



View from the Study Window...

Thank you to the many people who, in quiet ways over the course of the past months, have undertaken some project or task to improve our building and grounds. One day I found *Bob Rhode* shoveling up and moving crushed stone which had run downhill from the parking lot. I called hello to *Lida Black* who had waded into juniper thickets to uproot invasive weeds.

Again this summer, *Bob and Mary Burdick* prepared places for the remains of former members. *Mariah Dillon and the Worship Committee* coordinated summer services, bringing together presenters and musicians to keep our meeting house open and welcoming each week.

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



September 21

"This is My Religion!"

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

In multicultural, ever-changing America, Sunday morning isn't what it used to be—or (we can safely assume) what it *will* be.

* 9:00 am—*Breakfast from the Newly Renovated Kitchen!*

** *Registration for Religious Education classes*

September 28

The Humble Power of Disruption

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

Perhaps you've heard this saying: "If you always do what you've always done, then you'll always get what you've always gotten." The Jewish High Holy Days provide an opportunity for all of us to think about what we are *really* willing to do to insure a better future.

October 5

Matt Meyer

Back by popular demand is UU Drummer Matt Meyer! Matt will be leading the worship service at MMUUS on Sunday, October 5, 2014.

Matt graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004, where he studied hand-drumming and world music. During that time, he also studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Since then, Matt has lead music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the country.

* 1:00 pm—"Drumming and Spirituality" Workshop with Matt Meyer in the Sanctuary (see article on page 2 for details)



CareRing News & Notes

Sam Feld, 95, died peacefully on September 3rd at home after a short illness. He was a decorated World War II hero, a bombardier who had flown 35 missions into the European conflict. Coming to Syracuse for an education, he was an early member of the Syracuse Peace Council. He devoted the rest of his life to the pursuit of peace and social justice. *(For an account of his storied life, please see the article from the Post Standard posted on the bulletin board, or online at <http://www.syracusenewtimes.com/red-white-blue/>)* Sam leaves his wife, Jane, daughter Louise Doubleday, and sons David and Barry as well as four grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held at May Memorial on Saturday, September 13th. We will miss Sam in the front row center on Sunday mornings!

Another World War II veteran in the person of Louis Shambo, the father of **Pete Shambo**, died on August 26th. He had landed on Normandy Beach with the 2nd armored division. Except for the past few months, Mr. Shambo, 96, lived his whole life in Auburn, where he was the civil service commissioner. His obituary is available online at <http://www.dewittmemorial.com/obits/obituary.php?id=493711>. We are sorry not to have known him and we send our sympathy to Pete and his family.

Bruce and Linda Coleman moved to North Carolina on September 13th. We wish them well!

Drumming and Spirituality Workshop with Matt Meyer—October 5

Following the service on October 5th, Matt will be leading a **Drumming and Spirituality workshop**. Matt's "Drumming and Spirituality" workshop is a chance for people of all skill levels to participate in hands on rhythm-making. The workshop includes instruction on basic technique, as well as information on the origins of percussion instruments from around the world. Participants will also experience the spirituality of community music-making through stories, games and discussions as well as look at how rhythm and music intersect with Unitarian Universalist values.



Matt Meyer

Matt graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004, where he studied hand-drumming and world music. During that time, he also studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Since then, Matt has lead music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the country.

The workshop will run from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Cost to join the workshop is \$10 in advance or \$12 on the day of the workshop. Bring your own drum if you have one, for those who don't, enough will provided.

Contact Mariah Dillon at emducey@syr.edu to sign up for the workshop.



News from your May Memorial Board of Trustees

On Friday, August 28, 2014, the Board of Trustees held a special meeting led by Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, Acting St. Lawrence District Congregational Life Consultant. She was joined by Rev. Douglas A. Taylor, Minister at the Binghamton UU Church, acting as Good Offices representative. **Rev. Jean Wahlstrom** and all Board members were present. This meeting was a Board response to concerns raised by some members of the congregation about our minister's job performance and about several years of weakness in membership growth and disappointing canvas results which have necessitated serious budget cuts.

At this meeting we were told that for the most part, May Memorial's challenges (problems) are not unique to MMUUS. Our goal is to keep May Memorial the active and vibrant religious community which it has been through the years, and we believe this can be done.

In addition to our concern about current levels of pledge income and membership, we note that the congregation has also struggled with filling committee chair positions in the last year, and that the accomplishments of some committees have been reduced as a result. The Board recognizes that a too-small number of volunteers have done the work of these committees for many years; these volunteers have rightly requested that others take on more committee responsibilities. In order to make this happen, the Board knows there is an urgent need to encourage excitement and energy among our members so that they (you) are motivated to take on leadership roles in their (your) religious home. Please be thinking about how you might become involved, whether or not you get asked.

