebration. In the late 19th century, this day was also chosen as the date for the International Workers Day. It is still celebrated as such in a number of countries around the world, with parades and speeches and often a general call for humanitarian action. The third meaning, that of a word indicating the need for help, began in 1923 by a senior radio officer at a London airport. It is actually a shortened form of a French phrase *venez m'aidez* that means come and help me. Much of the airport's traffic was between France and England. It was not intended to have anything to do with the holiday.

Coincidence, I wonder. Coincidence or not, these three uses of the same word seem to converge in these times. A celebration of returning life to the earth, a call for humanitarian action and a distress signal. In honoring our commitment to our first and seventh principles, our respect for all people and our respect for the interdependency of all life, as well as our alert attention to the dangers that would erode both of those commitments, I think we keep May Day all year round.

Andrea Abbott

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday May 18th 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Please consider donating or volunteering to help at our Red Cross blood drive from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 18, 2018. For those who donate, the Red Cross will send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane. You can schedule an appointment to donate blood by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS but no appointment is necessary. If you cannot be a donor, please tell others about the drive.

We need volunteers to help with the blood drive. I have placed a sign-up sheet in the dining room for volunteers to help. If you can help for even a short time on that day it will be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee Blood Drive Coordinator

Green Minute
Quick Fertilizer from Veggie Scraps

It's FINALLY time to think about our gardens. In [Mother Earth News](#) there is a forum where readers share their ideas. One reader suggests that you can use your daily vegetable waste along with coffee grounds, tea leaves and egg shells as quick compost. She suggests you buy an inexpensive food blender then every day or so grind up all the peelings, grounds and shells with some water, then pour the mixture around rhododendrons, azaleas and other shrubs. She also claims that a "smoothie" of ground up banana peels and water applied around roses is an excellent fertilizer. *Mother Earth* suggests that in either case you bury the slurry to reduce the risk of attracting rodents. They also recommend that you use this technique in a food garden by digging trenches and pouring in the mixture.

If you don't have a composter or the room to establish a compost heap, this is a simple way to reduce your food scrap waste and put it to good use.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

Pieces of Interest

Winfield Ihlow shares this piece with us on the remarkable transformation of the consciousness of The Reverend Carlton Pearson. Some of you may already be familiar with Reverend Pearson's story. This American Life remains a treasure of this country's culture and history. The piece continues on page 5.

About Rev. Carlton Pearson (becomes a Universalist)

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/304/heretics/prologue-0>

Prologue by [Russell Cobb](#)

Carlton Pearson's church, Higher Dimensions, was once one of the biggest in the city of Tulsa OK, drawing crowds of 5,000 people every Sunday. But several years ago, scandal engulfed the reverend. He didn't have an affair. He didn't embezzle lots of money. His sin was something that to a lot of people is far worse: He stopped believing in hell.

(2 minutes)

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/304/heretics/act-one-2>

Act One: The Rise by [Russell Cobb](#)

Reporter Russell Cobb takes us through the remarkable and meteoric rise of Carlton Pearson from a young man to a Pentecostal Bishop: from the moment he first cast the devil out of his 17-year-old girlfriend, to the days when he had a close, personal relationship with Oral Roberts and had appearances on TV and at the White House. Just as Reverend Pearson's career peaked, with more than 5,000 members of his congregation coming every week, he started to think about hell, wondering if a loving God would really condemn most of the human race to burn and writhe in the fire of hell for eternity. (30 minutes)

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/304/heretics/act-two-2>

Act Two: The Fall by [Russell Cobb](#)

Once he starts preaching his own revelation, Carlton Pearson's church falls apart. After all, when there's no hell (as the logic goes), you don't really need to believe in Jesus to be saved from it. What follows are the swift departures of his pastors, and an exodus from his congregation — which quickly dwindled to a few hundred people. Donations drop off too, but just as things start looking bleakest, new kinds of people, curious about his change in beliefs, start showing up on Sunday mornings. (23 minutes)

[Carlton Pearson](#) is now based in Chicago. Russell Cobb is the co-host of the podcast [Word Salad](#) about language and identity, and he teaches at the University of Alberta.

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

About Rev. Carlton Pearson (becomes a Universalist) (cont'd)

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/extras/our-new-movie-come-sunday>

Our New Movie “Come Sunday” – now on NetFlix

By Ira Glass

Years ago, I became aware that there was a huge gap between the way evangelicals are portrayed on TV and in films and in the news, and the evangelicals I know in my personal life. Who are not like the smiling, intolerant hardasses I see in the media, but complicated, sensitive, funny people who take seriously Jesus’s admonition to love one another.

It seemed worthwhile to tell stories that try to portray a more complicated picture of this part of America. Which is, after all, huge, a fourth of the country.

The film tells the real-life story of Carlton Pearson, who was a rising star in the Pentecostal church and Oral Roberts’s protégé. He started the gospel music South by Southwest (it was called Azusa). Then God spoke to him and told him that everyone gets into heaven, even people who don’t believe in Jesus. Carlton started preaching it, and – spoiler alert – it goes pretty badly for him. He loses most everything: his church, his fortune, his following, nearly his family.

We first did [a story](#) about it in 2005.

