

# MIMUUS letter

January 2018 Volume 81 No. 1

May  
Memorial  
Unitarian Universalist Society



## Off the Trapeze

### Justice In Our Time

Rev. Sunshine Wolfe's  
Monthly Column

"We need in every bay and community a group of angelic troublemakers."

— Bayard Rustin



Our denomination has long been one of paradox- both at the forefront of justice and reluctant to strive for justice. Rev. Samuel May had one stipulation to agreeing to serve May Memorial. The two churches he had served to that point at asked him to leave because they did not agree with his stances on abolition. Many of our churches at the time were attended by wealthy families who benefited from the slave trade. When May Memorial expressed an interest in calling him he said- yes, but I must have the freedom to speak for abolition. This congregation agreed and at that time, that was highly unusual. Even now, we have strong differences of opinion about what justice work is and should look like. We embrace a diversity of opinions and ideas which means we will not always agree. It means that some churches will move forward in action and others will not. May Memorial has a long history of moving into action. We are a Welcoming Congregation- welcoming to LGBTQ communities. We are a Green Sanctuary Congregation- we commit to keeping our building and grounds environmental impact low. (continued page 2)

#### Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter	3
Religious Education	4
Search Committee	4&5
History Committee	6
Intern Minister	7
Art Gallery	8
Green & Social Jus-	9
Mark your calendar	10

## Sunday Worship and Religious Education 10:30 am

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018-**  
"The Spirituality of  
Place" with Emanuel  
Carter and Worship Asso-  
ciate Kevin Salamone

This service will address the making of sacred place through the intertwining of environmental and social justice and through managing community, ecology and landscape as a series of evolving stories about who we are and how (not why!) we are here.

**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018-**  
"In the Spirit of Bayard  
Rustin" with Rev. Sunshine  
J. Wolfe and Worship Associ-  
ate Amanda Winkler

This intergenerational service explores the life and work of Bayard Rustin. Bayard Rustin was a lead organizer for the 1963 March on Washington. Despite his great efforts, he experienced extreme prejudice within and beyond the Civil Rights movement as a gay man. We will discuss his life and the wisdom he brought to one of the most important times in our nation's history.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018-**  
"The Arc of Justice"  
with Intern Minister Beth-  
any Russell-Lowe and the  
Worship Associate Aman-  
da Perinne

Dr. Martin Luther King said, paraphrasing Unitarian minister Rev. Theodore Parker, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." What defines the moral arc of the universe? Whose is it to bend?

**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018-**  
"Let's Talk About Sex:  
Sexual Health in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century" with Rev. Sun-  
shine J. Wolfe the Worship  
Associate Gabor Hardy

Sex and sexual health are one of the great justice issues of our time and one that Unitarian Universalism has been a leader of for almost 50 years. This worship will explore sex and sexuality with particular focus on consent, communication, vocabulary, and health. This service is for adults. Parents are **highly** encouraged to have children attend religious education during the service time.

We support Black Lives Matter. In the past we have supported Planned Parenthood, been a Sanctuary congregation, and supported refugee families in settling in Syracuse.

We do this because it is a core part of our values as Unitarian Universalists. The Universalists believe(d) in the universal love of G-d. Injustice goes against this love. To resist it is to help G-d's love flow in the world. The Unitarians believe(d) in doing good works to improve character to care for the great gift G-d had given. To care for oneself and one's world was to take care of G-d's creation. While not all of us use this language today, it still lives at the core of who we are as religious people.

We need angelic troublemakers in our time. Angelic troublemakers who will work toward justice as an act of love, ethics, and commitment. They will guide us in accepting that all is love and all is worthy of being loved. We will not accept behaviors in the world that diminish or harm ourselves or the stranger. Instead, we will through our just words and deeds help manifest a world worthy of us- of all creation.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Sunshine

**Pastor Sunshine's Office Hours and Away Schedule:**

**Beginning January 17<sup>th</sup>**, office hours are on Wednesdays 1-5 at May Memorial and Thursdays at Recess Coffee in Westcott on Harvard from 4-6pm. *Please note the away schedule below.*

You can schedule an appointment with Pastor Sunshine during available times Tuesday to Sunday at <https://revsunshine.as.me/> or by calling 317-448-3818. As always, Monday is gher day off.