Friday's meeting has led to two important action items:

- 1) The Board is preparing to conduct a review of the relationship between MMUUS and its minister, per our Constitution. This will give the entire congregation the opportunity to give feedback on all areas of the Minister's job performance. **Peter Colman, Peter Cannavo, and Larissa Brenner** have formed a Board sub-committee to address this task, and will work closely with **Nancy Pease** (a member of the Committee on Ministry) and Rev. Jean to develop the survey instrument.
- 2) We are investigating use of the *SmartChurch* program developed by the UUA. This program would give us a framework for examining the way May Memorial functions. This may lead to changes in our

(continued above right)

("President's Letter" continued)

committee system aimed at better meeting the needs of our spiritual community, and increasing our community outreach.

This meeting produced an open and honest conversation about the challenges facing May Memorial, and strengthened your Board's spirit of collaboration.

~ Peter Colman, President,
MMUUS Board of Trustees

Welcome Back Breakfast to be held on September 21



Due to unexpected delays on the kitchen remodeling and Uni-

rondack Weekend being held on September 14th, our Welcome Back Breakfast **will take place on the morning of September 21st, starting at 9:00 am**. Plan to arrive at church early for pancakes, bagels, egg casseroles, fruit, coffee and juices. By the 21st, we will be back in full force and have stories to share about summer adventures, school start ups and Unirondack Weekend. See you then for good eats and lots of sharing!

~ The Hospitality Committee
(Don McKay, Adele Toney, Linda Wobus, and Alexa Carter)

Focus on Haiti

The art show mounted in the MMUUS Social Hall in mid-September will focus on Haiti. It is in conjunction with our congregation's ongoing interest in and relationship with Haiti and with our *BubblyBrush* fundraiser. Most of the art pieces represented in this exhibit were acquired by members of First UU and MMUUS during a service trip to Haiti a year and a half ago. Some are borrowed from people who had similar experiences. The photographs depict scenes of every day life and were taken by our members. The paintings and sculptures were bought from street vendors and were created by unknown artists. This reality is common in Haiti and can be observed even in the most remote corners of the country.



BubblyBrush Fundraiser to benefit Teenz's 2016 Haiti Trip

Alexa Carter has graciously agreed to host a fundraising party for the May Memorial Teenz's 2016 Trip to Haiti. Please join her on **Saturday, September 20th, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm** for the debut of *TheBubblyBrush*! This trailblazing event will be delightfully BYOB (an over 21 event) and please bring a scrumptious snack to share.

Haven't you always wanted an exciting work of art that you created brushstroke by brushstroke—one that you can show off with great pride? *TheBubblyBrush* offers you and your co-congregants just that. Not only will your final product be gorgeous (and all your own), you will also take home a memorable shared experience.

With Lisa Harter, Creative Director of *TheBubblyBrush*, you will be making a similar painting to the one shown. The subject matter will be "A Chalice under a Starry Night" - you can paint this chalice or bring along your personal favorite to capture in paint on your canvas.

Never painted before? Not to worry, Lisa has over twenty five years of professional art experience, you and your fellow UU's will be guided step-by-step as you transform a 16"x 20" blank art canvas into your personal masterpiece. All the necessary art supplies, demonstrations, and expertise will be provided. You don't even need to worry about getting messy - she brings smocks.

Guided artistic experience has one of the highest customer appreciation ratings of any blossoming industry in the country. The cost is just \$38.00 per artist to reserve your easel. \$5.00 per artist will go to the Haiti fund.

To find out more go to www.thebubblybrush.com or call Lisa Harter at (315) 751-8876.



Lisa Harter, Creative Director
of *TheBubblyBrush*



Join the largest climate march in history

On **Sunday, September 21st**, join UUA President Rev. Peter Morales for the **People's Climate March in New York City**, the largest climate march in history. March alongside world leaders, pray with people of many faiths, and witness for climate justice! Join the UU contingent (RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/UU-Justice-Web-Metro-NY/events/193519382/>).

The People's Climate March will also mark the kick-off to a new UU initiative addressing climate change, *Commit2Respond*. A collaboration of the UUA and the UUSC, with the support of the UU Ministers Association, UU Ministry for Earth, and other groups, *Commit2Respond* is a movement of UUs living our faith by taking action for climate justice in 2014-2015 and beyond.

For more information, please visit <http://www.peoplesclimate.org/march/>.