We were lucky to attract an incredible cast. Chiwetel Ejiofor plays Carlton. Martin Sheen plays Oral Roberts. Jason Segel, Lakeith Stanfield, Condola Rashad and Danny Glover round out the cast.

Here's a [video with the real-life Carlton](#).

Fun fact: the stuff that Oral says to Carlton – even the stuff about his gay son – is stuff he really said in real life to Carlton. (Our screenwriter Marcus Hinchey spent hundreds of hours talking to Carlton.) Our director is Josh Marston, who’s best known for his amazing film "[Maria Full of Grace](#)."

[On Netflix](#) now! Hope you like it!

Also Check out this [video](#) about the opening of the Legacy Museum and the Memorial to Peace and Justice. It features the great social justice lawyer, Bryan Stephenson

Finally, the official social justice ministry of the Tucson UU church is struggling to save immigrant lives in desert crossings. Read about their struggle to save lives and the harassment of their efforts by ICE [here](#).

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." -Berthold Auerbach

If you like music and think you'd like to share the joy of music, there's a volunteer opportunity waiting for you! The church recently received funding to offer concerts in our church similar to those we presented last Fall (Mike Powell) and again this Spring (Colleen Kattau). Performers are selected for the broad appeal of their music and how their music embodies UU principles and values. Concerts are open to the community for a free-will offering and intended to bring people together around a positive experience while offering a "non-threatening" introduction to the church - and reminding folks that we're here! If you'd like to lead (yes!) or actively participate in producing concerts for the 2017/2018 season, please contact either Andrea, Janie or Mary Fran for more details. Thank you

Mary Fran Yafchak

Social Justice Committee

We met on Sunday 4/8 and will meet again 5/12 @ 9am. This was the day of the "Spring Thaw" concert with Colleen Kattau. We talked about the PR and organizing needed for our Fall show.

This program was initiated by the Membership Committee as a way to bring folks into our church and encourage a return visit. The NYS Universalist Association agreed and awarded us a grant of \$750 as seed money to repeat the events twice a year. Many thanks to Mary Fran Yafchak for her strong application.

Colleen presented a fantastic concert with three other professional musicians who volunteered to perform with her. Colleen came to us as free performance she donated to the Syracuse Peace Council's Plow Share Fair silent auction. We bid on her "house concert" and she agreed to perform at our church.

The group played with great enthusiasm as if it was a full concert hall. I encourage everyone to make our Fall Concert a priority. We will work on improving our publicity, but all of us must help fill the pews. Colleen's return to our church to help celebrate Earth Day was a big treat.

Six of us met for dinner at Mariachi's 4/ 20 and back to the church to watch the film "When Heritage=Hate". We are planning a similar event May 25.

Our Adopt-a-Highway pickup was on 4/23. Thank you to Janet Janie G., Ellen L., Tracy K., Nancy H., Andrea and Arne for your help.

Sunday, 4/29 a representative from Oswego Office of the Aging explained program available for seniors and their caregivers. It was very informative . Nancy Hallock.

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

Religious Education

The children have been working on their classroom credo. This is a statement of actions to abide by while together in the classroom and beyond. We will also be working on our welcome banner to be display at a decided place in the church in the near future.

With the weather finally warming we will again create our walking labyrinth out back for all to share.

Many of you may have noticed the new craft corner in the dining room. It is sometimes difficult being a young one with nothing to do during social time. I welcome any craft projects, supplies or talents you would like to share with our young people.

Ronna Schindler
RE Director

Church Events Calendar

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK

The annual congregational meeting of the First Universalist Society of Central Square, New York, is scheduled to be held in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service on Sunday morning, June 3, 2018. The church bylaws specify that there shall be an annual congregational meeting on the first Sunday in June of each year.

The agenda for the meeting includes:

- Receipt of annual reports from incumbent officers and committee chairs.
- Consideration and adoption of the budget for the next church year.
- Election of officers for the next church year.

The bylaws 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 if requested. All are welcome.

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

UU Circle Report

UU Circle pot luck: Save the third Sunday in May for a spring pot luck. That is Sunday, May 20th. Please share a story, a song or your plans for the summer.

UU Circle plant sale: Sunday, May 13th, we will be having a plant sale. So dig us those plants that have multiplied and bring them to the sale. Thank buy something totally different to bring new color and variety to your garden.

Thanks for all of your support.

The UU Circle? What is it?

Each year we have new people who ask this question. The UU Circle does fundraising and plans social events for the church. We also send cards to members and friends who are ill or just cannot attend services. In addition, we send flowers or gift cards when people are hospitalized or have other changes in their lives.

With the money that we raise, we give the largest portion to the church treasury, so that bills can be paid, the church building can be maintained, heat is kept on and the parking lot is plowed. So you can see that your support really matters.

Who belongs to the UU Circle? Everyone does. The UU Circle is run by a committee and we do our best to make plans for our church community each year. We will soon be making plans for the Annual Church Picnic. Watch for an announcement of the date.

Thank you for all of your support and work this year.

Ann Peterson for The UU Circle Committee

UU Congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice , equity and compassion in human relations

May, 2018 Sermon Calendar

May 6th: Reverend David Weissbard -”**Living Without Goals**”

May 13th: Reverend Andrea Abbott -“**The Mother Within**”

May 20th: Reverend Andrea Abbott -“**Stone or Egg** “

May 27th: Reverend Bud Adams