Pastor Sunshine will be on vacation and study leave for two weeks from December 25<sup>th</sup> until January 8<sup>th</sup>. Ghe will be at a UU Minister's Association conference from January 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

**Monthly Themes**

This year (2017-18) May Memorial is experimenting with monthly themes. During these months most worship services Transforming Spirit, and Children's Chapel services will follow them. Small group ministry, Spiritual Enrichment Groups, and all other church programs are encouraged (never required) to engage with these themes. This is a test year, so the themes are borrowed from All Souls U. U. Church in Tulsa, OK.

Future year's themes will be determined by future ministers in collaboration with Worship Associates, staff, and lay leaders. For now, please consider this an opportunity to experiment and play with one of the growing UU practices.

**2017-2018**

Sept	Faith
Oct	Death
Nov	Forgiveness
Dec	Hope

Jan	Justice
Feb	Love
March	Brokenness
April	Transformation
May	Transcendence

**January Monthly Theme: Justice**

Here are some resources to help ground our exploration.

**Adult:**

[The Impossible Will Take a Little While,](#)

Ed. by Loeb Paul

[What We're Fighting for Now Is Each Other:](#)

[Dispatches From the Front Lines of Climate](#)

[Justice](#) by Wen Stephenson

[Sweet Dreams in America: Making Ethics and Spirituality Work](#) by Dr. Sharon D. Welch

**Youth:**

[Letters from Young Activists: Today's Rebels Speak Out](#) edited by Dan Berger, Chesa Boudin, and Kenyon Farrow

**Children:**

[The Soccer Fence: A Story of Friendship, Hope, and Apartheid in South Africa](#) by Phil Bildner

[Sneetches and Other Stories](#) by Dr. Seuss



## News from the Board of Trustees!

Happy New Year from the Board of Trustees!

*"I heard a bird sing in the night of December...."*

*We're nearer to Spring than we were in September!"*

This little poem always pops into my head this time of year. When the days are short and sunlight rare, it's a reminder that we've actually turned the corner on winter. Winter Solstice marks the beginning of a new cycle for me. Dark early morning hours provide quiet time to think, plan, and rebalance. And I've needed spiritual and emotional regrouping more than ever to recover from the events of 2017! Time and again, I found myself in tears over yet one more spiteful, mean-spirited, destructive action that needlessly hurt people in need. When Pastor Sunshine quit asking me how I was, and instead would greet me with, "Are you breathing?" I realized my emotional and physical health were suffering. One night a few weeks ago, I turned on the small tv in my kitchen to watch the evening news while fixing supper. Fires in California, continuing devastation in Puerto Rico, a suicide bombing somewhere, political rancor, sexual misconduct – these were the story lead-ins. "That's IT!" I yelled at Lester Holt, and unplugged the tv, disconnected the cable, and threw it all into a back bedroom. What a relief to be liberated from the drip, drip, drip of bad news! I dragged out my Christmas CDs, and have been blissfully singing along to cheesy songs instead of flinching at each new bit of bad news. It's been most therapeutic!

Happily and quite unexpectedly, I've found my job as Board President to also be therapeutic. Being engaged in a community focused on making the world a better place, and which expressly values the inherent worth and dignity of each person is a highly effective antidote to all that's wrong in the world. I am so thankful for all the support and for the willingness of my fellow Board members to take on the sometimes thankless chores of keeping our church functioning, especially in this time of transition. We will continue "Chat with the Board" sessions in the coming year. Thank you to each person who has visited us after church – your feedback helps us to do our job so much better!

The Board is encouraging grass-roots fundraising efforts in the coming six months. We do not currently have a large-scale fundraiser planned, with the ministerial search process taking so much time, focus, and energy. However, after pledges, fundraisers are the second largest source of operating income for us. Last year, Friendship Gatherings were a very successful and enjoyable way to contribute to our church's financial well-being. Alexa Carter and Jennifer Newman have made it easy for individuals or groups to host one of these gatherings, and you can find helpful guidelines in church newsletters. Contact Alexa ([alexacarteralexa@icloud.com](mailto:alexacarteralexa@icloud.com)) or Jennifer ([mamaslash@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mamaslash@twcny.rr.com)) to learn more! And if you have any other ideas for fundraising, please bring them to the Finance Committee ([weiserjc@gmail.com](mailto:weiserjc@gmail.com)). I've heard many creative ideas that just need to be put into motion!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and joyful 2018! See you in church!

