



The Goods & Services Auction/Celebration is just around the corner!

Be sure to pick up a copy of the jam-packed Goods & Services catalog the next time you are at church. There are only three weeks between now and our gala event. Come prepared on May 3rd with an idea of the items you hope to take home that night. Contact **Alexa Carter** if you would like childcare. Great treasures, delicious food and drink and fellowship promise to make May 3rd a fun night for all. Bidding opens at 6:30 pm. See you there!

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Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. and Religious Education



April 20

Easter Sunday

Guest Speaker: *Matt Meyer*

Matt Meyer is an artist of percussion, knowledgeable and experienced in a variety of styles, including Latin-Jazz, Brazilian, Folk, Funk, Hip-Hop and Pop. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and has studied in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America.

Matt Meyer is also a member of the Tribal Rhythms performing arts Company, an organization that uses the theme of the "Tribe" to teach children about community building and how the arts can be used to develop a culture of caring, cooperation and respect.

April 27

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Kelly Spahr (Hall)

Join us this Sunday as Kelly Spahr takes us on a spiritual journey through the season of rebirth and growth.

* 12:15 pm—*Sunday Serenade with Nancy Pease*

May 4

Music Sunday

Glenn Kime and the MMUUS Choir

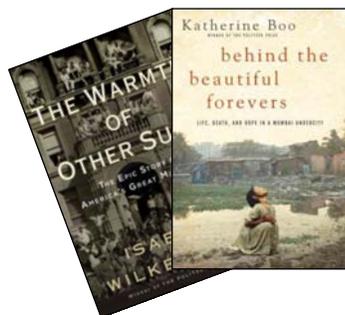
Join Glenn Kime and the MMUUS Choir this Sunday for a bounty of beautiful music!

May 11

A Sermon I Swore I'd Never Preach: Mother's Day!

Kelly Spahr (Hall)

* 4:00 pm—*Kelly Spahr's ordination and celebration*



Meetings are held in the Memorial Room on the designated Thursday at 1:30 pm. Come for one book discussion or for all of them.

Apr. 24th **Behind the Beautiful Forevers**
by Katherine Boo

May 22nd **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration**
by Isabel Wilkerson



An important message from your MMUUS president

I don't always put something into the newsletter, but when I feel strongly about something, I do my best to have some impact. Please read on.

I'm turning 70 very soon. I find that one of the benefits is that as I grow older I gain more insights and more understanding of how the world works.

Here's one example: bodies matter to politicians! That's bodies in the street, bodies in the nation's capitol, advocating for a cause. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. knew this. Samuel May knew this. The NRA knows this. The Tea Party knows this. The National Chamber of Commerce knows this. The right to life movement knows this. The Religious Right knows this.

Bodies in Albany matter too. Large numbers of bodies (= votes) equalize the mega-bucks of the Koch Brothers, the petroleum industry, and a multiplicity of single-issue organizations with deep pockets and mysterious fund sources. They think because they have money, they can buy our government. Your votes and voices add up and can shape the course of government decisions. It really is *your* government. *You* vote for your representatives and pay their salaries and expenses. Why not let these representatives know how *you* want to be represented?

As Dick Gilbert mentioned here on Sunday, March 30th, it is time to go to Albany for some lobbying on May 12th. Here's how it works: the organizing entity is Interfaith Impact of NYS (IINYS). **May 12th is their Legislative Education & Advocacy Day. I urge you to learn more about this organization by going to www.interfaithimpactnys.org.** One interesting fact: 9 of the 15 IINYS board members are UUs, including **Harsey Leonard**, Dick Gilbert and Chris Neilson (St. Lawrence District UUA Congregational Life Consultant). Other board members hail from UU churches in Rochester, Ithaca, Binghamton, and Albany. Tom Chulak, Scott Tayler and Kaaren Anderson are on the organization's Clergy Advisory Board. The IINYS positions on the issues of our times reflect the UU principles. If you have questions which the website does not answer, contact Dick Gilbert at rsgilbert@uuma.org.

