

## Circle of Fellowship

### Monthly Newsletter of the First Universalist Society of Central Square, NY November, 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](mailto:andrea279@verizon.net)

Church website: [centralsquareuu.org](http://centralsquareuu.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/ UU-Central Square/199139743511564](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

#### Late October

"Only lovers

see the fall

a signal end to endings

a gruffish gesture alerting

those who will not be alarmed

that we begin to stop

in order to begin

again."

-Maya Angelou

#### In This Issue

[Page 2: Ministerial Musings](#)

[Page 3: Honoring Matthew Stevens](#)

[Page 4: Social Justice Committee](#)

[Page 4: Heart&Hand Gift Making Workshop](#)

[Page 5: Gobind Sadan-Gathering of Light](#)

[Page 6: Religious Education](#)

[Page 6: Small Congregation Webinar Series](#)

[Page 7: Sermon Calendar](#)

[Page 7: Red Cross Blood Drive](#)

[Page 8: Ellen's Green Minute](#)

[Page 9: Upcoming Events](#)

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

**Ministerial Musings**

Like many of you, we have spent the last week or so getting the yard and garden ready for winter, putting away the pots and other decorations, protecting the outdoor furniture and cutting back the plants. Much more tedious than the joy of getting things out in the spring, but necessary if we are to enjoy the garden next year. For all its hard work and tedium, there is something satisfying about it as well. A cycle has been completed. We are preparing for the intimacy of winter, a quieter time, a stripped back time when we have the opportunity for reflection (we hope) and contemplation. Life can't always proceed at the pace of spring and summer and each season does have its own joys.

Of course, just as we think we have everything put away, we see a forgotten container, an untrimmed bush, an overlooked chair. No matter how hard we try to keep our lives neat and tidy, there are always loose ends. As Robert Burns said, the best laid plans... Mice or human, life intervenes and is never quite how we plan things. Frustrating as that can be, I think it's good that life is not so easy to control. Like the geranium we found growing on our compost heap, there are always surprises to be found.

Reverend Andrea Abbott

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



**Matthew Stevens Honored For Eagle Scout UU Eagle Scout Project**

Matthew Stevens of Central Square completed project requirements for his Eagle Scout Badge with construction of a Little Library and Wayside Pulpit for the First Universalist Society of Central Square, NY. The congregation honored Matthew at a ceremony at the church on Sunday, October, 27th, 2019. The Little Library is devoted in memory of congregant, Chuck Lochner. The Wayside pulpit is deicated to the memory of The Reverend Max Coots.

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

**Social Justice Committee**

1. The Adopt-a-Highway's fall pickup was 10/20. We have 7 folks to thank:

Janie Garlow, Ellen Lapine, Claudia Jenks, Arne Hook, Andrea Abbott Tracy Kinne and myself.

2. There is a plastic bin in the Community Room to collect your donations of socks and underwear for school-age children. This is part of a Back-to-School program

at the Cleveland Methodist Church in August 2020. Write your items on the clip board. Starting the collection early should help us make a substantial contribution.

3. The McCarthy Family Christmas Concert is 12/15 and includes a Bake Sale.

4. You will have an opportunity to donate to the UUSC's 2019 Guest-At-Your-Table campaign with coins in the collection plate. There will also be envelopes in the pews for cash or checks.

5. We watched a film, "Bag It" last Friday afternoon. The film maker, Susan Berazahas a new documentary "Massacre River" which will be shown on WCNY on November 3 @7p. It presents the serious ethnic oppression from a 1937massacre at the Haitian/Dominican border to today with all inhabitants of Haitian decent being stripped of citizenship.

6. We are exploring local climate change activism with [Climatecitizen.org](http://Climatecitizen.org)

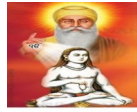
Nancy Hallock

Chair, Social Justice

**"Heart & Hand" gift-making workshop**

The church will be offering a homemade gift-making workshop to the congregation and community on Saturday, November 30. In keeping with what is becoming known as Small Business Saturday, Ronna Schindler will lead participants through making a hand-crafted item suitable for holiday giving or just to enjoy! A choice of projects will be offered and childcare will be available. We will be charging a small fee (currently planned at \$5) and attendance will be limited to ensure everyone has a chance to complete their project. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. Please also contact Mary Fran if you can help distribute flyers or are able to help spread the word in other ways.