Jane Fagerland, President

MMUUS Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustees

Jane Fagerland

Kevin King

Ruth Yanai

Joan Weiser (Ex-officio)

Jay Brenner

Leah Cronlund

Sue Savion

Diane Chappell-Daley

Society President

Vice President

Board Secretary

Treasurer

Policy Portfolio

The Growing Place Portfolio

Perpetual Calendar Portfolio

Program Council Portfolio

[president@mmuus.org](mailto:president@mmuus.org)

[vp@mmuus.org](mailto:vp@mmuus.org)

[boardsecretary@mmuus.org](mailto:boardsecretary@mmuus.org)

[treasurer@mmuus.org](mailto:treasurer@mmuus.org)



We were all witness to a historical moment recently, one of those turning points or watershed moments where our collective understanding of reality is altered and (hopefully) the course of history is shifted. It's influence was so strong that it as a movement was named "Person of the Year" by Time Magazine. I'm referring, of course, to the #metoo movement. And while I say that our collective understanding of reality was altered, I really mean that the understanding that most femme folk/women and their allies already knew to be true had its veil pulled away. Powerful people, particularly privileged and influential men, have been harassing, abusing, and assaulting those who are vulnerable to their power and authority without fear of consequence for entirely too long. We have seen a groundswell of people who have been coming forward and sharing their stories. They have the strength of numbers and they have the strength of a paradigm shift where society is willing to not only listen, but actually believe and do something about the abuses.

Now that the veil has been pulled back and we see the ugliness behind it, the next question is how do we change? The current movement to hold the abusers of power accountable, stripping them of their jobs and titles, can only go so far. Waiting for abuses to occur and for enough accusers to come forward with enough evidence before acting doesn't address the root of the problem. And while I certainly can't address its entirety in a brief newsletter article, I can say that there is something that we as Unitarian Universalists are doing to address the root and impact change--we promote comprehensive sexuality education, the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. What sets OWL apart from standard "sex ed" is that it recognizes that sexuality is complex and is lifelong, it is part of being human and deserves adequate time and attention. We UUs (and United Church of Christ) understand that comprehensive sexuality education encompasses more than just biology and pregnancy prevention. And OWL has been receiving positive attention from sources including NPR in comparison to standard and "abstinence only" public school education.

I sing the praises of OWL all the time. It's the information that I wish I had access to when I was growing up. Our Whole Lives provides age appropriate, fact-based information and defines healthy sexual relationships as: consensual; non-exploitative; mutually pleasurable; safe; developmentally appropriate; and respectful (and that it is also healthy to delay sexual relationships until youth are older). The OWL program is what pulled me into youth ministry and was influential in my decision to become the Director of Religious Education at May. I am very passionate about OWL and am thrilled by the support that the Syracuse UU congregations offer to this essential ministry. We offer the 7th-9th grade curriculum every other year and we have seen significant growth in our class sizes over the past several years. People from the community have learned about OWL and are enrolling their youth with us. My philosophy is that the more youth we can reach to educate about topics including gender, sexuality, and consent the better. And I hope to grow the OWL program even further in the future.

#metoo has illustrated that sexuality education is a justice issue. By providing this education to our youth and to the community at large, we are serving May Memorial's mission to build a more loving and just world. We promote justice when we educate youth with evidence-based curriculum about LGBTQ topics and concerns, about how gender norms play out in society, about healthy friendships and relationships, and about their autonomy in sexuality--with consent. OWL is grounded in UU values and recognizes the worth and dignity of every individual. It gives youth the information and tools they need to make healthy choices for themselves and in their current and future relationships. Growing a culture of consent and breaking down patriarchal gender norms and assumptions through lifelong sexuality education is where we do the real work toward ending the abuses that sparked #metoo.

In Peace,

Stacy Sceiford,  
Director of Religious Education

Ministerial  
Search



## The Greatest Gifts Come in January for the Ministerial Search Committee

As we end a month in which many of us gathered with family and friends, and often spent some of that time opening gifts, the Ministerial Search Committee is preparing to spend extensive time with each other in the month of January. And we will be opening some "gifts" of our own: the ministerial records of ministers who are interested in serving our congregation.

January 2nd is the date members of the MSC have eagerly anticipated since we began our work in June. That is the day we will each log in to the UUA web site, where, after six months of preparation, we will finally view the names and credentials of all the candidates who wish to be considered by us for the position of settled minister. We will independently review every detailed ministerial record and use common evaluation criteria to (continued page 5)

assign each candidate a rating of "yes," "no," or "maybe."

A good part of the weekend of January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> will be spent sharing our thoughts about the candidates, listening carefully to each other, and determining which candidates will proceed to the next level, which would be the exchange of web packets and a video interview. There is some sense of urgency to complete this stage of the process expeditiously, so that we can maintain and deepen the interest of our preferred candidates.

