

KICK OFF COOK OFF

Kick Off-Cook Off Scheduled for March 13

It's not too early to begin planning your entry in the *Kick Off-Cook Off* competition. On **Sunday, March 13th**, when our able Stewardship Committee chairs begin our annual Stewardship Campaign, the great cooks among us will assemble in our Social Hall for a culinary challenge.

Last year's winners were **Dale Sherman** in the Chili Con Carne category, **Mike Dillon** in the Vegetarian Chili category and **Linda Wobus** in the Cookie category. All May Memorial members are invited to compete for the coveted chili and cookie medallions. Begin perusing your favorite cook books early and treat your families to some trial runs between now and March 13th.

More details to follow!

~ Alexa Carter

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

January 3

Expecting with High Expectations

Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey

After making our New Year's resolutions, we might have certain expectations for 2016. And why not? As human beings we have agency; some of us have a great deal of freedom in making choices for ourselves and effecting outcomes. But how much influence and control do we really have in life? While setting goals for ourselves is a good thing, what do we do when "Life" has a different plan for us? In that regard, Rev Kathy has a story to share about a humbling, life-changing experience.

January 10

A Lost Boy Pays Back

Jack Howard

In this fourth installment of our "Change the World" Series, Jack Howard tells the story of John Dau, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan who, along with thousands of others, suffered many deprivations while wandering for three months to reach Kenya. When the Skaneateles Presbyterian Church sponsored four of them, Jack became their mentor, helping them work through their culture shock to this country. John became successful, and was instrumental in founding three non-profits—two that help Lost Boys living both here and in Sudan—and one providing health care for the population of Southern Sudan.

Jack Howard served in the Navy during World War II, and is a retired DuPont professional.

*12:00 pm—First Sunday Luncheon (hosted by the Teenz) in Social Hall

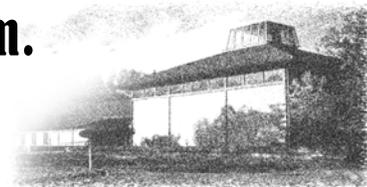
January 17

Huddled Masses

Rev. David Weissbard

From Rev. David Weissbard: "Elections are always a time for stock-taking, but it seems as if few before have equaled the one this year. The choices are usually about different means toward common goals; the differences this year

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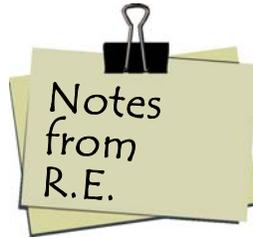


CareRing News & Notes

We were saddened to learn that **Paula "Polly" Shaud** succumbed to brain cancer on December 10th. She and her husband, **Jim**, were members here for a brief time during their transition from his Lutheran ministry to further retirement in Massachusetts. They were members of the spiritual enrichment group that met at the home of **Mary and David Fulton** and Jim sang in our choir. Polly had long been a math teacher at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. She leaves, in addition to Jim, sons Andrew and Dan.

Grace H. Harner, mother of our own **Nancy Pease**, passed away on December 16th, at the Lutheran Home in Tipton, Pennsylvania. She was 94 years old. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and family during this sad time.

Caitlin Cunningham and Jonathan Needleman welcomed Heidi Paige Needleman into the world on December 8, 2015, at 9:11 pm. At birth, Heidi weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz., and was 20 inches long. Congratulations, Caitlin and Jonathan! We look forward to meeting you, Heidi! :-)



Reflections On My Second Chalica

I was not raised a UU. I found my way to UUism through a winding path of curiosity and questioning, as many other UUs have done. My first few years at MMUUS were learning ones for me and my family, learning not only what UUism was about, but also what it meant to raise children in a faith that wasn't concrete and didn't profess to have the answers to life's big questions.

Here comes my honest admission for this article—even though I was new to UU and was trying out different UU things, I found Chalica a bit off-putting, silly even. This, I thought to myself, is a made up holiday trying to fit in with the other holidays of light this time of year. I thought, "*UUs, you may be trying too hard on this one.*" I don't think I'm the only one who felt/feels this way, especially since Chalica is very new even to UU.