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



**PLEASE JOIN OUR**

**“Gathering Around the Light”**

A Celebration at Gobind Sadan, USA – “God’s House without Walls”

*“Everyone is part of my community, I see no one as an “other.”* Guru Nanak Dev ji

Saturday, November 23

Gobind Sadan, USA

134 Graves Rd

Central Square, NY 13036

3-8 p.m. followed by a community meal

*With the blessings of Baba Virsa Singh ji, Gobind Sadan’s beloved founder and preceptor* [3-4:30 Tea and Tour](#)

4:30- 6:00 Program “Building a World without Walls:

Bringing Peace within Ourselves and the World”

6:30 – Sacred Music

8 p.m. Langar - Community Meal

November marks the 18th anniversary of the post 9-11 arson attack on Gobind Sadan, USA.

We witnessed 2 great miracles as the Light triumphed over the darkness:

In the midst of the blaze, the Holy Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib, did not burn

And the power of forgiveness overcame the hatred, healed, and transformed the lives of those involved and rebuilt a community of love. This year is especially momentous as we join the world-wide Sikh community in celebrating the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji, the founder of the Sikh tradition, who set the standard for a world without walls.

Sikhs are called on to “Recognize everyone as one human race”.

At a time when our country and the world is deeply divided, let us gather and celebrate our shared values and commitment to making a better world for future generations.

FREE and OPEN to Public – Advanced Registration Required Below

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/save-the-date-gathering-around-the-light-a-celebration-at-gobind-sadan-usa-gods-house-without-walls-tickets-76902833445>.

Circle of Fellowship

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

**Religious Education**

Did you ever think that the thoughts you have can change your life and those around you.

We have the voice and the ability to make change for ourselves and others.

You do not need to travel far. Just by looking around you, a person can see changes that need to be made.

We will be exploring how our choices can make a difference that have far reaching effects on our environment and what we can do to minimize negative effects.

We will also continue to collect eye glasses and prescription bottles. We have just donated 20 pairs of glasses to be refurbished and given to help others with the gift of sight. Thanks everyone for your continued support.

Ronna Schindler

**Small Congregation Webinar Series**

Recently several of us viewed a webinar moderated by the UUA that is designed to support small congregations by showing what others have done and then having representatives from those congregations available to answer questions. You can view the recording of the webinar at <https://vimeo.com/367099254/44345ebda8>

The next webinar in the series is on Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 7 p.m. We will be viewing it in the Goettel Room. All are welcome to join us.

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

**Sermon Calendar**

**November 3rd: The Reverend David Weissbard– “Driven By Fear”**

**November 10th: The Reverend Kurt Hohmann- “The Many Faces of God”**

Rev. Kurt Hohmann was ordained in 2003 by Church of the Greenwood, an organization for people of Earth-based spiritualities, and has served on their executive board since 2008. He is the local coordinator for the Syracuse Pagan Pride Project, Spiritual Advisor for the Pagan student group at Syracuse University, and founding member of several local spiritual groups, including a Norse Heathen kindred and a Pagan circle dedicated to the pursuit of spiritual diversity.

**November 17th: The Reverend Bud Adams**

**November 24th: Ecumenical Service:** We will be part of an ecumenical service of remembrance which will be held at the Community Church and will involve our church and the Baptist church. This will be a service in which we remember all those whom we still hold dear in our hearts, not only those who have recently died. There will be a combined choir and an opportunity for fellowship with our neighbors. Reverend Andrea Abbott

**Red Cross Blood Drive  
Friday November 22nd  
1:30-6:30 p.m.**

The Red Cross urges donors of all blood types to give blood now to help keep the blood supply stable during the holidays. Blood donations often decline from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.

