

## Circle of Fellowship

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

October, 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

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)

**Autumn, 2020 Seventh Lake, Inlet, NY**

### In This Issue

**Page 2: Ministerial Musings**

**Page 2: A Musical CD Tribute to Paul Riley**

**Page 3: Ellen's Green Minute**

**Page 4: Social Justice**

**Page 4: Church Events Calendar**

**Page 4: 10/7 Series on Racism**

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

**Ministerial Musing October 2020**

My grandson has started kindergarten this year but, because of COVID, he is going remotely. That means that his father, grandfather and I are also all going to kindergarten as well. It's a tough regime. Today we learned about *same* and *different*. It made me wonder how we all learned those concepts. Are they innate? Do we all instinctively recognize that some things are the same and some are different? Or are we taught to see those differences? In today's lesson, some things were just alike except they were different colors or sizes. I thought about how we are taught to concentrate on some differences but not on others, how we often miss the things that are the same, in all of us. In this case the teacher gave us items to show how some things were the same as others and some things were different from each other. In real life, the people who define how there are similarities and differences are very powerful. They set how we understand the world and react to it. It can be hard to get past the ways we have been taught to see same and different.

All this is an elaborate way of saying that I'm grateful to Army (with a y) Stieber for his work in developing the four session workshop on racism and hope that all of us will join in this learning experience. I've watched my grandson learn and develop over the last couple of weeks. I'm sure we can all do so as well.

Andrea Abbott

**A CD Tribute to Paul Riley**

Nathan Neuman from St. Cloud Minnesota did a tribute to Paul and included 7 of his original songs on the CD. Did a nice tribute. Please click on the link below and share with others.

<http://www.accordions.com/news.aspx?d=04-Sep-2020&&s=16810>

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

### Ellen's Green Minute



### Green Minute NY To Finally Enforce Plastic Bag Ban

New Yorkers use an estimated 23 billion plastic bags annually—each for about 12 minutes—and approximately 85 percent of this staggering total ends up in landfills, recycling machines, waterways, and streets. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will begin enforcement of the State's ban on single-use plastic carryout bags on October 19, 2020. As of this date, any “person required to collect tax” must not distribute any plastic carryout bags to its customers unless such bags are exempt bags. Exempt bags include produce bags for fruits and vegetables, bags used for takeout food in restaurants and garment bags to name a few.

According to the DEC website, “The plastic bag ban, which went into effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, was not enforced per an agreement between the parties in a lawsuit brought by Poly-Pak Industries, Inc., et al, in New York State Supreme Court. Pursuant to an Order of the New York State Supreme Court, Albany County, DEC agreed to provide the parties and the Court at least 30 days' notice prior to commencing enforcement. DEC is currently conducting extensive outreach to stakeholders, including grocery stores, retailers, and others, to provide notice of the start of enforcement and answer questions.”

The Bag Waste Reduction Law applies to more than just grocery stores. Whether you're going to the grocery store, clothes shopping, or to a home improvement store, make sure to bring your reusable bags. Ideally, a bag should be washable and designed for multiple uses, such as one made from cloth. If you forget to bring a bag with you, many retailers will have reusable bags for sale. An alternative, such as paper, may also be available but any “person required to collect tax” is not required to have bags available for customers. Some stores may choose not to switch to paper and may only have reusable bags for purchase.

You can find out more by going to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>.

Ellen La Pune

Circle of Fellowship

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

**Social Justice**

The Social Justice committee collected contributions for Pure Water For the Worlds and Sent them donation from First Universalist for \$414.00.

Nancy Hallock

Social Justice Chair

**Church Events Calendar**

**October Sermon Schedule**

**Please join us on zoom, Sundays at 10:30 am for Services**

**<https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlaNIhUNIRQK2Z4UT09>**

**October 4th: The Reverend David Weissbard**

**October 11th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott**

**October 18th: The Reverend Bud Adams**

**October 25th: The Reverend Andrea Abbott**

**10/7 Series on Racism**

The First Universalist Society of Central Square is offering a four-part discussion series on racism, with emphasis on raising awareness and sharing individual actions that can lead to change. The discussion will take place on four consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning October 7. Topics include the history of racism, myth vs. reality, the current state of racism in the U.S., and ways we can work together to eliminate racism. Each session will begin with a review of references provided by the facilitator, Arny Stieber, followed by discussion that encourages input from all attendees.

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/liberty-and-justice-for-all-history-and-effects-of-engrained-racism-tickets-122801738305>**