

## Circle of Fellowship

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

January, 2020

### 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

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Happy New Year!

By Ben Jennings

The Guardian-12/30/19

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Church of the Greenwood

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**Ministerial Musings**

Happy New Year! Happy New Decade! Though I say these words on January 1, 2020, it's hard to see the newness at this time. Today looks a lot like yesterday and the day before, neither sunny nor rainy nor snowy, neither very cold nor very warm, a time of no particular weather. Around me, the neighborhood is quiet and all the trees are bare, no sign of life, no newness anywhere to be seen. Those of us who live in this area know, however, that there is really new life all around us. It's in the tight buds, those little knobs on the trees. It's in the roots of the grasses that now look so brown and dry, but have at their base the fresh green that will emerge in the spring. It's in the stone like bulbs deep in the earth. It's in eggs, still part of the mother bird, waiting to be awakened. All of nature seems to need this quiet time, the time when nothing seems to happen, a time that seems like death, in order to prepare for the new life, the new world waiting to burst forth. We, too, need this time for reflection and dreams, to prepare ourselves for new beginnings, to take our place in the renewal of the world.

The Reverend Andrea Abbott

**Religious Education**

We began the new year a little early writing our New Years UU and personal resolutions. From helping around church, helping neighbors to learning a language. Each month a different resolution will be addressed. Heads up parents travel was also mentioned.

We will be helping feed our winter friends.

Discussing what we believe as UUs and what our responsibility is to help our world.

We continue to collect prescription bottles and eyeglasses.

Please bring in your soda pop tops as Mara is collecting them to help the children's hospital and your grocery receipts to help our kids earn free classroom supplies.

Thanks in advance for all your continued support.

Ronna Schindler– RE Director

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**Social Justice**

We will meet on 1/12 @9:00. We will be brainstorming on how to act on our focus issue of climate change. This issue covers such a wide and important range of topics: environmental deregulation. clean air, clean water, greenhouse gases, forest fires, endangered species, plastic, recycling, and many more.

I want to discuss the Women's March in Seneca Falls and Holly Near Concert.

All are welcome.



*Donate Life!*

**Red Cross Blood Drive  
Friday January 17th  
1:30-6:30 p.m.**

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

We will have another of our regularly scheduled Red Cross blood drives on Friday, January 17th from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. All presenting donors will receive an American Red Cross reusable tote bag. 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

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Green Minute  
What To Do With Those Unwanted Christmas Gifts

The holidays are over and when you look at the gifts you received there may be one or more gifts that you don't have a use for. Maybe you've decided to simplify and/or eliminate the use of plastic in your home. Maybe you just don't like the color or style. Whatever the reason, here are some ideas on how to put those gifts to use.

**Re-gifting** isn't as taboo as it once was. Maybe the item wasn't for you but you know someone who would love it. Some folks are also organizing **mutual swaps** of presents they have received.

**Charity shops** like the Salvation Army, Rescue Mission or Goodwill will gladly take most items to sell in their stores but it is best to double check to see if they accept electronics, furniture etc. before you lug the item into the donation center.

**Re-sale shops** both brick and mortar and on the internet, may be an option for you and you can make a bit of money as well.

**Shelters** for both people and animals are always in need of items as small as women's personal products and as large as blankets for animal bedding. **Resettlement agencies and agencies that respond to disasters** may accept even larger items as they help people establish a new home. Again, check with the charity because there are some items they are unable to accept.

**Children's and teens charities, hospitals and hospice** will often accept age appropriate toys, games, music and electronics to give to people they service to help make a difficult time in their lives a bit better.

**Libraries and schools** will sometimes accept children's books. Some schools will accept sports equipment. If you are donating children's books, don't forget about the **little library** we have in front of the church.

**Our own rummage sale** in 2020 will be needing items soon so start setting things aside to donate to the sale now.

Happy new year!- Ellen LaPine

Ellen LaPine  
Social Justice Committee

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**Sermon Calendar**

**January 5th: Reverend David Weissbard: “Revisiting the Neighborhood”**

Karen and I participate in a weekly current events discussion as part of a seniors education program. This week, the conversation was mostly about how inherent greed, violence, and the quest for power, are to our species. I was saved from despair by my having seen “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” at Thanksgiving. We need to pay more attention to human examples of humane living. Sunday we will revisit Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood as an antidote to despair.