Well, then I became the DRE in the summer of 2014, and when Chalica time rolled around, I did a little introspection to see what I was going to do about it. I still wasn't feeling it. But I did feel the need to at least offer some materials about it. And if I was going to promote it, I was going to have to try it out. I set some positive intentions; I didn't want to go into it with a negative attitude. At dinner time for one week in December, we lit a chalice, read short descriptions of the principle of the day, and had a little dinner discussion about it. That was it. Pretty painless really, and we even had a few interesting discussions. But that was where I left it, contained to home and RE families at May.

This year I had a better grasp of what Chalica could mean to my family. I don't give it the same weight and meaning as other December holidays, but I was ready to open up and do a little more this time around. I started out in much the same way, making announcements to RE families, handing out pamphlets, and posting to social media. But a few interesting things came out of Chalica this year and I'd like to share them with you. The first is that my kids took to it like it was already a tradition. *We did it last year, we're doing it this year, it's now our thing.* They didn't really care that it was a "new" holiday; *we did it, they liked it, it's now part of our tradition.* If I got busy and forgot, they were the ones reminding me with a: "*Hey mom, we didn't do Chalica today. Which principle are we on?*" Often followed by a brief argument over whose turn it was to strike the match, but you probably know how that goes.

The second interesting thing that happened for me this year is that I shared Chalica with the world. Well, my little world at least. Each day of Chalica, I shared a picture and quote from the Facebook page "*I am UU*" on the public MMUUS page so that UUs who wanted to participate in Chalica would have a reminder, and also because the messages were good to share. So this year, I took it a step further and, taking a deep breath every day because this was stepping outside of my comfort zone, I shared the same images on my own Facebook page. My non-UU friends and family, and anyone else who cared to

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A \$25K Question

Happy New Year from the Stewardship Committee — Co-Chairs **Jane Fagerland, Stephanie Cross** and me, **Fred Fiske!** We have been meeting regularly since the fall. Plans are moving ahead for this year's sustaining pledge drive in March, which I hope will be energizing and uplifting (*and beneficial to MMUUS!*) For starters, Jane, Stephanie and I want you to join us in a bit of New Year's inspirational dreaming. Suppose that this year, MMUUS came up with an extra \$25,000 during pledge season, and it's up to you to decide how to spend the money. After each of the first two services of the new year, we will have post-it notes and pencils available. Write down how you would want that "windfall" spent. Post your note on the easel set up in the Social Hall. You are also welcome to email me at fredmfiske@gmail.com. (*Hint: You can post more than one note! Think of all the possibilities ... dream big!*)

We'll analyze the results and report back. Meanwhile, best wishes from the Stewardship Committee, working to keep the flame of liberal religion strong in this troubled world with a successful pledge drive this year.

~ Fred Fiske, Co-Chair, MMUUS Stewardship Committee

Board Chat - January 24

The next Board Chat will be at **noon on Sunday, January 24th, in the Sanctuary**. At that time, there will be an update on where we are financially and administratively at the half-way point in the church year. We will also discuss the status of the Interim Minister position which should begin in August, 2016. And, of course, we welcome questions, comments and conversation. Child care will be provided. See you there!

Greeting and Salutations Beloved Community!

Happy New Year! December seemed to slip away unnoticed, except for the pages and pages of meeting minutes containing December meeting times!

I was the speaker at the service on the 27th. That's always a bit unnerving: *How could I, possibly have anything to say to you all?* And to be sure - it was the least attended service ever! But the die-hards were treated to an incredible performance of Ernst Bacon's "*Dusk Over the Marsh*" with **Chris Dranchek** playing the flute!

The Christmas Eve Service was packed! The circle of candles at the end of the service were two and three people deep. We are considering adding more ambient light during this part of the service, to have more control of children holding burning candles.

Have you emailed **Fred Fiske** yet (fredmfiske@gmail.com) to let him know what you believe May Memorial should do with an extra \$25k? I immediately wondered if \$25k would bring a more experienced minister—not that the salary we offer is low—but it's definitely not high. I thought of the rest of the staff, and how hard it is to get by these days. The \$25k would help their lives! Then I thought about the delicate plumbing system that \$25k would remedy. Then finally, I thought about the front doors. The whole front of the building could use a major face lift! The concrete pad is disintegrating and the small dark glass windows are terribly inefficient. I'm anxious to hear what the rest of you think.

May Memorial's Board of Trustees is primarily interested in connecting more with the congregation. We are getting ready to submit our application to the UUA for an interim minister, to begin in August of 2016. We don't have much choice in the interim minister we get, so we are focusing our application, on the skills we need, such as *Helping us figure out our ministry, and how it might best be served*. I am not sure if our interim will stay for one, two, or twenty-six years. Going through a search process is hard work! It will require a collaborative and diverse search committee that can represent May Memorial's best interests, while navigating the intense candidating process. It will include some travel, many meetings, and a lot of reading. Think about it! Look for details coming soon.

See you on Sunday!

~ Mariah Ducey, President, MMUUS Board of Trustees

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

(continued from page 1)

January 17 (con't.)

are more stark than any I can remember from the past. The debates thus far suggest that the American people will be making decisions about the nature of this republic, and touch strongly on UU Values such as: human worth and dignity; justice, equity, and compassion; and the search for truth and meaning."

January 24

Today's Speakers: *Marshall Saunders (Founder of the Citizens Climate Lobby) and Kyle Thomas (Syracuse Citizens Climate Lobby Group Leader)*

Marshall Saunders, a successful real estate broker in California, became alarmed about global warming and, convinced that ever-rising energy production and use called for effective legislation in order to cut fossil fuel industry emissions. He founded the Citizens Climate Lobby in 2007 to teach groups of volunteers how to influence government officials to support a tax on carbon. Beginning with only three local groups, CCL has grown into an international organization. Kyle Thomas, CCL's Syracuse Group Leader, is a principal with National Systems Engineering, a consulting company specializing in renewable energy. This program is the fifth in our "Change the World" Series.

January 31

Sacred Place

Emanuel Carter

Please join us this Sunday as we welcome our own Emanuel Carter to the pulpit for a very special service.



IT'S YOUR
WORLD—
CHANGE IT!

May Memorial's 2016 Change the World Speaker Series

People have changed the world in inspiring ways, some small ways and some whole world ways. We gain inspiration, insight and relevance from these people for our own lives and how we can create constructive change for our families, our beloved community, and ourselves. May Memorial's "Change the World" Speaker Series celebrates those who have done so, or are currently doing so. This series is facilitated by MMUUS' Green & Social Justice Committee.

The 2016 schedule is as follows:

- **January 10th - John Dau** (*One of the Lost Boys of Sudan*)
Speaker: Jack Howard, Godfather of John Dau/ former board member of the John Dau Foundation to assist health care in South Sudan.
- **January 24th - Marshall Saunders** (*Founder of the Citizens Climate Lobby*)
Speaker: Kyle Thomas, *Principal Engineer at Natural Systems Engineering, group leader Citizens' Climate Lobby.*
- **February 21st - Wangari Maathai** (*Nobel Peace Prize Winner, and founder of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya*)
Speaker: **Peter Cannavo**, *Associate Professor of Government and Director of Environmental Studies at Hamilton College.*
- **March 6th - Harriet Tubman** (*Abolitionist, Humanitarian, and Civil Rights Advocate*)
Speaker: Michele Jones Galvin, *Co-author of "Harriet Tubman, Beyond the Underground: Aunt Harriet, Moses of Her People".*
- **April 24th - Al Gore: Sustainable Visionary** (*Earth Day, celebrated*)
Speaker: **Jim D'Aloisio**, *Professional Engineer, trained member of Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corps.*
- **May 29th - Eleanor Roosevelt: No One Can Make You Feel Inferior Without Your Consent**
Speaker: **Barbara Kamerance**, *Educator, Social/Environmental Justice Advocate.*
- **June 5th - Janine Benyus: Biomimicry – Building in Nature's Image**
Speaker: Kevin Stack, *Founder CEO of the Northeast Natural Homes, member of the Speakers' Guild and The Biomimicry Institute.*

For beyond the aforementioned dates and topics, we are looking for inspiring people to talk about and presenters who are knowledgeable about them. So far our tentative list includes Pope Francis, Milala, Fredrick Douglas, Gabby Gifford and MLK, although we don't have any speakers arranged for them yet.

Please submit your suggestions to **David Ashley** at davidcashley@gmail.com or to **Lynne Perry** or **Peter Cannavo**.