Ladies, spend a Thursday evening with the

Twisted Sisters

Ladies, you are invited to a get together with Twisted Sisters on **Thursday, September 18th, at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Room**. This is an open, drop-in social group for all UU women and their friends—please bring a friend! Attendees are of a wide span of ages, and we have mothers, students, career women, retirees, and more who join in our laughter-filled gatherings. Feel free to bring a light snack and/or beverage to share, (not required). Email lauraknight.md@gmail.com with questions or suggestions. See you then!



Our Care Baskets

As we join back together, let us be mindful of those in need in our community. Please be generous in your donations of food and personal care items (baskets located in the foyer). It is my hope that each member or family group is able to make a weekly contribution. As we know from many fables, just a small contribution made by many results in great bounty! I hope you have found both moments of joy and rest over the summer. I will be looking for someone to provide congregational reminders from a new perspective. Please let me know if you are willing.

~ Lee Ann McKinney

Community News

Blanket and Linen Drive for the Interfaith Works Center for New Americans

From September 1st through October 31st, the InterFaith Works Center for New Americans will hold a Blanket and Linen Drive.

For pickups, call Daryl (474-1261 Ext. 208) and the center can arrange a pick up at your home or office.

Drop-offs can be made Monday through Friday at 808 North McBride Street (*Southeast Corner of Butternut and McBride above plaza; driveway is on the right side of the building*). MMUUS member **Judy Antoine** has set up a drop-off box in the foyer at May Memorial as well.

InterFaith Works Center for New Americans resettles over 500 New American/refugees each year. With your generosity and support, we are able to continue to "Affirm the Dignity" of each and every family member. And together we will ensure that our New Americans have a clean, warm bed and towels that are soft and gentle.



2014 Folkus Concert Schedule



September 26th—The Acoustic

Guitar Project Concert—“*One guitar. One week. One song.*” That’s the tagline of the Acoustic Guitar Project, an international songwriting project that originated in New York City and has spread around the world. In each city, a guitar circulates from songwriter to songwriter, and each person has one week to write a song on that guitar and capture it on a handheld recorder.



Projects launched this year in 35 cities, from Buenos Aires to Boston, Minneapolis to Moscow — and, this summer, Syracuse. Syracuse-area songwriters who are taking part include Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers, Colin Aberdeen, Tim Burns, John Cadley, Dana “Short Order” Cooke, Ashley Cox, Gary Frenay, Colleen Kattau, Arty Lenin, and Wendy Ramsay. On September 26th, all ten will gather for a special Folkus Project concert in which they will play their Acoustic Guitar Project songs on the project guitar, handmade in Maryland by Minor Bird Instruments and signed by all the artists.

Tickets are \$10 (Folkus Member price: \$8).

October 10th—Bob Franke—Bob Franke's songs are considered classics, fueled by his deep faith and the real-life lessons taught him by his 30-odd years of playing everywhere from concert halls to street corners. Bob has appeared in concert at coffeehouses, colleges, festivals, bars, streets, homes and churches in 33 states, four Canadian provinces and England — including many times with the Folkus Project. We're happy to have him back.

His sometimes gentle-seeming compositions burst with poetry and deep, worldly, sometimes spiritual insight. They've earned him more than a few fans. Tom Paxton, for example, who said, “*I always think of Bob Franke as if Emerson and Thoreau had picked up acoustic guitars and gotten into songwriting.*” Or Christine Lavin: “*Bob Franke writes the kind of songs that will still be sung a hundred years from now.*”

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

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



View from the Study Window

(continued from page 1)

Inside the meeting house, *John Kaftan and Jack* extended Wi-Fi access around the building. And *Peter Colman* procured the table and chairs which transform the Memorial Room into a more versatile meeting space.

Thank you all who step in where you see a need to strengthen, preserve, and improve our spiritual home.

~Blessings, Jean

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

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
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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.

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TIME VALUE

Calendar

Monday, September 15th

6:30 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG) Memorial Room

Tuesday, September 16th

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

Wednesday, September 17th

6:30 pm Men's Fellowship Potluck/Discussion Social Hall
7:00 pm COA Meeting COA Room

Thursday, September 18th

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

Saturday, September 20th

6:00 pm—9:00 pm Bubbling Brush Fundraiser Social Hall
(see page 4 for details)

Sunday, September 21st

9:00 am *Opening Sunday/RE begins* Welcome Back Breakfast Social Hall
9:40 am Individual Spiritual Practice Creekside
10:30 am Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 am Teenz Teen Room
12:15 pm Spanophiles COA Room

Tuesday, September 23rd

3:00 pm T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall

Thursday, September 25th

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

Friday, September 26th

8:00 pm Folkus Concert: Acoustic Guitar Project MMUUS

Sunday, September 28th

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

Tuesday, September 30th

3:00 pm T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall