



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
Telephone: 315-668-6821

Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>
Our church building is handicapped accessible.

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	Nancy Hallock, Vice President	315-675-8357

OCTOBER 2011

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

What a strange fall we have had! I'm writing this and the temperature is in the 80s. The leaves are still green with barely a hint of color. Although it is nice to have the warmth linger a little longer, I find myself wanting change, wanting the crispness of autumn mornings and the reds, oranges and golds of the changing leaves and grasses. Perhaps I should remember the old saying "Beware of what you ask for in this world. You may get it." By the time the month is over we may be covered in snow and I will really have cause to regret asking for something! I think my desire for autumn has something to do with the desire to have some of the summer busyness over and some time for quiet and thought. Autumn invites us to deepen our reflections on our lives and their meaning, to deepen our attachments to each other and to this, our spiritual home. I am looking forward to the workshop which Ann Peterson and Libbie Stoddard will be conducting as an invitation for this kind of reflection. Change will come, perhaps before I am ready for it. We not only need to check the oil level on the snowblower, but also check our own inner resources for times of change.

– Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT JOB

The Rev. David Weissbard has chosen "The Impatience of Job" as the subject of his sermon when he preaches in our pulpit at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 9.

He writes, "My sermon for October is on my favorite book in the Bible: Job. Many people talk about Job's patience, but most of them have never read the story – at least not carefully. I am most impressed with Job's impatience. I see the book as an early gospel of Humanism. I'll share why on October 9th when I preach on 'The Impatience of Job'."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 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.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach (Social Justice) Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 9.

Here is a brief outline of our plan to join the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Got Water? Defending the Right to Water" campaign. We will present a movie, or two, to the congregation to educate and to get members to recognize this global problem, and to get on board to find a local water issue to address. We want to get the community involved. We will contact other local UU churches; the high school; the Oneida Lake Association; Onondaga Lake recovery groups, such as Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF); etc.; etc., until we find a way to make a difference. There are many possibilities and we need your input.

Thanks to those of you who are bringing in your bottles and cans to benefit our Outreach Committee treasury.

Don't forget to sign up for the Adopt-a-Highway pickup on Sunday, October 16. We will begin at 8:30 a.m.

– Nancy Hallock, Outreach Committee chairperson

GREEN MINUTE: GREEN DEALS

Have you heard of "Groupon," "Living Social," "Groupig"? They're the latest way to save money on products and services. You sign up at their Web sites and you get e-mails offering you special deals for a limited time. Sometimes you can save a significant amount of money.

Now there is a site for those of us who try to buy green products. It's at www.GreenDeals.org. All of the products and services offered are from businesses that are approved members of Green America's Green Business Network and meet their strict standards for social and environmental responsibility in their policies, practices and products.

Discounts can include but are not limited to organic chocolates, green cleaning supplies and environmentally friendly water bottles. There are also features and tips on green living. I've seen deals for sea glass, reusable lunch boxes and mattresses for children.

It's fun to surf around the site to see what you can find and maybe get some ideas on green living. Check it out – you might just save a bunch of green!

– Ellen LaPine, Social Justice, Outreach Committee

HARVEST SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

We are asking you to bring something to represent the harvest this Sunday. Whether it is something from your garden or the farmers market, we will decorate the altar with your bounty.

At the end of the service, you will be invited to take something home with you. Hopefully, there will be small pumpkins for the children to take home as a souvenir of the day.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet after the service on Sunday, October 2, to review the book, "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress." It is a short and interesting read.

The next selection is still on hold at the library. Hopefully, it will be available soon. If you can get a

copy of "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Farr, you can get a head start.

It is a story that gives a view of life in Seattle in the 1940s when the Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps. I enjoyed it a lot.

Please return your kit copies as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

– Nancy Hallock, chairperson

"A CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH"

The Executive Board has scheduled "A Conversation About Our Church" for prospective new members at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 22.

Topics include Unitarian Universalist history and principles; church bylaws, committees, UU Circle and finances; and road to membership.

Anyone who is interested is asked to speak to Bob Haskell or any other Executive Board member.

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

UPDATED CALENDAR

Have you noticed our church's events calendar is now online? If you go to our home page (<http://centralsquareuu.com>) and click on "Calendar" you can see events for the week, month, and even the coming months! Find out a sermon topic, a date and time for a meeting, and plan ahead for community outreach events. View in week, month or agenda format (on the right-hand side of the screen), and change the month (on the left-hand side of the screen). If you want more details about an event, click on the line item to bring up more information, as applicable. As usual, the calendar will also be maintained in the church dining room.