We have prepared for these initial interviews by spending many hours together forming and selecting questions for our candidates. Pastor Sunshine, Reverend Jennifer (of First Unitarian Universalist Society) and ministerial intern Bethany graciously agreed to participate in mock interviews, which gave us a chance to receive feedback and refine our questions. These mock interviews also provided us with the opportunity to work out some of the kinks in the Zoom video conferencing app we plan to use for first interviews.

Upon completion of the videoconference interviews, the MSC will spend considerable time checking references and narrowing the field of candidates to two to four for more serious consideration. We are delighted to be entering this stage of our work, but are also feeling the weight of responsibility. We hope for collective wisdom and good instincts as we endeavor to find the best possible ministerial match for May Memorial. A settled minister who is a good fit for our congregation would indeed be one of the best gifts this holiday season could bring us.

We send you our blessings and gratefully receive yours.

Your Ministerial Search Committee:

Eliza Bailey, Larissa Brenner, Peter Colman, Josh Cronlund, Stephanie Cross, Don Milmore and Rob Neimeier

## **Getting Touch With:**

### **Ministry and Staff Team**

Pastor Sunshine J. Wolfe	Interim Minister	<a href="mailto:swolfe@uuma.org">swolfe@uuma.org</a>
Bethany Russell-Lowe	Intern Minister	<a href="mailto:Bethany.e.lowe@gmail.com">Bethany.e.lowe@gmail.com</a>
Stacy Sceiford	Director of Religious Education	<a href="mailto:dre@mmuus.org">dre@mmuus.org</a>
Glenn Kime	Director of Music	Phone w 315.729.3734
Leslie Dendy	Bookkeeper	<a href="mailto:ldendy@mmuus.org">ldendy@mmuus.org</a>

### **Congregational Committees**

#### **Nominating Committee      Search Committee**

Cynthia Carter	Don Milmore, Chair	
Julie Daniel	Members:	
Mariah Ducey	Eliza Bailey	Josh Cronlund
John Percival	Larissa Brenner	Stephanie Cross
Jennifer Newman	Peter Colman	Rob Neimeier

### **Board Committees**

Finance	Joan Weiser, Chair	<a href="mailto:finance@mmuus.org">finance@mmuus.org</a>
Denominational Affairs	Kent Lindstrom, Chair	<a href="mailto:denomaffairs@mmuus.org">denomaffairs@mmuus.org</a>
History	Mary Louise Edwards, Chair	<a href="mailto:history@mmuus.org">history@mmuus.org</a>
Hospitality	Alexa Carter and Linda Wobus, Co-Chairs	<a href="mailto:hospitality@mmuus.org">hospitality@mmuus.org</a>
Membership	Nancy Pease, Facilitator	<a href="mailto:membership@mmuus.org">membership@mmuus.org</a>
Memorial Garden	Randy Archambault, Chair	<a href="mailto:memgarden@mmuus.org">memgarden@mmuus.org</a>
Music & Arts	Lynne Perry, Chair	<a href="mailto:music@mmuus.org">music@mmuus.org</a>
Program Council	Diane Chappell-Daley, Chair	<a href="mailto:programcouncil@mmuus.org">programcouncil@mmuus.org</a>
Public Relations	John Percival, Chair	<a href="mailto:pr@mmuus.org">pr@mmuus.org</a>



## History Corner

### January 2018

#### Greetings from the May Memorial History Committee!

In the last two issues of the MMUUSletter, we have been talking about the social causes of our second minister, Rev. Samuel Joseph May, focusing on his antislavery work. Although Rev. May is well known as an abolitionist, he had never been nominated for

inclusion in the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum. In 2015, Bess Kamerance and the PR Committee took the initiative to nominate him. Thanks to their work and the excellent nomination application prepared by Don Milmore, Rev. May will be inducted into the National Abolition Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2018! This honor is well-deserved and long overdue, and we owe a huge thank you to Don, Bess, and the PR Committee for making it a reality!

As noted in the December history column, Rev. Sam May was converted to the cause of "immediate and unconditional emancipation" after hearing abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison speak in 1830, when he was a young minister in Connecticut. In the early 1830s he worked for nearly two years for the Massachusetts Antislavery Society, followed by six years as a Unitarian minister and activist in Massachusetts. By the time he came to Syracuse in 1845, Rev. May was well known as an abolitionist and a reformer.

