



# CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

## The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

Our church building is handicapped accessible.

3243 Fulton Street (Route 49, near Route 11)

Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429

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Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

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
Rita Thornton, Music Coordinator	315-699-4824	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

AUGUST 2012

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

A very hot July is giving way to a very hot August. Vacation time for many, I hope. For some, vacation is something which is joyfully anticipated each year. For many, unfortunately, an annual vacation is beyond their financial ability. There are others who can afford a break but who find vacation a trial. Some do not relax easily and truly prefer the routine or the challenge of work more rewarding. I am not among their number. I'm a good vacationer. I believe wholeheartedly in vacations and wish it were within my power to give everyone the chance to have a break, to sit back and watch the clouds, to listen to the whisper of the breeze without the nagging thought that they should be doing something "useful." I think it is essential to switch gears, to let the mind and body lie fallow for a while. It is these breaks that prepare us for the daily demands in our lives. It is also in these periods of rest that we are able to see situations in perspective, to engender new ideas, to return with fresh solutions to old problems. Perhaps most importantly, fun is a necessary ingredient in the stew of human life. Sprinkle your life with it.

Andrea Abbott

### THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT COMPASSION

The Rev. David Weissbard will preach at the worship service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 12.

David writes, "At the conclusion of my sermon on compassion, I urged the congregation to get hold of Karen Armstrong's book, 'Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life'. Upon further reflection, I have decided that is too important to leave it where it was, so I am going to follow up with 'Karen Armstrong's 12 Steps'."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, AUGUST 27. 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](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com). His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

### A FRIEND OF WINFIELD IHLOW'S TO SPEAK ON AUGUST 5

The Rev. Katherine B. Lufkin Day will speak at the worship service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 5. She plans to speak on "What Good is God? Ways a Theological Idea Works and Doesn't Work Today." But she adds that "I reserve the right to totally change my mind at the last minute."

The Reverend Day, who likes to be called Pastor Kate, is managing chaplain of the Spiritual Care staff at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse.

She is also priest associate at Grace Episcopal Church, 819 Madison Street, Syracuse.

Pastor Kate is a former rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Jordan.

Her husband, Bill, is associate professor of philosophy at LeMoyne College. He has written pieces on Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Bill met Winfield Ihlow at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Katherine attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland.

Here are Pastor Kate's degrees and dates: Bachelor of arts in 1976 from St. John's College in Annapolis; master of arts in religious studies in 1983 from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities; and master of divinity in 1989 from The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York City.

She is currently working toward board certification as a hospital chaplain.

Her thesis at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities was entitled "Matthew Parker as Church Administrator." She is also the author of "An Annotated Bibliography of Materials Available on the Prophet Elijah at General Theological Seminary."

Pastor Kate and Bill have lived in DeWitt since 1997, and raised their daughter and son there. Both children are now 20-something, and will be in graduate school starting this fall.

Pastor Kate reveals one small fact: "Bill and I fell in love the weekend we went down to Austin, Minnesota, to visit Winfield and other friends from St. John's. We've now been married 33 years."

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### A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

The following letter was received from Ramsey G. Ludington:

Sunday, July 15, 2012

Robert Haskell, President  
The First Universalist Church Society of Central Square  
Dear Bob,

My family and I wish to thank the Church for its very generous contribution to the Fulton Public Library in memory of my sister Vivian L. Smith.

The contribution will greatly help the library to continue to provide library services to the Fulton community.

Ramsey

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### A NOTE FROM NICOLE

The following is part of an e-mail recently received by Janie Garlow from Nicole Windhausen, who is moving with her daughter, Aleia, back to Arizona:

"... my deep thanks and love for all of the amazing support and kindness this spring (and always) that everyone has offered to Aleia and myself. We are so blessed to have been involved in such a loving and caring community here at the church. Regretfully we will be not saying our goodbyes (for now) in person as we will be out of town this weekend and leave for the Southwest on Tuesday. Though we hold you all in our hearts and thoughts and will be back to visit for sure!!"

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

### A FEW FACTS ABOUT A NEW MEMBER

It has been the custom in recent years to ask new members of the congregation to write a few facts about themselves to be printed in the newsletter.

Janet Jenkins became a member of the congregation during a service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister, on Membership Sunday, May 13.

Here is what Janet wrote:

I was born in Syracuse, the middle child of three children. We attended Tabernacle Baptist Church on South Salina Street, where my father was a deacon and my mother taught Sunday school. My father was a pediatrician and my mother a homemaker.