We will have another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives on Friday, November 22nd from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please consider donating or volunteering. You can schedule an appointment to donate blood by visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS but no appointment is necessary. Even if you cannot be a donor, please tell others about the drive.

We need volunteers to help with the blood drive. There will be 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

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

**Green Minute**  
**Living Simply**

Several of us just completed a 6 week course titled “A Different Way – Living Simply in a Complex World”. It was a very interesting and thought provoking course. We all took a deliberate and intentional look at our life styles and committed to making changes. One of the exercises we did was keeping a log for just one week of everything we threw in the trash and recycling. Give it a try. It’s an eye opening experience.

The course talked about “voluntary simplicity”. Some descriptions of what this means included:

*“Voluntary simplicity is a manner of living that is outwardly simple and inwardly rich, a deliberate choice to live with less in the belief that more life will be returned to us in the process”* -

Duane Elgin

*“Voluntary simplicity involves the quest for calm, balanced, integrated lives, less clutter, less artificiality, and lessened impact on nature; and the elevation of quality over quantity, time over money and community over competition.”* – Eric Freyfogle

A 2016 United Nations Environmental Programme report found that the global economy expanded more than 300% between 1970 and 2016. It found that the earth’s population almost doubled but the global extraction of material resources tripled. The report predicts that if we continue on our current trajectory of resource use, we will be using about three times as many resources in 2050 as we are today and will pay the environmental consequences through intensifying climate change, increasing air and water pollution, reduced biodiversity and ultimately depleted natural resources. This puts us at risk for critical shortages and the heightened risk of local conflicts.

As it has been said many times, change starts small and increases in momentum as others also make small changes until those changes become the norm. With this in mind, several of us went to the website [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org) and took their quiz. Prior to taking the quiz, I considered myself to be doing pretty well in trying to reduce my carbon footprint. The quiz is scored in how many “earths” it would take if everyone on the planet lived your lifestyle. The “earths” represent the resources that are on this planet. I am sorry to say that I scored a whopping 4.96 earths! The average in the United States is 6.35 earths but clearly I still have a lot more work to do.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the quiz for your household. Once you have your score, click the table view tab. It will give you a breakdown of where your footprint most affects the earth and will help you pinpoint areas where you might want to make changes.

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee



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

**Upcoming Evets at the First Universalist Society of Central Square**

**OCT 28 OFFICE HOURS:** The Outreach and Planning Committee will meet today. The Rev. Andrea Abbott will hold office hours from 6 to 7 p.m. To set up an appointment, please contact Andrea at 1 (315) 857-1086 or andrea279@verizon.net The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to use it for a time of reflection, prayer or meditation

**11/3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The Executive board will meet at 9:00 in the dining room. Daylight saving time begins. Set your clocks back.

**REFRESHMENTS**

11/3 Mary Fran

11/10 Volunteer Needed

11/17 Monthly potluck

Theme: Thanksgiving side dishes

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are always needed as greeters and to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Judy Tennant. The Spiritual Committee invites anyone who wishes to place flowers near the pulpit for the morning service on Sundays to do so. There is a sign-up sheet for all volunteers in the dining room.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES**

1. Starting Nov.3, through Dec., all coins in the collection plate will go to UUSC Guest at your Table. There will also be envelopes in each pew.
2. We have an Equal Exchange catalog with 10% off. Items are by the case, but could be shared among you and be used as Christmas gifts. These include coffee, teas, candy bars, cocoa mix, baking cocoa, olive oil, and more. I want to place an order Nov. 4. Free shipping.
3. A collection bin is setup for donations of socks and underwear for a Back-to-School program at the Cleveland Methodist Church in August 2020. .Details to follow

**11/23 GOBIND SADAN :**We are invited to a celebration at Gobind Sadan on Saturday, November 23 from 3:00 to 8:00. "Gathering Around the Light" A Celebration at Gobind Sadan, USA – "God's House without Wall

**December 15: McCarthy Family Concert and Bake Sale at church**