Rev. May was a founding member of the American Antislavery Society, which often met in Syracuse. He gave many speeches at antislavery meetings and was frequently involved in the writing of resolutions. At national Unitarian meetings, he criticized the country's policy of compromise between free and slave states as "a betrayal of common humanity." His arguments helped to convince his mentor, Rev. William Ellery Channing, to speak out against slavery.

Rev. May worked closely with Rev. Jermain Loguen of the AME Zion Church. (Rev. Loguen was the subject of our 2017 Black History Month service.) Revs. May and Loguen raised money for fugitive slaves and for the legal defense of escaped slaves who were recaptured. The homes of both men served as "stations" on the Underground Railroad and both were involved in the famous 1851 "Jerry Rescue," in which a group of men, including leading citizens of Syracuse, stormed the jail and freed Jerry McHenry, an escaped slave who had been recaptured and arrested under the Fugitive Slave Act. The rescuers were criticized for breaking the law, and many citizens signed a petition denouncing the rescue. The Jerry Rescue is depicted in a statue in Clinton Square. (Through the years, the Jerry Rescue statue has often served as a gathering place for demonstrations and rallies, including Black Lives Matter rallies in 2017.)

It is interesting to think about the causes Sam May might be involved in if he were alive today. Although he would no doubt be involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, he would probably be extremely dismayed to find that there is a need for such a movement, more than 150 years after slavery was abolished in the United States.

In his 1869 *Recollections of our Antislavery Conflict*, Sam May reiterated Garrison's argument that "antislavery reform must be thoroughly accomplished before our Republic can stand upon a sure foundation." Sadly, that reform never really took place, as evidenced, for example, by the long years of segregation in the South, lynchings that continued into the 1960s, inequities in prison sentencing, voter suppression, and the continuing activities of the Ku Klux Klan and White Supremacists.

There is still work to be done, and we can still take inspiration from the words and actions of Rev. Samuel Joseph May!

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee Chair

#### GIVE US A PIECE OF YOUR MIND, AND YOUR HEART AND SOUL!

Your feedback is vital to completing the circle of communication in our congregation. **The Transitions Team** is in the process of putting together a series of **feedback/reflections groups** so we, as a congregation, can better live our mission.

Upon exploring ways to provide valuable ongoing feedback to all who lead in our congregation, the Board has asked us to field test this evaluation process, *Completing the Circle*, to gain insight and offer timely and useful information.

You'll be receiving more detailed communication in the coming weeks... so STAY TUNED!

## Ministerial Intern Column

No matter where you are in the country, if you meet a UU on the street, chances are, they will know the lyrics to "Spirit of Life" by heart. And there is one line from that hymn that I've been chewing on recently: "*Spirit of Life...move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.*" How often do we stop to think about this piece of our theology? Where it comes from? And why we hold onto it still?

I know I didn't know the answers to these questions for a long time. Growing up Unitarian Universalist, if you had asked me why we did social justice work, I probably would have told you that we were continuing the work of our ancestors, or that we were each doing our part to make the world a better place, or maybe I would have pulled a line from the covenant my home congregation (still) recites weekly which says that "service is our prayer." These would have been fine answers.



But I have a different answer now. Now, I believe that our calling to justice is theological. In it is part of who we are and how we are called to be in the world. As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to engaged in justice work from both sides of our religious lineage. On the Universalist side, our ancestors held the radical belief that all people will go to heaven. And from this a position, they began to seek justice here on Earth. "[Universalists believed that] heaven could be found in this world wherever love prevails and the gifts of life are stewarded with reverence and respect" explains UU and Methodist minister and historian Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker (from article in UU World, June 28, 2010).

And our Unitarian ancestors approached justice work a bit of a different way. Early on in the history of Unitarianism in America, our religious ancestors valued "deeds over creeds." In other words, what you did with your beliefs was more important than what you believed. It was not enough to believe, you also needed to *do* something with those beliefs.

So we are pulled. Pulled from both sides of our religious heritage to engaged in the work of the world. The work that many of us call justice. Justice has many synonyms. Social action. Protest. Advocacy. Support. Social service. Loving your neighbor. The list goes one... and justice is part of each of these. As African-American philosopher and political activist Dr. Cornell West says, "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."

I return to the idea that nestled within the lyrics of that familiar tune, "*Spirit of Life...move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.*" It is *you*, and *me*, and *us* that do the work of justice. It is out of our hands that life around us is given the shape of justice. Some of us might believe that some divine entity has a role in that creation of justice, but our religious heritage tells us that we have a role in that work, too. May we each find ways to give life the shape of justice. May we each do what we can, where we can, when we can, to create more love and more justice in our world.

