

Circle of Fellowship

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

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)

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Our Church is Handicapped Accessible

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In This Issue

[Page 2](#): Flag Meeting Scheduled

[Page 2](#): Notable Pieces of Interest

[Page 3](#): Social Justice

[Page 3](#): Sermon Calendar

[Page 3](#): UU Universe

[Page 4](#): Religious Education

[Page 5](#): Ellen's Green Minute

[Page 6](#): Church Events Calendar

[Page 6](#): Ghost Hunters are Coming!

[Page 7](#): Ministerial Musings

[Check Out our Website!](#)

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Second Meeting to Discuss Placement of the American Flag

Sunday, October 14, 2018

There will be a second and final meeting to discuss the placement of the United States Flag on Sunday, October 14, 2018 following the service. If you attended the August 19th meeting please consider also attending this meeting. If you cannot attend, you can send a statement on what the flag represents to you to Ellen LaPine and Janie Garlow so it can be read during the meeting. Please also indicate in your statement where you would like the flag to be placed. The notes from the first meeting will be discussed as part of the second meeting. If you would like a copy of the notes prior to the meeting please contact Janie Garlow or Ellen LaPine.

At the end of this second meeting a decision will be made on the flag's placement. That decision will also include the consensus reached by those attending the first meeting.

Notable Pieces of Interest

This piece from the NY Times provides some insight into our current economic puzzle of why the economy seems to be booming but people continue struggle to make ends meet. Click the link below:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/14/opinion/columnists/great-recession-economy-gdp.html?smid=fb-nytopinion&smtyp=cur>

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Social Justice

We did not meet formally, but have planned a potluck,(soup and salad bar) for 10/21, with a speaker from "My Fathers Kitchen", which feeds the homeless. The community will be invited and all donations will go to this charity.

Our Adopt-a-Highway pickup is 10/14 at 8:30. Dress weather appropriately, plus old shoes and gloves. We have hats, vests and bags. Volunteer today.

The SJC plans on having some discussion time that morning.

I will arrange for a group of interested folks to see ELF at Syracuse Stage. Sign up as soon as possible. Looks like a Friday eve,7p or Sunday matinee sounds best, but I don't yet know available dates.

That's all.

Nancy Hallock

Sermon Calendar

October 7th: **“The Worth and Dignity of the Gentle Giants”** by The Reverend David Weissbard

October 14th:Reverend Andrea Abbott: **Enabling The Cat: Reflections on Love and Limits”**

October 21st: **A service with all the ministers. Reverends Andrea Abbott, Bud Adams, Libbie Stoddard and David Weissbard speak on what the word religion means to each of them.**

October 28th: Reverend Andrea Abbott

UU Universe

New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) will hold its annual conference at The First Universalist Society of Syracuse, NY on October 19th and 20th. The keynote speaker will be Gretchen S. Sorin , PhD of SUNY Oneonta on her research and documentary based on that work by Ric Burns entitled, “Driving While Black”. For information on this conference, click [here](#).

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passion in human relations

Religious Education

Volunteering and helping others can sometimes seem huge when you are not.
No matter what your size you make a difference.
Even a smile can make someone's day brighter.

We are learning how our actions and words affect others and ourselves.
We all have buckets that we carry with us everyday and
as we help others we fill not only our own buckets but also those we help.

Are you a bucket filler or a dipper?
What do you give and what do you take?
These are the questions we are exploring.

Our summer fund raisers were a great success.
We raised just over seventy dollars toward the window fund.
Thank you everyone for your support.

You are all stars to us
Special
Terrific
Awesome
Remarkable

Ronna Schindler
RE Director

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Ellen LaPine's Green Minute

A Few Autumn Ideas

I visited the website <http://reducefootprints.blogspot.com/> to check out green ideas for fall. Below are some that they recommend.

Check the air pressure in your tires. Cooler temperatures lower tire pressure and that, in turn, lowers fuel efficiency.

Move furniture or any obstructions from vents, baseboard heaters, registers on the floor or radiators so that they can move air freely. This is also a good time to vacuum these areas to remove any dust or debris. If you have a radiator, place a reflecting panel behind it. You can purchase one at a home center or make one yourself with a plywood panel and aluminum foil.