Register ahead of time that you are going so that arrangements are made for you to visit the offices of your state assemblyman and senator and selected legislators who chair key committees. To register, send an email to info@interfaithimpactnys.org with your name(s), email address, phone and cell phone numbers, and congregation affiliation. Advance registration is really important.

Here's what to expect. Meet in Albany at 10:00 am. After you register you

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2014 Stewardship Campaign

To all the members and friends who have already sent in your pledge, we thank you. If you have not pledged this year, remember that pledging helps us plan our programs for the coming year, and you have until June 2015 to fulfill your pledge. Please join those who have already invested in your church—your community—and make your pledge soon.

- Steve Reiter, Co-Chair, 2014 Stewardship Campaign

Owning the Church

My wife **Annegret** and I first visited MMUUS back when our now-17-year-old daughter **Emmi** was just 3 years old. Shortly after we visited, Scott Taylor, our minister here at the time, came to our house to talk with us, and soon after a few more Sunday visits, it was clear we were hooked.

Looking back on that decision, it's kind of surprising. I came from a family of atheist Jews who knew just enough to celebrate Hanukkah. Annegret had spent most of her adult life escaping formal top-down religion, and had been, until that time, an active member of the Syracuse Friends Meeting, which, as you may know, doesn't even have a minister.

What ultimately moved us to give MMUUS a try was that there was no Religious Education program for Emmi at the Friends Meeting, and there **was** one here. But while the RE program brought us here, it was the community we found—the connections we made, the services we experienced—that made May Memorial our home, a spiritual home that even felt okay for *me* to be a part of.

That first year we pledged \$1,000 toward the Stewardship Campaign, a fair amount of money for us back then. I had recently left a solid income to try to make it in my own business, so we were really living on Annegret's income, which, mostly, we still do. Why did we feel compelled to pledge that much? Because, despite the fact that we were newcomers, we felt—we knew—that we *owned* this church. It was ours! We didn't have the history that long-term members had, of course. But this church was as much ours as anyone's. We owned it, along with everyone else.

As you know, ownership comes with obligations. If nothing else, we felt obligated to pay for the RE program that Emmi attended every Sunday, which was, and continues to be, worth every penny.

Owning the church comes with the same responsibilities as owning a house or a car. When we buy a house or a car, we just assume that we'll do what it takes—and spend what it takes—to run and maintain our household, run it well, if we can, maybe even improve it.

At May Memorial, we have expenses, too. We have our ministers,

(continued above right)



(“2014 Stewardship Campaign” continued)

Music Director, and Office Administrator. We have cleaning, plowing, and salting. We have endless repairs, newsletters, insurance, advertising, and web hosting. We have paper, ink, tissues, and decorations. We have waste haulers. We have the heat, lights, and air conditioning. And more.

Unlike in many other denominations, we are a self-supporting congregation. Not only do we pay to run our church, we are also expected to help support our national and regional denominational associations. We are obliged to pay for the services we get from them, and to support them even if we're not getting direct services at the time.

Volunteering and Money

I would like to take a moment to talk about the relationship between volunteering and money. There are some people in our congregation who do not have any discretionary income, who have only enough money coming in each month as they need to live on. Some of us don't even have sufficient money to live on. If this is your situation, we thank you for the time and energy you may contribute to the church. It is greatly appreciated.

But now, to the part that's hard for me to talk about. It's hard because, just like you, I'm uncomfortable making you or anyone uncomfortable about money. But there are some hard facts that I feel need to be voiced and heard by us as a community. There are some hard facts that I am hoping will influence you to give *more*, once you digest what **Lynne Perry** and I have digested as the Stewardship Campaign co-chairs this year.

Many of us give freely of our time,

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“President’s Letter

(continued from page 2)

will receive further instructions. Remove your penknife from your key-chain because you will be going through a metal detector. After brief remarks by IINYS leadership and brief remarks by a few legislators, you will break up into small groups who will be led by experienced advocates while you do your visits. I suggest that you bring along a sandwich or power bars you can eat while walking because I don’t believe there will be an actual lunch break and you will be busy right up to 3:30 pm. You’ll be doing considerable walking. You might not actually meet the folks you voted for or against, although you will meet with their aides, often in their bosses’ private offices. The aides will certainly deliver your ideas and a head count to their bosses. A plus for you will be the chance to observe the framed certificates on their walls, which give you an idea of these legislators’ personal values.