Rev. Glenn Owen Canfield

"A religion based upon man's deepest needs, and which guides him into the satisfaction of those life needs, and which teaches him to aspire to the highest values and the most complete fulfillment of life, is the kind of religion which man really needs today."

~ Rev. Glenn Canfield in "Man's Deepest Needs"

Rev. Canfield was our seventh minister. He was born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1907. He was educated at Texas Christian University and then at the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He was our second minister who was not originally Unitarian or Universalist. Rev. Argow was a Baptist minister, while Rev. Canfield was a Presbyterian minister in Woodstock, Illinois, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Hobbs, New Mexico. He became a Unitarian minister in Clinton and Berlin, Massachusetts in 1945. He became the minister at May Memorial in 1946.

Rev. Canfield followed suit with the namesake of our church, Rev. May, by addressing the inequality among the races. During his Syracuse ministry, he was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Although no black people had joined the society at that point, there was a joint meeting with the NAACP and a worship service with the Bethany Fellowship. Black speakers appeared at forums and the youth held interracial meetings. It may seem antiquated now, but this was considered progressive for the time. Rev. Canfield also chaired a Council of Churches housing committee to improve living conditions for black residents.

Rev. Canfield attracted a strong young adult group through his campus ministry. Membership at May Memorial as a result increased to 400, the largest in its history.

In September 1951, the congregation held a dinner to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Rev. Elizabeth Padgham's ordination. Rev. Canfield spoke of the service she gave to her home church during her retirement.

Also in 1951, Rev. Canfield left May Memorial to become Minister-at-Large in Atlanta, Georgia, where he later started a racially integrated United Liberal Church in Atlanta in 1954. He was minister of the First Unitarian Church in Miami, Florida in 1956. He was Executive Secretary for UUA districts in New England and the Southwest from 1959 to 1969. He died in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1973. Rev. Canfield left a legacy at May Memorial, not only by increasing

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Rev. Glenn O. Canfield,
May Memorial's Parish Minister
(1946-1952)

("Room in 8" continued)

the membership, but also by increasing compassion for African-Americans. He extended this important work to his ministry in Atlanta. His sermon quoted at the beginning of this article encouraged the congregation to search deeply within themselves to find meaning in their church and religion. For him, his belief in Jesus is what inspired him, as he quoted later in that same sermon, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13: 34, 35).

~ Jay Brenner,
Chair, History Committee

(Editor's Note: In the "Room in 8" article that appeared in the December 1, 2015 edition of the MMUUS-letter, a picture was posted that identified the subject as Rev. Robert E. Romig. This was incorrect. The picture was actually of Rev. Glenn Owen Canfield. We apologize for this error.



Let You Entertain Us, Let You Make Us Smile!

Yeah, I know. If you remember the song, it's pretty stupid. But, if you don't, it's kinda' cute, right? Either way, it really is what we need you to do for us. February is May Memorial Loves the Arts Month, and we need your talent for the May Cabaret, which will be held on March 20th.

Show Us Your Skill In The Art Gallery

Are you a photographer, an artist, a writer? Sign up to exhibit your work in our Social Hall. We'll be hanging this year's show on Saturday, January 30th, beginning at 11:30 am.

Show Us Your Talent In The May Cabaret

Whether you sing, dance, play an instrument, recite poetry or perform magic, we want you to take part in our annual talent show, *The May Cabaret*.

To sign up for the gallery exhibition or the talent show (or both!), please contact **Lynne Perry** at clynneperry@gmail.com or 247-9214.



MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Folkus Concerts in January 2016



January 8th - The Brothers

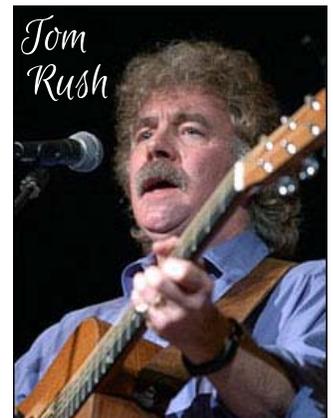
McCann - This New England trio creates dynamic palettes of sound, weaving sweeping three-part harmonies over rustic reinventions of folk rock. Pat, brother Mike, and long-time friend Erik nurture the heart of their New England musical upbringing with three unique songwriting styles on rotating display.



