

Circle of Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter of the First
Universalist Society of Central
Square, NY
April, 2019

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/



With sadness and shock, we learned today of the death of Chuck Lochner, beloved member of this congregation. He died Friday night, March 29, 2019 at his home. Chuck was a dedicated and vital part of our church community, a friendly and cheerful presence as well as a leader in so many of our endeavors. At this point, arrangements are incomplete. We will keep everyone informed as we learn more.

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Green Minute

Earth Day Events

I did a little online research regarding Earth Day events for this month's article. Unfortunately, I didn't find anything in Oswego County but I did find a few things in Onondaga County. First, on Sunday, April 14th we will have a highway clean-up beginning at 8 a.m. This highway cleanup can be a bit muddy so be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring gloves. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. We need several volunteers for this highway cleanup as this is often the largest collection on trash we get due to its accumulation over the winter season. On Earth Day, Monday, April 22nd Beaver Lake Nature Center will celebrate the 49th Annual Earth Day by showing you how to use recycled materials in new & different ways. They also offer an 8 a.m. bird walk, a 10 a.m. instruction on how to make special crafts and a 2 p.m. Naturalist guided hike.

Also on Monday, April 22nd Oneida Shores Park is looking for volunteers to plant trees to help replace trees that are being lost to Emerald Ash Borer. Register onsite, on the day of the event. Emmi Farms Greenhouse in Baldwinsville will host the annual Earth Day half marathon and 5 K on Monday April 22nd at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$68 and registration closes on April 11th. The marathon benefits the Syracuse Rescue Mission and other local groups. After the race there will be music, food and drinks.

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) is sponsoring an area-wide litter clean-up on Friday, April 26th and Saturday April 27th. They say that last year's event involved over 7300 area residents and collected over 100,000 pounds of trash. You can register for this event by calling (315) 453-2866 or going to their website, searching for Earth Day activities and filling out a registration form. They request that you complete your registration by April 19th.

The Downtown Committee is having an Earth Day clean up on Saturday April 27th. They request that you register by going to mail@downtownsyracuse.com by Friday, April 5th. Go to their website for locations and the times that they will be collecting trash.

Finally on Sunday, April 28th, you can join Syracuse University Sustainability Management, NYPIRG ESF/SU and SU Students of Sustainability for EARTHFEST 2019: a sustainable music & art festival to celebrate Earth Day. There will be art, music, and the planet in the Thornden Park Amphitheater. EARTHFEST will feature art installations, live music, prominent speakers, local food, and fun activities to promote more conscious and sustainable lifestyles. EARTHFEST is free and open to the public.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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Ministerial Musings

“The death of one among us fills us all with pain and grief.” This line from the hymn “We Laugh, We Cry,” is all too appropriate today. Chuck Lochner, beloved member of this community, died suddenly March 29th and all of us in this close knit church are slowly coming to terms with our loss.

Chuck landed here a couple of years ago, jumping in with both feet. From the first time he came until the last week of his life, he was engaged and active, serving on committees, becoming vice-president of the congregation, present for many activities as well as a faithful attendee on Sundays. When Chuck came through the door with his big grin, I truly understood the phrase ‘an infectious smile’. Chuck was always thinking, whether it was in response to a sermon or ideas for growing the church.

Chuck was a risk taker. He took risks when he established himself as a landlord, but not just any landlord. He was landlord/advocate/social worker/financial advisor for his tenants. He took risks on his tenants and he wasn’t afraid to continue to take risks with people, even when people did not always repay his trust. Chuck took risks with plans and projects for himself and for the church and for his neighborhood. If one idea didn’t work, he’d try another, never daunted, never fearing failure. He well understood that the only way to grow was not to be afraid to try.

We are just past April Fool’s day. Chuck’s death has made me aware of how much the fear of appearing ridiculous can keep us from change, can keep us caught in the same ruts we have always run in, even when not to change can mean a slow death of the spirit. Chuck was never afraid to think differently and larger than many, never afraid to stand out, to put himself out for others. Thank you, Chuck, for this lesson above all. We are all better because you were in our lives.

The Reverend Andrea Abbott

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Sermon Calendar

April 7th: Rev. David Weissbard- "**The Conundrum of Anti-Semitism**": My computer dictionary defines a conundrum as "a confusing and difficult problem or question." Anti-Semitism is hardly a new issue, but it certainly qualifies today as confusing and difficult in so many ways. It is very much in the headlines and, while we cannot simplify it, perhaps it is worth trying to sort out some of its dimensions.

April 14th: Rev. Andrea Abbott-"**Learning to be a Fool**": On this Palm Sunday, I'd like to explore some of the implications of Jesus' teachings, particularly through the parable of the Good Samaritan

April 21st :Rev. Bud Adams

April 28th: Rev. Andrea Abbott-"**The First Buzzards of Spring**": Spring isn't always pretty, but the renewal of life and vitality to our area is always cause for celebration.

April Events Calendar

The Rev. Andrea Abbott holds office hours Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. To set up an appointment, please contact Andrea at andrea279@Verizon.net or 1 (315) 857-1086

The sanctuary will be open Mondays during office hours for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation.

April 7th- Executive Board Meeting

The executive board will meet at 9:00 AM in the dining room.

April 14th- Adopt-A- Highway will meet at church at 8:30 AM before the Sunday Service. After we may have time for a short SJ Committee meeting. Many hands needed!

April 26th - Pulled Pork Dinner - Fundraiser. There is a sign up sheet for volunteers in the dining room.

April 27th - 9:00 – 3:30 AARP Safe Driving course

April 28th - Clarinet Concert at church

A Master Class for Clarinet precedes the concert. Contact Leigh Perry Benedict our music director for details.

REFRESHMENTS– See Judy Tennant to Sign Up For Refreshments

4/7 Janie and Ashli

4/14 Mary Fran Yafchak

4/21 Easter Sunday

4/28 Andrea and Arne

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Notable Pieces of Interest

The Dangerous Mythology of Heroism

Rebecca Solnit is a writer I would recommend. Her most famous work is perhaps [Men Explain Things to Me](#). More recently, Solnit published an essay, [When The Hero is The Problem](#). One thing I draw from the essay are the connections we can make to our UU principles of social action. Recent events remind me that we should expect heroes to rescue us from our current dilemmas but connectedness with each other can and will foster the changes we need.

The same theme of the value of connectedness and change arose in reading another piece that might seem totally different. The study, [Nomadland](#) by journalist, Jessica Bruder explores the lives of Americans who see themselves unable to continue pursuing their goals and ambitions in typical social and economic relationships. Beset by all the ways their lives have been permanently changed by economic, physical ills, aging and many other factors, many Americans are choosing a nomadic life on the back roads of America working as temps for Amazon, national parks and industrial agriculture. What is striking is how these nomads bond together to survive on very little. I will tell you reading this book is a tough and painful journey but one I would recommend you try. (Solnit also explores the value of connectedness in [A Paradise Built in Hell](#))

What are you reading? Let me know so we can share with others-AJH.

UU Universe

The 2019 Central-East Region St. Lawrence Seaway Gathering will be held May 3rd and 4th, 2019 at The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, NY. Click [here](#) for more information.

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passion in human relations

Social Justice Committee

We met 3/10 and discussed the following:

1. Syracuse Peace Council Dinner 3/30, where we will host a table.
2. Highway pickup 4/14, 8am. Janet will pickup signs etc.
3. Reviewed NYS New Hope Budget Tour that we hosted at our church on 2/28. We felt it was very worthwhile and informative.
4. Our editorial supporting NYS Greenlight Campaign, was printed in Palladium Times.
5. Blood Drive 3/22 was successful with 15 blood donations.
6. Report from members who attended a meeting of local churches where ecumenical events are being planned.
7. Watched film about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, On The Basis of Sex.

Please join us any 2nd Sunday of the month at 9am.

Nancy Hallock

Social Justice Chair

Religious Education

April will be a month of helping the earth. Turning recyclables into art and working with a program called Kids saving the Earth. Pledging to help clean our planet so be prepared to help us. We will also be hunting for Easter eggs and looking for signs of spring to share with all.

Ronna Schindler

RE Director