



CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

The First Universalist Society of Central Square

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3243 Fulton Street (Route 49, near Route 11)
Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429
Our church building is handicapped accessible.
Phone: 315-668-6821 E-mail: uucentralsquare@gmail.com
Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564>

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.

Andrea Abbott, Student Minister	315-635-7122	The Rev. Libbie Stoddard, Minister Emerita	315-343-4352
Leigh Parry-Benedict, Music Coordinator	315-657-5904	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

FEBRUARY 2014

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

February is American Heart Month. I think the American Heart Association means that we are to be more concerned about our physical health, but I would like to extend this idea a bit. What makes us heart healthy may involve more than exercise and a good diet, important as these things are. But there is more to physical health than tuning up our bodies. In order to be truly healthy we also need to be involved with others and involved in a life that gives us more than just material good. Most people find that a sense of purpose and a concern for the well-being of others are powerful motivating forces. When we leave the narrow confines of our own lives, we often feel better about ourselves. When we feel that we are contributing to a larger world, we find we have a sense of well-being and that sense of well-being helps us physically as well as mentally. Isolated and lonely people are more prone to illness and have more difficulty recovering. So doing good for others means we are also doing ourselves some good. As I look around our church, I see so many people who are actively helping people in our community and many who are also working hard for the well-being of people beyond our walls. Even people who are ill or disabled still find the energy to be in touch with others and be encouraging to others. I know this snippet is the classic “preaching to the choir” when I consider how active our congregation is in helping others and it makes me very proud to be part of this church. We are building a good church, and our actions beyond the church mean that we are part of building a better world, one in which more people will be able to have better health and more rewarding lives. We may be small but we are mighty – and heart healthy.

Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD FOCUSES ON TENTH COMMANDMENT

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 2: “This Sunday we will be looking at the Tenth Commandment. There is no Commandment over which there is more disagreement about the appropriate translation. I will also suggest that there is no Commandment which speaks more directly to our contemporary needs. (It’s the one about Coveting!)”

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com. His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

VOICES FOR WORKER EQUALITY SERIES

Wally Reardon of Pulaski will speak in the sanctuary at noon on Sunday, February 2, in the second session of the Social Justice Subcommittee's Voices for Worker Equality series on issues of labor and equality. The series is being co-sponsored with the Workers' Center of Central New York.

Wally is a former communications tower worker who advocates for safety improvements for workers at heights. Injured several years ago while employed as a tower worker, he now coordinates the Workers at Heights Safety and Health Initiative, a project of the Occupational Health Clinical Center at Syracuse.

The remainder of the series will include:

- Nancy Ghertner of Western New York, who will show "After I Pick the Fruit: The Lives of Migrant Women," a documentary she filmed in Western New York, Florida and Mexico. Nancy worked on the film for 10 years. This program will run a little longer than the others because of the length of the film.

- Dick and Vic DeGraff of Pulaski, who founded Grindstone Farm, an organic Community Supported Agriculture operation south of Pulaski.

- Rebecca Fuentes, who recently was promoted from part-time to full-time organizer for the Workers' Center of Central New York. Rebecca will discuss her efforts to help dairy farm workers.

- Tracy Kinne will talk about "On Sale: Employers Get Good Workers Dirt Cheap."

Nancy Hallock is exploring the possibility of a seventh segment involving "The Hunger Games" and how "real" they perhaps are.

Tracy Kinne

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE REFLECTS ON SERIES

The Social Justice Subcommittee met on Sunday morning, January 12.

We reviewed the first program in our scheduled Voices for Worker Equality Series. Janet Clerkin and Carol Dwyer delivered an interesting and inspirational program. We were happy with the attendance and surprised that the program was videotaped by Frank Cetera and put on his blog. Our major concern was the late start. We plan on a noon starting time again on Sunday, February 2, for Wally Reardon's presentation because that is how it was publicized.

Thanks for your continued support of Pure Water for the World and the Central New York Food Bank at St. Michael's Church Parish Center. I will return deposit bottles and cans that are brought to the church or you can return them yourself for Pure Water for the World.

I will take the magazines and books to the Syracuse Justice Center the first week in February if you want to bring in more contributions by Sunday, February 2.

Nancy Hallock

"A CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH"

There will be a workshop "A Conversation About Our Church" after the church service on Sunday, February 16.

Church history, organization, finances, membership responsibilities, etc. will be discussed.

Anyone interested in joining our church or in just wanting to learn more about the church is invited to attend. There is a signup sheet on the East Room table.

For more information, see Chet Perkins.

STOVE IS NOT TO BE USED

B. Redington of Commercial Appliance Repair and Service evaluated the stove in the church kitchen on Friday, January 24, and deemed it unsafe to use.

Therefore, everyone is requested not to use the stove.

The Executive Board is expected to take up this matter when it meets at 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 16.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another
and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT

“A Night at the Cabaret” will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, February 8.

Performers will include the Oswego Community Youth Orchestra. Artists from our church are also on the bill, and it is not too late to sign up with Leigh Parry-Benedict to be part of the entertainment.