Pat McCann (Vocals and Keyboards), Mike McCann (Vocals/Guitar), and Erik White (Vocals/Guitar) are three, staggeringly strong and unique voices that weave lush harmonies over clever and diverse songwriting styles, with memorable melodies that invite listeners to sing along almost immediately. Based out of Boston, they have been spreading their vibrant and emotional sound to ears of all ages.

Tickets are \$15 (Folkus Member Price: \$12)

January 22nd - Tom Rush - A gifted musician and performer, Tom's performances offer a musical celebration...a journey into the tradition and spectrum of what music has been, can be, and will become. His distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm, expressive voice have made him both a legend and a lure to audiences around the world. His shows are filled with the rib-aching laughter of terrific story-telling, the sweet melancholy of ballads and the passion of gritty blues.



Rush's impact on the American music scene has been profound. He helped shape the folk revival in the 1960s and the renaissance of the 1980s and 1990s, his music having left its stamp on generations of artists.

Tickets are \$30 (Folkus Member Price: \$25)

All show begin at 8:00 pm.

"Tom (Rush) was not only one of my early heroes, but also one of my main influences." - James Taylor

Calendar (continued from page 8)

Tuesday, January 19th

3:00 pm T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall

Wednesday, January 20th

3:00 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room
6:30 pm Men's Fellowship Discussion/Potluck Social Hall

Thursday, January 21st

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

Friday, January 22nd

8:00 pm Folkus Concert: Tom Rush MMUUS

Saturday, January 23rd

10:00 am—3:00 pm St. Lawrence District Meeting Memorial Room

Sunday, January 24th

10:30 am Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 am Teenz Teen Room
12:00 pm—1:00 pm Board Chat Sanctuary
12:15 pm Spanophiles COA

Monday, January 25th

4:00 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room

Tuesday, January 26th

3:00 pm T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall

Thursday, January 28th

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

Sunday, January 31st

10:30 am Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 am Teenz Teen Room

"Notes from R.E." (continued from page 2)

look, were being given a snippet of what my church and my faith are about. That got me to thinking. *How often do you talk to your non-UU friends, family and neighbors about your church?* As much as I love my faith home and believe in UUism's message of love and justice, I often feel a bit uncomfortable talking about my faith. But I was touched by a story that Rev. Kaaren Anderson shared at D.A. last year about her aunt. Her tale was one of hardship, loss and loneliness that ended with her aunt becoming Mormon. She spoke about how many people right now are looking for connection and meaning, and that there are faith communities out there who share their message with others. She suggested that her aunt became Mormon because their message came to her at a time when she needed it. She wondered if her aunt would have connected with UUism had she been introduced to it the same way.

Evangelizing isn't a UU thing. Even the word pokes at a sensitive spot that many of us have because of our interactions with some people who believe theirs is the only truth. Most UUs don't do well with absolutes; one of our principles states that we value the search for truth and meaning. But thanks to my new Chalica tradition, here I was sharing my piece of truth. I thought that maybe there are some searching who don't know that we are here on the same quest. Maybe there are people who need to know that there are others out there walking a similar path of curiosity about those big uncertainties in life. And even if they don't stop and say, *"Hey, I guess I'm a UU and I should join that church there!"* at least they know they aren't alone and that we are here if they want to join us on the journey.

~ Stacy Sceiford, DRE, MMUUS

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

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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@maymemorial.com.

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

Friday, January 1st	Happy New Year!	
Sunday, January 3rd 10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Monday, January 4th 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, January 5th	*No instructor-led T'ai Chi Chih today	
Thursday, January 7th 7:30 pm	*No instructor-led T'ai Chi Chih today Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary	
Friday, January 8th 8:00 pm	Folkus Concert: The Brothers McCann	MMUUS
Sunday, January 10th 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 12:15 pm	Worship Service Teenz First Sunday Luncheon Program Council Spanophiles	Sanctuary Teen Room Social Hall Memorial Room COA
Monday, January 11th 4:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, January 12th 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
Thursday, January 14th 3:00 pm 7:30 pm	T'ai Chi Chih Choir Rehearsal	Social Hall Sanctuary
Saturday, January 16th 10:30 am	Worship Committee	Memorial Room
Sunday, January 17th 10:30 am 10:30 am	Worship Service Teenz	Sanctuary Teen Room
Monday, January 18th 6:30 pm	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *Office Closed Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room	

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