**January 12th: Reverend Andrea Abbott : “20/20 Vision”**

**January 19th: Reverend Bud Adams**

**January 26th: Reverend Andrea Abbott**

**Notable Pieces of Interest**

We humans may conventionally visualize ourselves at an imagined apex in the hierarchy of living things but David Quammen’s [The Tangled Tree](#) provides an extensive overview of how complex the tree of life is. The emerging views of humanity’s place in the web of life causes us to rethink how all life is connected.

[Amity and Prosperity: One Family and The Fracturing of America](#) by Eliza Griswold tells the story of one Pennsylvania family’s involvement with gas fracking and its consequences. This is a sobering read but important for all of us to understand how economic and environmental choices affect all our lives.

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**Church Events Calendar**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**1/5 Kurt & Ronna**

**1/12 Linda B**

**1/19 Monthly potluck**

**1/26 Bonnie & Carey**

**1/5 BOARD MEETING**

**The executive board meets in the dining room at 9:00. All are welcome.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**1/11 AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE**

**See Ellen LaPine at [dartfrog7777@aol.com](mailto:dartfrog7777@aol.com) for more information.**

**1/16 COFFEE & CHAT**

**Join friends for Coffee and Chat this Thursday, January 11 at Panera Bread on Rte 31 in Clay. We will meet at 9:00.**

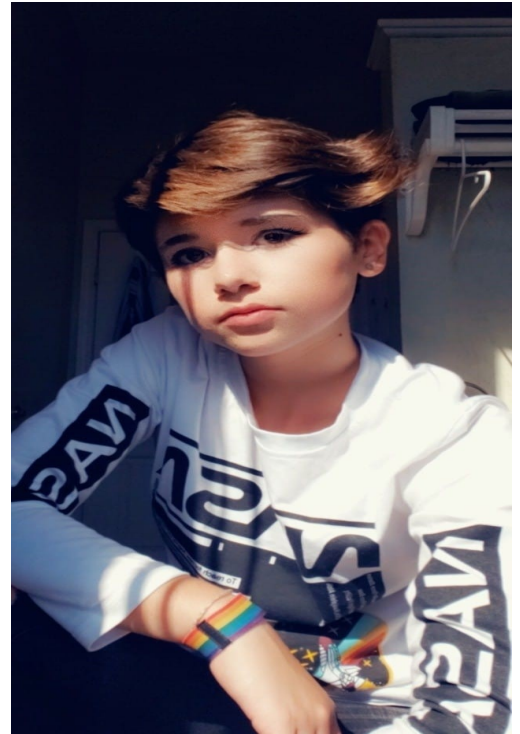
**1/19 Presentation on OCO SERVICES For the Homeless**

**Beth Thompson, director of behavioral health services at Oswego County Opportunities, will speak at church Sunday, Jan. 19 about services for individuals and families in Oswego County who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness. Her talk will begin at 1 p.m., after the monthly potluck. We will accept donations to support OCO's homeless services**

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### Reading and Reiki – A Fundraiser for Lacey Marino

A fundraiser for Lacey Marino will be held on **Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am –4:00 pm** at [The First Universalist Society of Central Square, NY](#). A member of the Oswego High School Band, Lacey has been invited to play Bass Clarinet in Europe with the American Music Abroad Company. This company has been bringing kids across Europe for over 30 years! Many of you might have had this opportunity as well and can attest to this great opportunity! The tour will travel across Europe over the course of nearly 3 weeks, and the kids will perform in locations such as Brussels, Holland, Germany, and more!



Lacey plays three different clarinets but has been asked to bring her special talent with the Bass Clarinet to Europe. She has devoted years to her love for music, and this is her hard work has been rewarded with this opportunity. She will be participating in free concerts for the public across Europe, showcasing the rich talent that she and her fellow musicians have, while also taking in the rich culture and history around her. She will have the opportunity to stand in the very places she hears about every day in the news seeing it from a different point of view to understand that we are all so very much the same! In the end she will play for the people in Europe as a way of connecting through music as only it can do.

**The cost of the trip is \$6,000. Already \$2,500 has been raised but Lacey needs help with the other \$3,500 and she is willing to work for it.**

For the fundraiser we will have reiki masters, a massage therapist, and readers of tarot, stones, bones, and possibly I Ching available donating their time. A 15-minute reading or a reiki/massage will be available for \$20; craft goods, baked goods, and art created by Lacey (yes, she is an artist too) all for sale as well. We may even have a food truck if we can arrange it.

So, if you have ever wanted to try out reiki or see what a reading is like but didn't want to commit to a full session with either this is the perfect opportunity to do so while helping a young musician obtain a goal.

If you aren't able to come but would still like to donate you can do so at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/shut-up-and-give-my-kid-your-money>