We honor Samuel May among ourselves, with words. Here is an easy way to honor him with action, and at the same time get a good look at your state government. If he were still alive, I’m sure Samuel May would be there with us. So would **Nick Cardell** and **Dan Sage**.

Joan and I have been to Albany before, as part of an organized anti-hydrofracking effort. It was a good experience. Maybe we played a small part in the delays and perhaps the eventual banning of horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York.

Even shy people can do this.

As I write this, I have room in my car.

~ Peter Colman, President,
MMUUS Board of Trustees

2014 Stewardship Campaign

(continued from page 3)

but volunteering by itself will not pay our bills. The hard facts show that some of us who do have discretionary income need to be more generous. It’s not fair or realistic to leave the burden of giving *more* on those who are already giving a *lot*. We need to ask you to do your part. To sustain our community we need everyone with discretionary income to dig deep in their pockets and make a significant pledge.

This was a hard thing to say and I hope my message arrives in your heart. We want our community, this place and its people, to thrive, but we can only do it when everyone contributes to their highest ability.

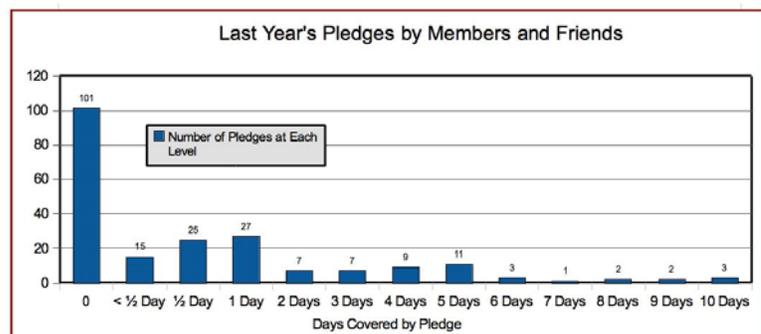
This is why, in recent years, Annegret’s and my pledges have been nearly five times the \$1,000 pledge we started with 14 years ago. It feels hard to sustain sometimes—and especially right now, with Emmi going off to college—but this community, this place deserves it. We know that. So we will do all we can. And we hope that you will too.

Would you notice \$13.58 each week?

To fully support our Society in the coming fiscal year, we need to raise \$257,758 in pledges, which amounts to \$706.19 for each and every day of the year. Consider the other things you spend your money on and consider that a pledge of \$706.19 for the year costs you **only \$13.58 per week**. Unfortunately, we don’t have 365 members, which would require each of us to cover only one day’s expenses. Of course, not everyone is able to donate this amount. The bottom line is **for those of us who can, giving more is necessary**.

The chart below (*which also appeared in the pledge packet you received*) displays the distribution of last year’s pledges. As you can see, 101 members and active friends, almost *half*, pledged *nothing*. We do, of course, appreciate new friends who have yet to pledge and the few in our congregation who donate significant amounts and also choose not to pledge.

Spend some time absorbing what it shows. Then ask yourself, “*Am I comfortable with where my past pledge shows up on the chart?*”



Again, I encourage you to take the time to consider what you want to create here at May. Then pledge with the assumption that **only** with your generosity can it be made real.

Thank you so much for doing all you can.

~ Steve Reiter, Co-Chair,
2014 Stewardship Campaign

Make your progressive religious voice heard!

As our guest speaker Richard Gilbert mentioned on Sunday, March 30th (as well as MMUUS President Peter Colman in this month's President's Letter), there will be an advocacy rally **at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, on Monday, May 12th, from 10:00 am-3:30 pm**. The goal of this rally will be to make our voices heard on such issues as reproductive justice, basic civil rights being denied to transgendered persons, and hydrofracking.