I attended Nottingham High School, and graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in elementary early childhood education in 1971. After college I worked in several day care centers in Maryland and New York. I practiced Transcendental Meditation and lived in the TM house in Syracuse for a short time. Later in the '70s I was married and had three children, but unfortunately the marriage didn't last. I went to Syracuse University and earned a master of science in reading education in August 1990. Fortunately, I was hired by the Mexico School District for the 1990 school year, and my children and I moved to West Monroe. My job title and responsibilities have morphed over the years but teaching children to read remains my passion.

My children have grown up and for the most part are on their own. My oldest, Devin, is married and lives in Oregon where he is the director of a program for disturbed teenage boys. Aaron, my middle child, lives in Syracuse with his wife and is working to establish himself in the graphic design and printing business. My youngest, Morgan, is a dental hygienist and also lives in Syracuse.

My interests include reading, of course; writing, especially poetry; recent brain research; indoor and outdoor gardening; meditation; art; and all things related to nature. Over the years the one constant has been a desire to understand the complexities of life and somehow make sense of it all. The interconnectedness of all things has always made sense to me. It has been an interesting journey so far. I expect the evolution of my beliefs will continue, and I am happy to be a part of the UU family in Central Square.

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### DAVID HENRY KIMBRELL DIES

David H. Kimbrell, 79, of Pulaski, died on Thursday (June 28, 2012) at Oswego Hospital. He was a native of Syracuse, a Navy veteran and was a graduate of the College of Forestry at SU. Mr. Kimbrell retired after 30 years as a chief land appraiser from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and he had also worked for Wegmans in Cicero for eight years. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist and Eastwood Baptist churches. Mr. Kimbrell was a member of the American Society of Appraisers, American Society of Farm Management & Rural Appraisers, a longtime member of the National Capital Rabbit Breeders Association, American Angus Association and was a member of Phi Kappa Tau while at SU. He was predeceased by his brothers, Edward W. Kimbrell II and Jasper L. Kimbrell. He is survived by his sons, David J. (Thuy) of Chantilly, VA, and Aaron D. (Armine) of Fairfax, VA; daughter, Lara C. (Michael) O'Connor of Alexandria, VA; four grandchildren; four nieces; and three nephews. Calling hours are 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday (July 3, 2012), with a service at 6 p.m. at Goddard-Crandall-Shepardson Funeral Home, 3111 James Street (Syracuse).

(Published in The Post-Standard, Syracuse, on July 1, 2012)

(David was a periodic participant in our Friday night suppers and Video Discussion Group.)

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### 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](mailto:timhart@a-znet.com) or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

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.

## A NEW YEAR FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DRAWS NEAR

The beginning of a new school year is almost here. The Religious Education Committee will have its first meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19. This will include both the adult and the children's programs.

Thanks to my recent participation at the Lifespan Religious Education Conference on Star Island I have the beginnings of this year's children's curriculum.

We will study cultures and religious ceremonies and how music plays an important part. The children will make their own drums, and learn rhythm and the importance of ritual. We will also discuss the importance of respect for cultures, their heritages and their religious beliefs, to make sure that credit is given where it is due and to respect sacred rituals.

The conference was a wonderful week full of talking with other religious educators, reviewing UUA curricula, taking classes, church services, fun and friends reunited. Thank you for helping me expand my training and the opportunity to bring back what I have learned to our congregation.

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

### BOOK CLUB

We took the summer off, and I would like to meet with interested individuals to make plans for the fall.

It has been suggested that we get more organized with selections and the meeting schedule. Bring your ideas, and the group will make the final decisions. The library has books on this subject and some of you have experience in book groups to share.

I suggest we meet after church social time soon. Call me at 675-8357, or e-mail me at njhallock@gmail.com.

Nancy Hallock

### DRUM CIRCLE

The next Drum Circle will be held from 6 p.m. until 8'ish on Friday, August 10. As usual, there will be extra drums and rattles available.

Ann Peterson

### 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, August 15.

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

The women's and men's groups generally meet separately.

For more information about the women's group, you may contact Nancy Haskell.

For more information about the men's group, you may contact Chet Perkins.

All are invited to attend.

### VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view "Capitalism's 'Sacrifice Zones'" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 3.

The "Moyers & Company" segment points out that there are forgotten corners of this country where Americans are trapped in endless cycles of poverty, powerlessness, and despair as a direct result of capitalistic greed. Journalist Chris Hedges calls these places "sacrifice zones," and joins Bill Moyers to explore how areas like Camden, New Jersey; Immokalee, Florida; and parts of West Virginia suffer while the corporations that plundered them thrive.

"These are areas that have been destroyed for quarterly profit. We're talking about environmentally destroyed, communities destroyed, human beings destroyed, families destroyed," Hedges tells Moyers.

