

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
July 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
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Church website: centralsquareuu.org
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/
UU-Central Square/199139743511564](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)



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Hello From Berdella and Chet at Greenpoint!

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Green Minute
SLELO PRISM

I recently attended a course to become a volunteer to help the St.Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) identify where invasive species are located in our area. They are affiliated with the Nature Conservancy and say “Detecting invasive species before their populations become too large to control gives an advantage to invasive species management strategies and increases the success potential for eradication.” Among the species they are looking for are the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) and Fanwort. However, they are interested in many other species such as the Japanese Knotweed and Wild Parsnip that I have found in my area. To take action to help SELEO PRISM, as taken from their informational pamphlet, you need to:

Visit www.sleloinvasives.org and learn how to recognize the invasive species featured on their Prevention & Target Management Species Lists. You can join their invasive species Volunteer Surveillance Network (VSN) by emailing cce-slelo-l-request@cornell.edu. You may also get more details by emailing megan.pistolese@tnc.org.

Take a trip to your favorite landscape or water body and look for invasive species of interest.

Search for invasives where human activities or site conditions may facilitate an introduction, spread or establishment of invasives, known as Highly Probably Areas (HPAs). Boat launches, trail heads and disturbed areas are prime examples.

Report observations at www.imapinvasives.org. LSELO hosts annual imapinvasives trainings. To attend a training contact their office at (315) 387-7724.

By volunteering for invasive species identification and reporting I have become more aware of the plants around me whether I am taking a walk or paddling my kayak, it takes a small amount of my time and it feels good to do something to help protect our beautiful piece of the world.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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Social Justice

The SJC met @ 9am on 6/17 and discussed the following:

The next Adopt-a-Highway pickup is July 8, starting @ 8:30 from the church.

The Pure Water for the World will be sent a donation at the end of this month.

Looking for a book as a group read, Ellen suggested "The Sun Does

Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row", by Anthony Ray

Hinton and Lara Love Hardin. This is an Oprah Book Club Selection. We

will not set a discussion date yet.

Our next "dinner and film" is on 7/25. Starting with dinner at

Mariachi's @ 5p , and on to church to watch a film presented to Andrea

from her Mexican congregation.

The next highway cleanup will be on Sunday, July 8 at 8:00 am. We'll have a brief meeting 7/8, in between the highway pickup and the church service. I will have more info soon as to our immigrant refugee assistance donation.

Religious Education

Summer is finally here. What a great year we had.

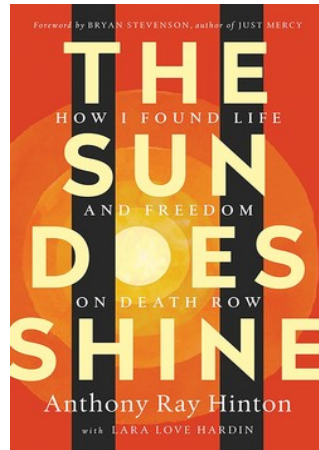
The kids quarter sale netted thirty six dollars for the church window restoration.

Coming soon will be "Kids Bazaar". This will include items designed and made by the kids. Our goal is to bring the window monies up to fifty dollars. More information to come as they bring their ideas to life.

No formal classes for the summer but there is always something fun happening.

Ronna Schindler-RE Director

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Social Justice Committee Summer Book Read

The SJC has chosen Anthony Ray Hinton's *The Sun Does Shine* as our summer book read. It is his true story of how in 1985 he was accused of murders he did not commit even though he had a solid alibi. This book can frustrate you as you wonder how someone who could not have been at the scene could have been charged. How after easily passing a polygraph test it was not used. Also how his mother's gun that had not been used in over 20 years could have been linked to the murders. Overall you'll wonder how the Alabama justice system could have ignored the evidence and still sent him to death row. They held him there for almost 30 years before he was exonerated.