– Cara Lajewski

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUALITY

The Adult Religious Education Program for 2011-12 will offer three workshops on "Discovering Your Spirituality." These are listed here. More details will be forthcoming. If you have questions, please contact Arnold Hook by e-mail at ahook@twcny.rr.com or by telephone at 315-635-7122.

Workshop 1: "What Is Spirituality?" This will be led by the Rev. Libbie Stoddard and Ann Peterson. Date and time: October 15, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 2'ish p.m. Location: Dining Room of the First Universalist Society, Central Square. Registration is limited to 15. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the East Room. Libbie and Ann ask that you give them a current e-mail address so that they can send you a reminder for the workshop.

Workshop 2: "Mandalas and Soul Collages." Led by Gracia Sears of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse. Date and time: November 5, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Location: Dining Room of the First Universalist Society of Central Square. Sign-up sheet will be on the table in the East Room.

Workshop 3: "Dreamwork and Spirituality." Led by Arnold Hook. Date and Time: January 7, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Location: Dining Room of the First Universalist Society of Central Square. Sign-up sheet will be on the table in the East Room.

HARVEST SMORGASBORD

The UU Circle will hold its autumn fundraiser on Saturday, November 5. You are all members of the UU Circle and you all help to make our church events a success. Please save this date and plan to sign up for a time slot that works for you. Thank you in advance for your help.

– Ann Peterson
UU Circle

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view the documentary "Inside Job" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 7.

"Inside Job" provides an analysis of the global financial crisis of 2008, which at a cost of more than \$20 trillion caused millions of people to lose their jobs and homes in the worst recession since the Great

Depression, and nearly resulted in a global financial collapse. The documentary was made on location in the United States, Iceland, England, France, Singapore and China.

Again, the group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant on Route 11 in Central Square at 5:30 p.m. the same day. Please let Janie Garlow know at mjarlow@aol.com or at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, October 6, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation a day ahead.

Everyone is invited to attend.

DRUM CIRCLE

The Drum Circle will be held at our church again from 6 until 8'ish p.m. on Friday, October 14. Celebrate and help drum in the autumn season.

As always, everyone is welcome, and there are some drums and rattles available.

– Ann Peterson

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.

BONNIE S. ORSO DIES AT THE AGE OF 62

Bonnie S. Orso, 62, of Mattydale, passed away Friday, August 26, 2011. Bonnie enjoyed spending time with her family, gardening, reading and cooking. She is survived by a daughter, AnnMarie Orso; one son, Edmund (Julie Stoutenger) Orso; her mother, Berdella Scheemaker; three brothers, Michael, David and Timothy Scheemaker; five sisters, Joanne Ruscito, Carol Butcher, Joyce Baker, Nancy Scheemaker and Amy Timmons; two grandchildren, Amanda and Anthony Orso; and numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be 7 p.m. Tuesday at New Comer Funeral Home, 705 N. Main St., N. Syracuse. Burial services will be Wednesday at noon at Coit Cemetery. Calling Hours will be Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home, before services. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the American Kidney Foundation. To leave a special message for the family, please visit NewcomerSyracuse.com

(Published in The Post Standard, Syracuse, on August 28, 2011.)

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

In last month's Reflections, I pointed out that two Unitarian Universalist traditions -- "freedom of the pulpit" and "freedom of the pew" -- had experienced a bumpy ride down through history.

I feel I would be remiss this month if I did repeat part of a sermon, "Freedom of the Pew," delivered by the Rev. Howard N. Dana at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on October 14 and 15, 2006. I hope that I am not being presumptuous to say that this is his postscript to my previous Reflections.

The Reverend Dana reported, "An old, possibly apocryphal story is told about a Revolutionary War era minister who remained loyal to the British in a small, New England town. He served one of the old Standing Order churches situated on the village green -- a church fiercely loyal to the tenants of congregational polity and ministerial autonomy. A church that is likely Unitarian Universalist today. The congregation loved its minister and he returned this affection. Wanting the colonies to be free of England's control, the congregation, however, could not abide by their pastor's Tory leanings. But rather than ask him to leave his pulpit or modify his pro-British sermons in any way, the congregation began the unusual practice of leaving the sanctuary during the sermon. At first only a few brave souls stood and left as the minister climbed the pulpit stairs to deliver his sermon. Then more and more revolutionaries each week filed silently out onto the village green before the sermon. In no time at all the minister found himself preaching to a nearly empty church. Being a good 18th century preacher, this did not bother him much -- God had given him plenty to say and he was going to say it. His flock stood patiently outside the church waiting for him to finish inside. After the sermon the congregation retook their seats for the remainder of the service and greeted their minister warmly afterward. The story goes that the minister preached to an empty house throughout the Revolutionary War and only upon King George's official surrender did he drop his Tory loyalties. Quick to forgive, his congregation gladly stayed for his sermons again and they knew years of harmonious ministry together.