Pre-event ticket sales are important to this fundraiser which will benefit our church, so please help by selling tickets to family and friends.

Helpers are needed to supply baked goods to be sold during the intermission. People are also needed to set up the tables and chairs for the intermission.

For more information, contact Leigh Parry-Benedict or Barbara Kamerance

UU CIRCLE BEGINS A NEW YEAR

The UU Circle hosted its annual potluck luncheon and election-of-officers meeting in the church dining room on Sunday, January 19. There was great food, great conversation and the addition of two new officers to the UU Circle. Welcome Susan Wells and Priscilla Sparks as new coordinators for the Circle.

The UU Circle serves many purposes. It hosts social gatherings so that everyone can meet and greet and get to know each other better. Since ours is a commuter church, this is especially important for us. We don't all see each other at the library or the grocery store. And coffee hour is just never long enough.

The Circle sends cards, flowers and gift certificates to those who are ill, hospitalized or graduating. It is a way to let people know that they are remembered and thought of. This past year the Circle sent out \$260 in flowers, gift certificates and cards to people in our church family.

The Circle fund-raises so that it can contribute to the upkeep of the church. This past year the Circle gave the church treasurer a check for \$1,250 to be used to keep our beautiful and unique church running. Think about the heat, the lights and the recent tree removal.

Who belongs to the UU Circle? I didn't join anything. Everyone who attends church is a part of the UU Circle. So, when there is a potluck, a bake sale, a game night or a plant exchange, you are a part of it. The Circle welcomes your ideas and hopes that you will help with future activities. You can help with one activity that interests you or help out frequently. You do not need to commit long term. A few helping hands make the job that much more fun, and offer a good way to get to know people. The Circle welcomes your ideas and help at any time.

Ann Peterson
Secretary-treasurer

CAROL DOUGLAS HABERMAN

The following obituary is from the Thursday, January 23, 2014, edition of The Post-Standard of Syracuse:

Carol Douglas Haberman, 103, of Syracuse died Tuesday at Birchwood Nursing Home (Elderwood at Liverpool). Mrs. Haberman retired from Dey Brothers in Syracuse as a clerk in the Millinery Departments following 30 years of service. She was an 80 year plus member of the First Baptist Church of Syracuse and volunteered for the Salvation Army and Kiwanis. Her greatest joy in life was her family. She was predeceased by her devoted husband of 52 years, Paul, who died in 1983.

Surviving are two daughters, Joan Descutner of Amherst and Judy (George) Tennant of Baldwinsville; five grandchildren, Robyn Dudley, Dale (Eve) Tennant, Sean Tennant, Carol Jo (John Ostroot) Descutner and Paul (Maggie) Descutner.

Calling hours will be from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday with services to follow immediately at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, Inc., 4612 S. Salina St., Syracuse. Burial will be in Onondaga Valley Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Carol's family would like to acknowledge the Birchwood staff for taking such good care of her.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The First Baptist Church of Syracuse, 5833 E. Seneca Tnpk., Jamesville, NY 13078, or to the Salvation Army.

To express sympathy please visit ballweg-lunsford.com

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOCUSES ON JOURNALS

We have been busy this past month in the religious education program. Journals were created to be used as either a life history of self or of another person. We will continue to work on them for the next few months.

We have begun a rainbow mural in our classroom on the Golden Rule which we will add to and grow.

We have also worked on our own personal roots and wings tree, discovering who we are to others and what we would like to become.

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher

GREEN MINUTE: "CHASING ICE"

Recently I had the opportunity to view the documentary "Chasing Ice." It is the story of James Balog who in 2007 founded the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS). EIS is a long-term photography project that merges art and science to give a "visual voice" to the Earth's changing ecosystems. Part of the EIS project is time-lapse photography which currently involves 28 cameras at 13 glaciers in Greenland, Iceland, the Nepalese Himalaya, Alaska and the Rocky Mountains of the United States. The cameras record changes in the glaciers every half hour, year-round during daylight which results in about 8,000 pictures per camera per year. They edit the time-lapse images into videos that reveal how fast climate change is transforming large regions of the planet. "Chasing Ice" dramatically shows how far some glaciers have retreated in a relatively short period of time and the extreme lengths EIS has gone to bring this information to us. The documentary also shows how James Balog came to do this important work and the sacrifices he has made.

This documentary had me shaking my head in awe at many scenes. It really sends the information home about just how much global warming has affected our planet when you have the visual evidence. While Balog is certainly a strong advocate of the science that has proved over and over again that human activity has dramatically affected the rate at which the Earth is warming, he isn't preachy; he lets EIS's work speak to the problem on its own.

I encourage you to experience this outstanding documentary. It is available at the library and appears periodically on the National Geographic Channel. It is also available at the usual outlets if you want to purchase it. As they note on www.extremeicesurvey.org, "Understanding climate change is not a question of what you 'believe'. It's about what you KNOW, based on the rational evidence around you." I can think of no other documentary that I have seen that shows the evidence more clearly.

