

Snapshots from a History of Activism

- 1844** Abolitionists meet in the Society's Chapel
- 1928** Albany Inter-Racial Council formed at FUSA
- 1932** To assist poor women in the Depression, well-baby clinic held in Channing Hall
- 1934** FUSAn Frances Vosburg establishes first birth control clinic in Albany
- 1956** Refugees from Hungary welcomed by FUSA, thus beginning a half-century of refugee support
- 1967** Members join with Black activists to protest \$5 vote buying in Albany
- 1970** Many protests against Vietnam War
- 1984** Provided sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala
- 1985** Domestic Violence Task Force formed, eventually resulting in Equinox shelter
- 1987** FUSA declares itself a nuclear weapons free zone
- 1998-99** Built Habitat for Humanity house together with local Methodist churches
- 1991** Began ongoing friendship with Partner Church in Szokefalva, Romania

We gather to excite the human spirit

Our
Sesquicentennial
Quilt



More Snapshots

- 2002-03** Rev. Trumbore is first president of A.R.I.S.E. (A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment), a coalition of local churches for social action
- 2002-06** Ongoing anti-war protests and vigils
- 2004** Rev. Trumbore officiates at two same-sex marriages

History and Symbols of Albany UU



First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore, Minister

A welcoming congregation

For more than one hundred and fifty years Unitarians and Universalists have had a presence in Albany. We'd like you to know more about our past and about the symbols that unite us.

Moments in our History

- 1830** Albany Universalists began meeting
- 1842** First Unitarian Society of Albany (FUSA) organized
- 1856** Albany Unitarians and Universalists first conceived the union that only happened 100 years later
- 1895** Rev. Brundage revitalizes FUSA
- 1925** Sanctuary and Channing Hall built
- 1962** New religious education and administrative wing added
- 1992** Congregation celebrated 150th anniversary of Unitarian Universalism in Albany
- 1994** Name changed to First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
- 1998** Congregation votes to become a Welcoming Congregation
- 2005** Congregation commits to another expansion of the building
- 2007** Emerson Community Hall, new library/lounge, and more classrooms built

Symbols that Unite Us

The hanging at the front of our Sanctuary was designed and quilted by members of the congregation in 1992 to celebrate our Sesquicentennial. On it you will see many symbols that have meaning for us.

The Jade Plants

These jade plants have been in our windows since the 1950's. While the chalice represents that which we share with all Unitarian Universalists, the jade plants represent that which is distinctive about our congregation.



The Flaming Chalice

The chalice design was originally used during WWII as a badge to identify Unitarians who were helping refugees flee Hitler. It became a symbol of risk, service, and freedom which has since been widely adopted by many Unitarian Universalist congregations.



Books and Music

Broaden the experience as we seek truth and meaning.

Reaching Hands

Our faith spurs us to action for peace and justice.



The Sculpture

"Two Shapes Related" by Robert Blood was commissioned in the 1960's to celebrate the opening of the religious education building. "Abstract art, like liberal religion, avoids the literal and traditional forms of expression in order to provide larger meanings." Rev. Nicholas Cardell.



Religions of the World

We honor the symbols of other religions: Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam.



Globe

The globe indicates our commitment to the protection of the interdependent web of living things.



People and Birds

Our community unites us, men and women, children and adults of all ages. The people at the bottom of the quilt are the congregation, the foundation of the Society. Together, we search for spirit, which we define in as many ways as there are kinds of birds.