"Freedom of the pulpit is only possible when it is matched with freedom of the pew. Both the minister and the congregation in this story sincerely held their respective beliefs. Each believed they were on the correct side of the issue. Each insisted on maintaining the right to express their views. And, out of love and respect, both minister and congregation stayed in relationship through their disagreement. The preacher preached what he thought had to be heard. And the congregation decided they wanted none of that kind of preaching even though they loved and respected their minister. They worked out a peaceable, patient solution. And in doing so, they stood on one of the cornerstones of our faith: a free and responsible search for truth and meaning and the individual's right of conscience."

There is so much more that has been said about these two Unitarian Universalist traditions, but to this story I exclaim, "Wow!"

Bob

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

What a great time the children had at our annual picnic. Games, bubbles and duct tape. Who could ask for more?

Personal memory boxes are being created in class along with a special chalice for the older kids' classroom. With children's book week coming up, we will be packing up books to share with other kids.

It is important that we all help in our church community, so last Sunday we spent class time helping out at the Apple Festival.

The Video Discussion Group is going strong. Ten members participated in the latest program.

Consider becoming part of this well informed group. All are welcomed, and the topics discussed are extremely relevant to all of us.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of September, the church's Operating Account had a balance of \$6,143.63, the Random Acts of Kindness Account a balance of \$470.71 and the Window Fund a balance of \$200.

– Cara Lajewski, treasurer

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, October 19.

All are welcome to join in casual conversation and

to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

The women's and men's groups 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.

SING! SING! SING!

Your voice needs to be heard. Why not blend it with others to make beautiful sounds. Join the choir at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse before services. Let's make beautiful music together.

– Rita Thornton, music coordinator

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board has designated Janie Garlow, the Rev. Margaret A. Hart and Nancy and Robert Haskell as the delegates from the First Universalist Society of Central Square to the annual meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists. NYSCU members will meet in a joint session with the Pennsylvania Universalist Convention at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton on Saturday, October 8.

Meeting at the home of Janie and Steve Garlow on Saturday, September 10, the Executive Board also approved a hiring policy: "The First Universalist Society of Central Square, New York, will not discriminate according to age, race, gender, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual expression, disability, ethnicity or class. The Society will hire according to the qualifications presented as they relate to the job being filled."

Board members agreed to make a memorial contribution to the Kidney Foundation in honor of Bonnie Orso.

The Board also agreed to make a contribution to a memorial to the nephew of Patricia Hellinger.

Andrea Abbott, student minister, reported that she was taking a course at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester on "Early Christianity."

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.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 – 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., “Leading at the Edge” leadership conference at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society in Syracuse.
- 2 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., Book Club. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which you are asked by the Outreach Committee 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.
- 7 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis Restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group will view the documentary “Inside Job” in the Goettel Room.
- 7-8 - New York State Convention of Universalists and Pennsylvania Universalist Convention in Binghamton.
- 9 – 9 a.m., Outreach Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 9:45 a.m., Spiritual Committee. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “The Impatience of Job” 10:50 a.m., Religious education. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Outreach Committee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scottie, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at Saint Michael’s Church.
- 14 – 6 until 8’ish p.m., Drum Circle.
- 15 – 11 a.m. to 2’ish p.m., “What Is Spirituality?” workshop led by the Rev. Libbie Stoddard and Ann Peterson.
- 16 – 8:30 a.m., Adopt-a-Highway cleanup; meet at the church. 9 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. Harvest Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.
- 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.
- 22 – 10 a.m., “A Conversation About Our Church” for prospective new members.
- 23 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Barbara Kamerance. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.
- 27 – Noon, Deadline to submit articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell.
- 29 – 11 a.m., Executive Board retreat, “Growing the Membership.”
- 30 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

CHANTING AND MEDITATION

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

REMINDERS

If you have an announcement you would like to be included in the church’s weekly e-mail announcements, please send it to Janie Garlow at mjgarlow@aol.com by 5 p.m. on Sundays. Earlier submissions would be appreciated.

Don’t forget to send your articles for the November newsletter to Bob Haskell at rhaskell@twcny.rr.com by noon on Thursday, October 27. Earlier submissions would be appreciated.

We have audio CDs of most of the current Sunday sermons. These may be borrowed for your listening enjoyment.

Copies of Max Coats’s book, “Leaning Against the Wind,” are available for purchase at \$13 each.

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.