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will watch an interview featuring astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 7.

Tyson and Bill Moyers explore in segments from the TV program "Moyers & Company" a variety of topics, including the nature of an expanding, accelerating universe (and how it might end), the difference between "dark energy" and "dark matter," the concept of God in cosmology and why science matters.

The video group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant on Route 11 just north of Central Square at 5:30 p.m. on the same day. Please let Janie Garlow know via e-mail at mjgarlow@aol.com or via

telephone at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, February 6, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend.

COFFEE AND CHAT

Women and men of the church will gather for Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread on Route 31 in Clay at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19.

All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

For more information about the group, you may contact Nancy Haskell or Chet Perkins.

Everyone is invited to attend.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

BOARD SPLINTERS

Members of the Executive Board, conducting their regular monthly meeting in the church dining room on Sunday morning, January 5, agreed to hold the annual Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, March 23.

It was stated that the UU Circle would hold its annual potluck luncheon, business meeting and election of officers on Sunday, January 19.

Andrea Abbott said that her studies at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester would resume on February 5.

Nancy Hallock, Outreach Committee chairperson, reminded Executive Board members that the church would host a Red Cross blood drive on Saturday, March 1. She said that church members and friends were being encouraged to donate blood and that some volunteers would be needed to help process donors.

Ann Peterson said that her Renaissance group's presentation of "A Very Renaissance Christmas" play on Sunday, December 1, had gone well.

Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer, reported that the bake sale on December 22 had raised \$143.50.

Executive Board members expressed their gratitude to Arnold Hook, Administrative Committee chairperson, for wiring and installing a new light at the east entrance to the church and to Kurt and Ronna Schindler for hosting the 12th annual Christmas Day dinner. It was stated that 54 people had attended the dinner.

The Executive Board approved a list of 47 active members recommended by the Outreach Committee's Membership Subcommittee. All Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) member congregations are required to complete the annual Certification of Membership report by Monday, February 3. This process is used to report congregations' official membership numbers, which determine both the number of member delegates allowed at the General Assembly (GA) and the Annual Program Fund (APF) Fair Share contributions to the UUA. It also serves to update congregation information for the UUA Directory.

Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, church treasurer, reported that \$250 had been contributed for changes in the altar.

Arnold Hook said that he would prepare an application to the New York State Convention of Universalists for a loan to finance the purchase of enhanced listening devices for the church sanctuary.

Robert Haskell reported that Dan Gottfried, executive director of Unirondack, had thanked the church for its recent \$75 contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center.

Robert Haskell reported that one person was attending the religious education program on a regular basis. The nursery is normally providing care for two children each week, he added.

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

I must tell you that I have been greatly impressed during my membership in the church by the number of improvements to the building that the congregation has undertaken.

The first one was the installation of the elevator in the religious education wing. The elevator made it possible for our building to become handicapped accessible.

Then four new furnaces were installed a few years ago.

Next, the three large plate-glass windows in the sanctuary were restored and given new coverings.

After this, the congregation had four trees surrounding the religious education wing taken down last summer because they posed a threat to the building.

There have been a number of other improvements not on such a large scale as the above but important nevertheless. One such improvement was the recent installation of a new light for the east side entrance to the church. Handicapped bars have been installed in each of the bathrooms. Some rooms and outdoor spaces have been painted.

None of these improvements would have been possible without the cooperation of the entire congregation and the physical and financial contributions by various individuals.

And now our kitchen stove has been termed unfit for any usage. I am sure you will hear more about what this means in the coming months, and I hope that you will again offer your support and cooperation.

Bob

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

IF A WORSHIP SERVICE IS IN DOUBT

There are various ways to find out if a worship service will be held on a Sunday morning when winter weather is raging.

1. You may call Janie Garlow at 315-436-2238 or Chester Perkins at 315-668-6719.

2. You may turn to Channel 10 television, Channel 9 television and WSYR radio. Ann Peterson, corresponding secretary and an Outreach Committee member, has made arrangements with those media outlets to broadcast a notice of any cancellation.

3. You may check your e-mail for a message from Bob Haskell.

The decision as to whether a worship service will be conducted will be made by 8:30 a.m.

CHANTING AND MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at timhart@a-znet.com or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

FEBRUARY 2014 CALENDAR

2 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service during which Random Acts of Kindness Sunday will be observed. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. Noon, Wally Reardon of Pulaski will speak in the sanctuary in the second session of the Social Justice Subcommittee's Voices for Worker Equality series. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Subcommittee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The subcommittee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.

7 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group will watch an interview featuring astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson when it meets in the Goettel Room.

8 – 7 to 9 p.m., "A Night at the Cabaret."

9 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Subcommittee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Subcommittee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at St. Michael's Church Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

11 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

16 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Joseph I. "Bud" Adams Jr. leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. Noon, "A Conversation About Our Church."

18 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

19 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

21 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

23 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program.

25 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Chet Perkins.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to speak with Judy Tennant.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.