In faith,  
Bethany



### Save the Date! for Bethany's Ordination on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at First UU

On March 18, 2018 at 3 PM, May Memorial and First UU will co-ordain our Ministerial Intern, Bethany Russell-Lowe, to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Ordination is the act of acknowledging that we see the ministry in a person, and thereby conferring full ministerial duties onto them. In our tradition, only congregants have the power to ordain ministers. The service will be held at First UU in the Sanctuary. More information will follow. For now, mark your calendars for this special service.

## Notes from the Admin Office:

- February newsletter deadline is: January 15, please remember to keep articles to 500 words.
- Use caution when entering and exiting the building. While we try and keep up with the snow and ice removal there might be times something is missed. Please inform Teri if there are any safety concerns.



## MUSIC AND THE ARTS

### Art Gallery

#### Flowers and Fairies Fill Our January Art Show

Beautiful flowers sprinkled with fairies will light up our Social Hall during the wintry month of January.

Our photographer for the month, Lisa Davis, lives with her husband on five acres of land outside of Fulton, where she is an enthusiastic nature lover and gardener who has always enjoyed taking pictures of the flowers she grew, then drying them and making them into arrangements.

Then, in 2004, she attended an art festival, and spoke with an artist who was using a flatbed scanner to take digital pictures. Lisa -- who, by then, was looking for a way to preserve her flowers without drying them -- was excited about this unique, and little known art form called scannography, and decided to try it herself.

Although it sounds a bit like medical imaging, it actually is a form of photography which scans objects that are laid on a glass plate. The images captured are then refined into graphic designs.

Lisa spent several years experimenting with scanner techniques, flower designs and a graphic arts program, before she felt she had perfected the craft, and began exhibiting her work at art shows and festivals throughout the state. "The scanner was my new venture into the world of art," she says.

One day, while deeply engrossed in capturing her pictures, she was amazed to see delicate wings, whimsical heads and fanciful clothing among the flowers she was photographing. Although they appear in her artwork, Lisa doesn't really believe in the winged creatures we read about in folklore. She does, however, believe that fairies may well exist as energies of nature.

Her photography attempts to capture the joy she feels about her gardens and nature. The fairies, she says, "seem to have come from Divine inspiration as a way to share their beauty and express the joy they bring."

Lisa will take part in a *Meet the Artist program following the service on Sunday, January 7*. Be sure to take the opportunity to speak with her about the scanning process she uses to create her artwork and the delightful experiences she has of seeing fairies in nature.



"...one of Central New York's  
hidden treasures"  
— Chris Baker, [openhouse.com](http://openhouse.com)

## The Folkus

Project of Central New York



### Milkweed

Friday, January 05, 2018 at 8:00 PM  
May Memorial UU Society

Milkweed is the collaboration of three artists – Joseph Alston (guitar and vocals), Jacqueline Colombo (guitar and vocals) and Peter Lister (upright bass and vocals). Without committing to one genre, Milkweed has pulled from many of the great aspects of American music and created their own brand of American song and storytelling.

Tickets and upcoming shows here: [FOLKUS](http://FOLKUS)

## Seeking Social Justice and Going Green

*Introductory Note: In August, 2015, the MMUUS Green Sanctuary Committee and Social Justice Committee were combined to form the Green & Social Justice Committee. Beginning this chronological year, the Going Green column in the Monthly Newsletter will be alternated with a Seeking Social Justice column. The column has usually been written by a member of the committee, but any member of MMUUS is welcome to submit an article covering either environmental or social justice issues (or both).*

“Do You Have To Be An Activist To Be A Unitarian Universalist?”

In the past 2 ½ years, the Green and Social Justice Committee has endeavored to facilitate action plans that involved the entire congregation. Such activism resulted in a Winter Coat and Clothing Drive and Starter Gift contributions to the Center for New Americans and a Water Drive for folks in Flint, Michigan, as examples. Our Green and Social Justice Hot Line was activated in January 2017 to provide a system for over 50 people who chose to participate in directly contacting local, state and federal legislators on current issues. The committee is dedicated to continue its work, to provide initiatives, and action plans with the hope that more congregants will get involved. There are also MMUUS individuals who take it upon themselves to initiate activism such as the current efforts on behalf of the people of Puerto Rico.