This book will also give you hope in the human spirit as Hinton recalls the unwavering love, faith and support of his beloved mother and best friend. It also tells us that our choices, even under terrible adversity, do matter and in Hinton's story he makes choices with thoughtful grace. He purposely chooses hope and takes action to give others hope. He tells his story with great appreciation for those that helped him and with forgiveness for those that did not.

Please join us in reading this important book. We'll have a discussion about it in the fall.

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Ministerial Musings

The Glorious 4th! This Wednesday will ring with fireworks and be scented with the smell of bar-b-ques as we celebrate Independence Day, the beginning of our nation. We often characterize the fourth as a celebration of our freedom, the day we began the fight to be independent from Britain, from monarchy, and to found a nation that prized the freedom of the individual from tyranny. This was freedom for many but certainly not for all. As the abolitionist Frederick Douglass reminded his audience in his famous 1852 speech in Rochester What to the Slave is the Fourth of July, freedom was not extended to all. Abigail Adams had begged her husband to “remember the ladies” but they were forgotten, as were Native Americans and the poor of all sorts. At the time these exceptions to the full exercise of citizenship were not thought remarkable. We are all bound by our times and our vision.

Much later, in 1941, FDR called for us to remember that freedom is not only defined by access to the ballot box. In a speech written to urge the U.S. to enter WWII, he expanded the idea of freedom to include Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Fear, and Freedom from Want. I have always been fond of the Norman Rockwell paintings that were inspired by this, though I wonder if those paintings would include a wider variety of subjects now. We are all bound by our times and our vision. How are we doing with defending the vision of the founders of this country? How are we doing with extending our vision to truly include those originally ignored? How are we doing with FDR’s four freedoms? If we were to be able to paint like Norman Rockwell, who would we include in our paintings? What is our vision and how can we bring it to life?

Reverend Andrea Abbott

Notable Pieces of Interest

Here is a brief video from The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2018/jun/30/minors-separated-from-parents-and-detained-at-us-border-tell-of-anguish-video>

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Are You the Missing Type?
Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday July 20th 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Red Cross says that without blood types A, B and O they cannot save anyone. Donations are typically down in the summer so please consider donating or volunteering to help at our Red Cross blood drive from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 20, 2018. 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

Sermon Calendar

July 1st Rev. David Weissbard: “Dusty Bibles”

July 8th Rev. Andrea Abbott: “Cats, Birds and Souls”

July 15th Rev. Bud Adams

July 22nd Rev. Andrea Abbott

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Church Events Calendar

The Social Justice Committee invites everyone to a **movie and discussion** on Friday, July 27. Those who wish to get together for dinner before the movie will meet at Mariachi's Mexican restaurant in Brewerton at 5 p.m. The movie will follow at the church starting at 6 p.m. This month's feature is a documentary about midwifery in Guatemala.

The **annual church picnic** is on Sunday, August 5 immediately following the Sunday Service. It will be at Arny and Lucy Stieber's home on Pleasant Lake. Bring a dish to pass, a beverage and come to have fun. There will be printed directions available. All are welcome!

Marcia and Winfield have graciously opened their home for our **annual church retreat**.

Things to know:

1. Date: August Monday 6
2. Time: 9:00 AM until early afternoon
3. Place: Home of Marcia and Winfield - 96 West Seventh St, Oswego, NY 13126
4. This is an informal gathering to share ideas and concerns for our church.
5. This is open to all members and friends who care about our church.
6. Bring your ideas, an open mind and a lunch, salad or something to share at lunch.
7. Please send your ideas to Janie & Ellen so that we may put together some sort of an agenda.
8. To carpool plan to be at church by 8:15 AM
9. RSVP to Ellen (dartfrog7777@aol.com) and/or Janie (mjgarlow@aol.com)

Thank you,
Ellen and Janie
Your Co-Presidents

UU Universe

The UUA has page on Immigration and Refugee issues and resources. [Click here.](#)

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