After an introduction to the issues and brief remarks by legislators, we will break up into small groups, each facilitated by an experienced advocate, and meet with your elected representatives, selected committee chairs, committee staff and program and counsel staff. You will get a final schedule and folder of materials when you arrive.

See www.interfaithimpactnys.org or call (518) 441-3231 for more information. To register, send an email to info@interfaithimpactnys.org with your name, phone number, email address, and congregation/affiliation.

Car pooling will be available by signing up in advance. Please contact MMUUS representative **Remo Bianco** (635-2508 or remobianco@netzero.com) to make transportation arrangements.



**Illustration by Rini Templeton*



The "Cinco de Mayo" First Sunday Luncheon needs you!

Have you missed out and not contributed to one of our wonderful First Sunday Luncheons?

Here's your last opportunity for this church year. *Spanophiles Y Amigos* are looking for people who would like to help by contributing a salad, soup or dessert **on Sunday, May 4th**. It doesn't even have to be a Mexican recipe—how easy is that? *Cinco de Mayo* is about having fun and we can guarantee that our fiesta will be fun.

Please contact **Judy Antoine** at jantoine@twcny.rr.com if you'd like to help out with food, set-up or clean-up. I'll bring the decorations and music. ¡Viva el Español!

~ Judy Antoine



Haven't paid your pledge yet? Save time and pay online!

It is now even easier for you to pay your pledge—just go to www.mmuus.org and click on the "New! Donate with PayPal" link. Paying online with PayPal is a safe and easy way to make your donation without having to remember to write a check.

soul to soul

Share deeply with the Young Adults!

Soul to Soul is a book of meditations and prompts for deep sharing. We gather each month with a different topic/chapter from the book, and each person is invited to share, uninterrupted about the topic. Photocopies of the book are available from Pilar. There is a shared copy of the book in the Memorial Room at May Memorial.

The Soul to Soul sessions will take place on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. On odd months (e.g. May 2014), we meet in the Parlor at First. On even months (e.g. June 2014), we meet in the Teen Room at May Memorial.

Schedule

5/13 - First UU

6/10 - May Memorial

Our Care Baskets

While many of us enjoy the tradition of hunting for Easter eggs, many in our community are searching for food and personal care items. Let us keep our foyer baskets overflowing for those in need.

~ Lee Ann McKinney



MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Don't miss the Gilbert & Sullivan Quartet—April 27

An accomplished quartet of vocalists will present excerpts from well-known Gilbert & Sullivan comic operas after church on April 27th.

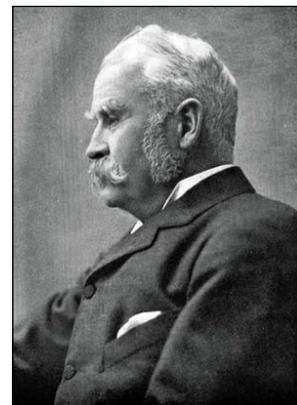
Two of our own members will take part in the program: **Ken Pease** will sing tenor and **Nancy Pease** will accompany the quartets on the piano. They will be joined by Norma Tippet, soprano; Jean Loftus, mezzo soprano; and Phil Eisenman, bass.

The group will sing excerpts from six of Gilbert & Sullivan's satiric operettas written during the Victorian Era. They include *HMS Pinafore*; *Pirates of Penzance*; *Utopia, Limited*; *Yeoman of the Guard*; *The Sorcerer*; and *The Mikado*.

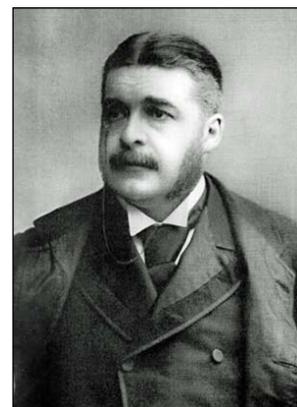
HMS Pinafore is an international hit that pokes fun at the Royal Navy and the English obsession with social class. *Pirates of Penzance* features a pirate king who is ruler of the Queen's Navy and satirizes many things, including the sense of duty, family obligations and unqualified people in positions of authority. *The Mikado* pokes fun at the English aristocracy thinly disguised in a Japanese setting.