Vacuum the refrigerator coils to keep the compressor running efficiently. It's also a good time to check that the refrigerator is level. The door should automatically swing shut instead of staying open. Check the seal on the door. Try closing it on a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily, it's time to replace the gaskets. To run the refrigerator efficiently don't over fill it. Allowing room for cool air to circulate will keep everything at the right temperature.

Electrical outlets, especially on outside walls, and light fixtures are prime places for cold air to leak into your home. Add foam gaskets behind covers and switch plates. Be sure to shut off the power at the fuse box or circuit panel before doing this.

If you have a ceiling fan, reverse the direction. The fan should be run in a clockwise direction (stand under the fan and if you feel a breeze, reverse the direction so that air is being drawn upwards). This pushes the air up against the ceiling and down the walls, to gently re-circulate the warm air without creating a cooling "wind chill effect."

Before packing away those summer clothes, go through them and determine which items to keep, which items to repurpose into something else (cleaning rags, craft projects, etc.) and which to donate.

"Summer is already better, but the best is autumn. It is mature, reasonable and serious, it glows moderately and not frivolously...It cools down, clears up, makes you reasonable..."

Valentin, Finnish writer

Ellen LaPine

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CHURCH CALENDAR

October 7 – 9:00 Board Meeting. 10:30 Rev. David Weissbard

October 10 & 17 - Two separate Pagan groups will meet at the church on the second and third Wednesday of each month at 5:30.

October 14 – 8:30 Highway Pick-up with Social Justice meeting to follow.

10:30 Rev. Andrea Abbott.

11:30 - Flag Discussion following service.

October 18 - Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread in Clay at 9:30

October 19 – Ghost Finders at 6:00 p.m.

October 21 – 10:30 Joint service involving all of our Sunday morning speakers. 11:30 Soup and Salad Pot Luck and presentation by John Tomino from My Father’s Kitchen.

October 22 - Alzheimer’s Support Group meets at 7:00 in the Goettel Room.

October 28 - 10:30 Rev. Andrea Abbott

Ghost Hunters Coming To Central Square

Over the summer, the CNY Ghost Hunters (www.gotghosts.org) spent two separate nights at the church to investigate what has been a long reputed history of a small number of “spirits” said to inhabit the property. CNY Ghost Hunters was founded in 1997 and is one of the largest and oldest such groups in New York State. Although the church ghosts appear to be rather shy, the investigators did get inklings of beings still present and will be reviewing their results as part of a larger presentation and dialogue on paranormal investigation on October 19th at 7 p.m. The presentation will conclude with Q&A and dialogue so all can learn more about this compelling field. The event is being held at the church and will be open to the public for a freewill donation. Anyone interested in helping put on the event (distributing flyers or other advertising, hosting, refreshments) should contact either Andrea (andrea279@verizon.net, 315-857-1086) or Mary Fran (myafchak@twcny.rr.com, 315-593-7786).

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Ministerial Musings

We have been watching summer leave and fall arrive in our garden and have been heartened by seeing Monarch butterflies this last few weeks. Heartened because we had heard that the milkweed, their chief food, and the migrating Monarchs were no longer on the same schedule due to climate change. But here they were, though I don't know if this means all is well with them or not.

Monarchs are beautiful and it is easy to see why we are anxious about their fate but I recently heard that biologists may have found a way to render mosquitos sterile, thereby eventually eliminating them. It is hard not to cheer. I don't know too many people who love mosquitoes and, when we consider the deaths from malaria, it is difficult to mount an impassioned defense of these pests. But our track record with nature meddling is not good and I wonder what might be the impact of a mosquito less world, an impact we can't see from our limited perspective.

We do know that this is an incredibly diverse and finely balanced planet. We also know that diversity is not just there to give us humans pretty things to look at. In the delicate mechanisms that we are only starting to understand, diversity is essential to maintaining all life, including ours.

That is true in so many ways. At Central Square, I hope we celebrate diversity of thought. Recently, we had a service in which each person in the congregation was invited to share their belief in divinity, including their belief in the absence of divinity. It was wonderful to hear the richness of ideas and the care with which people approached this, as well as the respect in which we held each other. May this always be so of us. Diversity is essential to life, not just in nature but in thought as well. One voice less, even the whine of a mosquito, diminishes all of us.

Reverend Andrea Abbott