The video group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant 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, August 2, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

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 FOR RETREAT HELD ON JULY 14, 2012

We met at the home of Cara Lajewski.

We approved the election of Marcia Burrell-Ihlow as assistant treasurer.

We approved the church calendar for the coming year. This includes the annual congregational picnic on September 9.

Our proposed theme for the church year is "Increased Sense of Community."

Various committee appointments and reappointments were approved.

We discussed the fixing of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. We may need to fix them one at a time. We will look for bids on the work, to be collected in the fall, so that, hopefully, work can begin in the spring.

Questions raised at the annual congregational meeting about our Affirmation of Faith and the presence of the U.S. flag in the sanctuary were referred to the Spiritual Committee for preliminary discussion. A general congregational discussion will probably result in the not-too-distant future.

Winfield Ihlow, vice president

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## PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Let me start by being perfectly frank here: I am writing these reflections because I need an article to complete this page. And I must tell you that if you are looking for wisdom here you will be disappointed.

I discovered during my newspaper career that just because a columnist writes something that is printed does not always mean that the columnist is smarter or knows more about a subject than the reader, just that the columnist has the means to publicly express his or her opinions. I saw that at various times when the columnist had to engage someone with an opposite viewpoint in a conversation or a debate that the columnist did not always fare well. He or she was just another human being with opinions.

Nancy and I are to attend my 65th high school reunion in Groton, Tompkins County, on Saturday afternoon. I never expected to live to be 65, let alone attend my 65th high school reunion. My views about many things -- life, religion, politics, the country, for example -- have changed over those 65 years so that in many ways I am not the same person I was in high school. The trouble is that my classmates still expect I am the same person.

One of the things I sometimes regret is that I did not keep my options open about the future during my high school years. Instead, I decided in the eighth grade that I wanted to work for a newspaper. I think I had a fairly good newspaper career but I also think that it was a huge mistake to shut myself off from the possibility of doing other things at such a young age.

I can't believe that although one of my two majors at Syracuse University -- from which I graduated in 1951 -- was political science it was not until Lyndon Baines Johnson joined John F. Kennedy on the Democratic presidential ticket in 1960 that I was made to realize that politics is about power most -- if not all -- of the time. What a slow learner I was -- and still am, in many things.

It is often said that old age is not for sissies. That is certainly true for many people, but it is also true for many other people that any age is not for sissies. Life can really deliver some devastating blows at various times.

One of the things that concerns me about the present and the future is that many people continue to believe things that are simply not true, that were proven false many years, if not centuries, ago. I question how people can make intelligent decisions about their lives if they continue to believe such things. I do realize that it is often difficult for people to give up their beliefs in some of these things, that such beliefs continue to offer solace for many people. For instance, I find it surprising that a Flat Earth Society continues to exist.

Well, I have to stop now; I have filled the page. And I was right : no wisdom here.

Bob

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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.

## AUGUST CALENDAR

3 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.  
5 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Katherine Lufkin Day. Sermon topic: “What Good is God? Ways a Theological Idea Works and Doesn’t Work Today.”  
Random Acts of Kindness. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which you are asked by the Outreach Committee’s Social Justice Subcommittee to bring magazines to the church dining room so that you may exchange them for others. Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, 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.  
10 – 6 until 8’ish p.m., Drum Circle.  
12 – 9 a.m., Spiritual Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Outreach Committee’s Social Justice Subcommittee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael’s Church.  
15 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.  
17 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.  
19 – 9:30 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams.  
26 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott.

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## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Random Acts of Kindness is our congregation’s program to financially assist those in need, whether church members/friends or people in the wider community.

Finances are provided by the congregation through a special once-a-month offering, normally on the first Sunday of each month. Random Acts of Kindness envelopes are found on the back of the pews.

The next Random Acts of Kindness will be observed on Sunday, August 5.

The fund is administered by Andrea Abbott and Executive Board members.

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## RETURN THOSE BOTTLES

You may continue to help the environment and make money for the Outreach Committee by leaving your returnable bottles at the church.

A barrel into which to place your bottles stands near the entrance to the church kitchen.

Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, is returning deposit bottles and cans for the committee treasury.

Please remember to participate in this ongoing fundraiser.

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## CHURCH WEB SITE/FACEBOOK PAGE

Please remember the church Web site at <http://www.centralsquareuu.com/> and the church Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564>. You can also reach the Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook link at the Web site. To see the posts on the Facebook page, you have to click on “Most Recent Posts By Others” and “See All.” To view the church’s electronic calendar, just click on “Calendar” at the church Web site or click on “About” and then on “Products” on the Facebook page.

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.