

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

Church website: centralsquareuu.org

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



Robert Haskell 1929-2020

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Remembering Bob

Before Andrea and I knew Bob and Nancy Haskell were fellow UUs, we were next door neighbors. The Haskells lived at 37 Grove Street from 1956 until 2017. We moved next door in 1992. It was a surprise for all of us to learn that we were all UUs. Andrea and I became close to Bob and Nancy and we shared an evening together once a week for many years. Bob helped me with many home projects including showing up at 7:00 am to shovel and haul gravel for our back terrace.

Bob always expressed doubts about traveling but was finally persuaded by Nancy to travel with us to England and especially to visit Charlton-Musgrove, a small village in Somerset from where his ancestors had departed for the colonies in the 16th century. Bob worked for years to produce a Haskell genealogy he finally completed late in his life. He stayed in contact with many of the Haskell lineage.

Bob and Nancy were members at First UU Syracuse for many years and then joined the First UU Central Square when they learned The Reverend Max Coots was preaching there. Bob had friendships with several UU ministers including Max, David Weissbard, David Bumbaugh and others.

Bob was an atheist UU. He started out as a Baptist and became a humanist. He loved astronomy and would point to the photos from the Hubble telescope as evidence that there was no maker of the universe. He admired the sciences and saw Charles Darwin as a role model. Bob loved to good naturedly argue his positions with anyone he could engage with. Bob organized and ran a lively video discussion group for many years at the church.

Bob served First UU Central Square in many formal capacities on the church board including a long stint as president. He had a sharp eye for detail that had also served him well as an editor at the Syracuse newspapers. He worked with the church membership to develop clear policies and practices in many areas of church business including starting this newsletter.

Bob and Nancy gave so much to our church and community and will be dearly missed.

Arnold Hook

Newsletter Editor

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Ministerial Musings

I've checked my emails and Googled the news but, as I write this, we still do not know who is going to be President. By the time you read this, I hope, the issue will be settled. But the other issues that so divide this country will not be settled, not now and not for a long time to come. The presidency is a very powerful office, grown more powerful over the last few decades, and this is a very powerful country, so whoever has the most votes is given power that has become unbelievable over life and death for billions of people. I can't think that this is a good thing, no matter who wins the contest.

Our grandson is going to kindergarten virtually so we are also going to kindergarten. The kindergarten teachers have had a number of lessons dealing with voting and how important it is that we all vote. I think this is something new. I don't remember it in my kindergarten days or in my sons'. I'm not sure how much of this the five year olds are getting but, all in all, it's a good thing. Perhaps they can take the lessons home. The teachers examples such as deciding between pizza and hot dogs or which animal will be the classroom pet (virtual as well). The teacher explained that when we vote, the animal we want doesn't always win. She also explained that we have to get over that, and go on. I wondered how many people should go back to kindergarten. There are a lot of hard lessons in growing up; sharing, losing, lots of tough stuff.

I don't mean to make too light of this. It's a long way from choosing a llama or a duck or a hedgehog to deciding which policies and visions will govern our country and will set the course of much of the world. But the confusion between what we want and what is good for others and how we go forward with that goal in mind is still difficult for people whether they're five or seventy five. It requires a lot of listening to hear what is being said beneath the anger, hurt, and insecurities that drive so many of our worst actions. It takes great effort to try again when we lose or to avoid arrogance and vindictiveness when we win. We'll know soon if we can rise to become the people we say we want to be.

In case you were curious, the llama won.

Andrea Abbott

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Green Minute
Environmental Effect of Road Salt

It's that time of year again. Soon there will be lots of road salt around on our roads, in our waters, drinking water and even in the air. There is a lot of research going on around the negative effects of all this salt and in the ways to reduce salt but still keep our roads safe during the winter.

One website of many websites that you can use to research this problem and its effects is <https://www.adkaction.org/project/reducing-road-salt/>. AdkAction claims that in the Adirondacks alone, *"Each year, over 190,000 tons of road salt are applied to roadways in the Adirondacks, with New York State using about 2.5 times more salt per lane-mile than county and municipal road crews. As a result of this disparity, studies show that while the state maintains only about a quarter of the roads in the Park, salt runoff from state roads is responsible for the vast majority of water contamination."* In 2018 AdkAction was part of a working group with NYS decision makers, researchers and advocacy groups advocating legislation to help designate the Adirondack region as a low salt zone by NYS. They are supporting the Randy Preston Road Salt reduction act which was passed by the NYS Senate in July 2020 which would create a task force and create a 3-year pilot program that would implement strategies to reduce road salt use, while maintaining safe roads for winter drivers. This pilot program would work towards halting the spread of salt pollution into our streams, lakes, and drinking water. More information in this bill can also be found at <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/state-poised-to-study-parks-salt-problems>.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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Notice to Our Members and Friends Regarding Continuation of Virtual Services

Although some churches and organizations have reopened on a limited basis in our area, we have decided that we will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future. We feel strongly that we must do all we can to not put people's lives at risk by coming to worship and other events at this time. We will continue to follow state and local laws and will use only vetted up-to-date medical and public health information from reliable sources to make decisions about reopening. When the time comes that we can reopen, we are fully committed to including people who cannot join us in person by offering online access to services, meetings and other functions. If you have questions or concerns please contact any Board member.

Ellen LaPine, President for the Executive Board

November 1, 2020

The UU Circle announces the First Annual Mary Perkins Un-Bake Sale.

If you have donated baked goods to our annual bake sale fundraiser,. , you know how much all of the ingredients cost and how much time you have spent baking. Then you probably would purchase a pie, cake cookies or brownies that somebody else baked. This could add up to a tidy sum.

This year we were unable to hold our Yard Sale Fundraiser, so we were not able to pay our pledge to the church this year. In lieu of these fundraisers we are having the First Annual Mary Perkins Un-Bake Sale in honor of our dear Mary. If you choose to donate, you can add the donation amount to your pledge check by adding a note in the memo portion of the check with the amount and a notation that it is for the Un-Bake Sale.

Thank you for anything that you may give in memory of our dear Mary.

Ann Peterson

UU Circle

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Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday November 20th 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The First Universalist Society of Central Square is committed to strengthening our community and helping meet hospital and patient needs through blood donations. Our ongoing series of blood drives is our way of giving friends and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives. We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life

You can donate blood at our Red Cross blood drive from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 20th. However, due to social distancing protocols, this drive will be held at the Baptist Church across the street at 701 Main Street. It is highly encouraged that you schedule an appointment because in an effort to control the number of people in the building at one time, walk-ins may not be allowed. You can schedule an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

If you can help by volunteering at the blood drive please contact me at dart-frog7777@aol.com.

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Thank you.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

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Church Events Calendar

Our Zoom link for the church unday Services on Sundays at 10:30am is:

<https://zoom.us/j/94662078732?pwd=V3d6eWlvSWMyUUlaNlhUNlRQK2Z4UT09>

Sunday, November 8th,: Arny Stieber will speak to us about Armistice Day. We will start at 10:25 with announcements. At 11:30 we will have a service of remembrance for Bob Haskell.

Sunday, November 15th: The Reverend Bud Adams

Sunday, November 22nd: The Reverend Andrea Abbott

Sunday, November 29th: The Reverend Libbie Stoddard

PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD

Please continue to collect your change at home. The change collected will continue to go toward our participation in “Pure Water for the World”.

PLEDGE DONATIONS

Pledge donations may be made through your bank’s BillPay account or by a check mailed to:
First Universalist Society
PO Box 429
Central Square, NY 13036