Such activism can depend on the level of commitment. In regards to that level, the question we should perhaps ask ourselves at this time of political and social strife in our country is suggested by an article in the most current issue of the UU WORLD magazine, “Do You Have To Be An Activist To Be A Unitarian Universalist?” In the article, six UU leaders shared their thoughts on this question. (The article is very much recommended for reading in its entirety). What most of the authors agreed upon was putting our seven principles into action. I would add, personal action. For a working parent with children, the level of commitment often equates to time and priorities. But, as one contributor to this article stated, “... It is about being a person who lives out their principles in their home, at the job, in their congregation, and anywhere else their life might take them.” Unitarian Universalism and our MMUUS committees as well as MMUUS individuals provide the tools and guidelines for involvement in social consciousness. It is up to us to help put the guidelines into action. As our beloved community moves toward the acquisition of a landed minister, who will provide leadership and serve as an example in the areas of environmental and social justice, the question of the article, I would suggest, should not be rhetorical for us as congregants of May Memorial. It should be a question that we should try and answer, not just ask, as we face a new year with new demands. Let us all exemplify our activism in some form. Let our service begin.

Bess Kamerance, Co-Chair, Green and Social Justice Committee

## Ministry Committees

Care Ring	Carol Bickart, Chair	<a href="mailto:carering@mmuus.org">carering@mmuus.org</a>
Green & Social Justice	Peter Cannavo and Barbara Kamerance, Co-chairs	<a href="mailto:green@mmuus.org">green@mmuus.org</a>
Religious Education	Stacy Sceiford, Lead	<a href="mailto:re@mmuus.org">re@mmuus.org</a>

### **Transitions Team**

Pastor Sunshine Wolfe, Lead  
 Alexa Carter  
 Therese Hogle  
 Don MacKay  
 Barbara Monsour  
 Mardie Ninno  
 Jason Winkler  
[transition@mmuus.org](mailto:transition@mmuus.org)

### **Worship Associates**

Pastor Sunshine Wolfe, Lead  
 Randy Archambault  
 Barbara Kamerance  
 Gabor Hardy  
 Amanda Perrine  
 Kevin Salamone  
 Amanda Winkler



## January 2018 Services at The Nottingham

The following weekly services will be held at *The Nottingham* in September. Join us on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Meeting Room at *The Nottingham* (1301 Nottingham Road, Jamesville, NY 13078). All are welcome.

### January 2

Bethany Russell-Lowe

Ministerial Intern at May Memorial and First UU churches

### January 9

Rev. BJ Norrix, Pastor Erwin

First United Methodist Church, Syracuse

### January 16

Pastor Sunshine J. Wolfe

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

### January 23

Rev. Don Megnin

Retired Professor of International Politics and United Methodist Minister living at The Nottingham

### January 30

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias

First Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse

## Interfaith Harmony Event on Monday, February 5 at 6:30 PM at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevras Shas

Each year, houses of worship across Syracuse gather to celebrate and promote interfaith dialogue. This year, the theme of this event is "Voices in Harmony." Each group that attends is asked to offer a short presentation on their own faith tradition. This year, members of First UU and May Memorial will offer a song of the 7 Principles set to music by May Memorial member Fred Fiske. Sara Jo Brandt-Doelle will lead two rehearsals to learn and practice the song on Sundays January 14 and 28 at 12:15 at First UU in the Sanctuary. You *must* attend one rehearsal to participate in February 5, attendance at both rehearsals would be preferred. Rehearsals will be short, so please be on time. If you'd like to participate, contact Sara at [sarajobrandt@hotmail.com](mailto:sarajobrandt@hotmail.com) by January 13. People of all ages are welcome to participate! No prior experience required. For more information, go here (<https://www.interfaithworkscny.org/event/the-8th-annual-world-interfaith-harmony-assembly/>) or here (<https://www.facebook.com/events/151037212195251/>).



**Tai Chi in the Social Hall  
FREE**

**3:00 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**Yoga in the Social Hall**

**10:00 am Saturdays**

Contact Tedra Needle  
[tedraneedle@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tedraneedle@twcny.rr.com)

**Yoga Kids in the Social Hall**

**5:00 pm Tuesdays**

Contact Julie Daniel  
[jdanielyoga@gmail.com](mailto:jdanielyoga@gmail.com)

## Save the Date

March 24, 2018—Saturday afternoon 3-5 to celebrate the 90th birthday of Akira Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu at a reception at May Memorial. Watch for more information

Our annual multigenerational **Potluck and Bingo Party** has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 27th from 5:30-7:30 in the Social Hall. Be sure to mark your calendars! This is great fun....and EVERYONE is a winner! Cost: \$1/person (proceeds to to our Homeless & Hungry Fund).