The Sorcerer, *Yeoman of the Guard*, and *Utopia, Limited* are not as well known. In *The Sorcerer*, an engages couple hires a Cockney businessman, who is also a sorcerer, to make a love potion. Their idea totally backfires. *Yeoman of the Guard* features a pair of strolling players who are caught in a risky intrigue at the Tower of London. *Utopia, Limited* mocks the 19th century British Empire and features a bankrupt company that can leave creditors unpaid.

This program will be presented by the Music & Arts Committee. Come share the laughter and immerse yourself in Gilbert & Sullivan on **April 27th, at 12:15 pm, after Coffee Hour.**



W.S. Gilbert



Arthur Sullivan

~ Lynne Perry,
Chair, Music & Arts Committee



MUSIC AND THE ARTS

2014 Folkus Concert Schedule



April 25th—Matt and Shannon Heaton—

Boston-based Matt and Shannon Heaton pursue an inventive approach to traditional tunes and ballads. With a variety of instruments and blend of new and old music, they create a robust sound the Boston Herald called “majestic excellence.”

They are winners of Live Ireland's “Trad Fusion Album of the Year”.

Tickets are \$15 (Folkus Member price: \$12).



May 2nd—Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem (with guest Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers)

- Rani Arbo has very deep Folkus roots, dating back to Salamander Crossing appearances at Happy Endings Cake and Coffeehouse. Her band of 12-plus years, Daisy Mayhem, delivers a lively, soulful, and eclectic mix of 150 years of American music. Their originals range from blues, to bluegrass, to Unitarian funk gospel, to crooner swing, to spooky folk-pop. Of their signature style, Vancouver's *Rogue Folk Review* wrote, “It's as hard to classify as it is to praise highly enough...an intoxicating blend of roots music styles, with deep traditional roots and a healthy futuristic outlook. Strongly recommended.”

Tickets are \$18 (Folkus Member price: \$15).

All shows start at 8:00 pm. To reserve tickets, or for details and additional ticket info, visit <http://www.folkus.org>.



Catholic Charities offers home repair help to seniors

Project Fix is an in-home repair service for senior citizens (age 60+) living in Onondaga County.

Project Fix helps by assessing the problem and doing the work for you, or if the job is too big, by helping you find a reputable contractor. Some of these minor repairs include: plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and small masonry repairs.

Clients are asked to pay for materials for each job. Project Fix will determine what is needed and pick the materials up for you.

Whenever possible, clients are asked to make a labor donation which is used within the general budget for this program. Call (315) 424-1810 for suggested donation rates.

May Memorial

Unitarian Universalist Society

May Memorial is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Email ♦ newsletter@mmuus.org

MMUUSletter is a publication of events and information at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. To be included on our mailing list, please contact our office at 315.446.8920 or office@mmuus.org.

The deadline for the first of the month newsletters is the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for mid-month newsletters is the 5th of the month. Articles received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. To submit an article, please email it to newsletter@mmuus.org.

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214

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TIME VALUE

Calendar

Tuesday, April 15th

3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
7:00 pm	Board of Trustees	Memorial Room

Wednesday, April 16th

6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship Discussion/Potluck	Social Hall
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Thursday, April 17th

3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
5:30 pm	Twisted Sisters	Memorial Room
7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20th

9:40 am—10:10 am	Individual Spiritual Practice	Creekside
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room
12:15 pm	Spanophiles	COA

Happy Easter!

Individual Spiritual Practice	Creekside
Worship Service	Sanctuary
Teenz	Teen Room
Spanophiles	COA

Monday, April 21st

6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG)	Memorial Room
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Tuesday, April 22nd

3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
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Happy Earth Day!

T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
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Thursday, April 24th

1:30 pm	Bookenders	Memorial Room
3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, April 25th

8:00 pm	Folkus Concert: Matt & Shannon Heaton	MMUUS
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Sunday, April 27th

9:40 am—10:10 am	Individual Spiritual Practice	Creekside
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room

Tuesday, April 29th

3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
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