This is what you need to bring: a dish to share, your own place settings (this is a GREEN event!), an item for the gift table for each person in your family playing. Suggested prize items for **kids**: books, toys, craft kits, etc; for **adults**: a bottle of wine, fine chocolates, movie tickets, etc.

Drinks will be provided....including beer and wine for \$1. Hope to see you there!

## FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

During the past months, many members and friends have enjoyed taking part in the Friendship Gatherings that were offered in conjunction with the April Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser. Folks gathered for brunches, patio picnics, and formal dinners. The response was so positive and the gatherings so enjoyable, that we would like to repeat this fund raiser and expand its scope.



Here's how it will go:

- Volunteers will offer a social gathering opportunity with the location and menu of their choice
  - The Social Hall is available for those who have a small living space
  - Any time or type of event is welcome - Brunch, Lunch, Cocktails, Dinner
- Hosts determine the number of guests they can welcome
- Hosts choose a date and time. Any time in the coming church year is fine.
- A cost for the event is set by the hosts and fund raising organizers. This can vary from one event to another.
- A host may request part of the event price to defray costs or donate the entire amount to MMUUS
- Advertising and sign ups for events will take place as soon as a calendar of events has been established.
- Individuals or groups may act as hosts. An event may even be offered by a committee or existing group.
- Please think about getting involved in this very social fund raiser. Events may have a theme or an activity included as well. Music, charades, or trivia might be offered if those are your favorite things. Please contact Alexa Carter [alexacarteralexa@icloud.com](mailto:alexacarteralexa@icloud.com) or Jennifer Newman [mamash@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mamash@twcny.rr.com) with questions or to get your event on the calendar.



Unirondack, located about 2.5 hours north of Syracuse, is a Unitarian Universalist summer camp for youth ages 8 - 17. Many at May Memorial have been to Unirondack and can speak to its beauty, but for those who have never been or who have further questions, *Kris Fiore*, Unirondack's Director will be joining us **Sunday, January 28th**.



Kris will have a table set up and will be at service Sunday morning. He welcomes youth and parents alike to stop by and say hi, share a story about camp, or ask any questions you might have about life at Unirondack.

### Emergency Response and Safety Training

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00pm-3:30pm

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00pm-2:30pm

Childcare available upon request.

This training covers the major risks and needed responses in the event of emergency at May Memorial. How do you respond to a medical emergency in worship or an active shooter situation? Do you know how to prevent identity theft or cybercrime at May? This workshop covers the practical details and systems in place to safely respond to many situations that we may face. All adults are encouraged to attend. *Members of the Board, Chairs of committees, and those who lead groups and events at May Memorial are specifically encouraged to attend.*

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13214  
315.446.8920  
office@mmuus.org  
Office hours: Mon- Fri 10am-4pm

# JANUARY

Friday	January 5	7:30 pm	FOLKUS	Social Hall
Saturday	January 6	9:30 am	Yoga	Social Hall
Sunday	January 7	10:30 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service First Sunday Luncheon	Sanctuary Social Hall
Tuesday	January 9	5:00 pm	Yoga Kids	Social Hall
Thursday	January 11	6:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Saturday	January 13	10:00 am	Yoga	Social Hall
Sunday	January 14	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 12:15 pm	PR Committee Worship Service Coffee Hour Transforming Spirit Spanofiles	Memorial Room Sanctuary Social Hall Sanctuary Coming of Age
Tuesday	January 16	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Yoga Kids Board of Trustees Meeting	Social Hall Memorial Room
Wednesday	January 17	2:00 pm	Safety Training	Memorial Room
Friday	January 19	7:30 pm	FOLKUS	Social Hall
Saturday	January 20	10:00 am	Yoga	Social Hall
Sunday	January 21	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Green & Social Justice Committee Worship Service Coffee Hour	Memorial Room Sanctuary Social Hall
Tuesday	January 23	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Yoga Kids Twisted Sisters	Social Hall Memorial Room
Thursday	January 25	5:00 pm	FOLKUS Open Mic	Social Hall
Saturday	January 27	10:00 am 5:30 pm	Yoga BINGO Pot Luck	Social Hall Social Hall
Sunday	January 28	10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 12:15 pm 1:00 pm	Worship Service Coffee Hour Transforming Spirit Spanofiles Safety Training	Sanctuary Social Hall Memorial Room Coming of Age Memorial Room
Tuesday	January 30	5:00 pm	Yoga Kids	Social Hall