



## View from the Study Window...

Later this month I will be in Sudbury, Massachusetts for the annual ministers' gathering "Fraters of the Wayside Inn". We will present and respond to papers pertinent to ministry. But mostly we will enjoy the company of our steadfast colleagues. So in honor of the fraters, I give you the wisdom of one member, retired minister Rev. Charles Gaines:

*"An insight I have learned from my years in ministry comes from my own Universalist theology. It concerns the idea that a loving God does not condemn anyone to eternal damnation. And when I apply this concept here on earth, I feel it is my responsibility to work for inclusion in all contexts.*

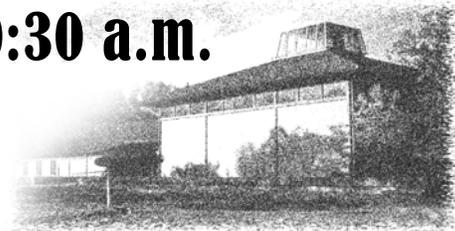
*I always have felt that ostracism of any kind is a hell on earth, imposed by those who have the*

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



### January 18

#### Living a Good Life—Happiness

*Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom*

Two centuries ago, it was a Universalist article of faith that "holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected". Do we still believe this? Why?

### January 25

#### Spiritual Practice

*Alexa Carter*

Please join us this Sunday for a reflection on spirituality and how we use it in our daily lives.

### February 1

#### Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

\* 12:00 pm—First Sunday Luncheon in the Social Hall





## CareRing News & Notes

Congratulations to **Janet and Rog Hiemstra** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Isabel Thayer Hiemstra**, who was born the evening of December 30<sup>th</sup>. Isabel and her Mom are doing great.

\* \* \* \* \*

*We want to include your news in this column. Although news of illness and bereavement will always be covered (if we know about it and you consent,) GOOD NEWS is especially welcome to balance it. Please let a member of the CareRing (**Peggy Ryfun, Carol Bickart, or Remo Bianco**) know of your joys as well as your sorrows. We can be reached at [carering@mmuus.org](mailto:carering@mmuus.org).*

"MAY MEMORIAL  
LOVES THE ARTS  
MONTH"



## Coming Soon—The May Cabaret

**Y**ou don't want to miss The May Cabaret on **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary**. This annual entertainment event is brought to you by the Music and Arts Committee.

Come and enjoy a terrific variety of performances by our members. Did you know how gifted our members are? They will make your vital signs happy at this once a year production.

## Act fast! There's still time for us to enjoy your talent!

**J**oin your artistic friends and display your artwork, perform in the talent show, or both during February—"May Memorial Loves the Arts" month.

- **Artists**—Join your artistic friends and display your artwork, perform in the *May Cabaret Talent Show*, or both during February—"May Memorial Loves the Arts" month.
- **Performers**—It's only once a year! Sign up now for the *May Cabaret*, which will be held after church on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and give us the opportunity to applaud your talent.

To take part in either, contact **Lynne Perry** at [clynneperry@gmail.com](mailto:clynneperry@gmail.com) or 247-9214. We'll be glad you did!

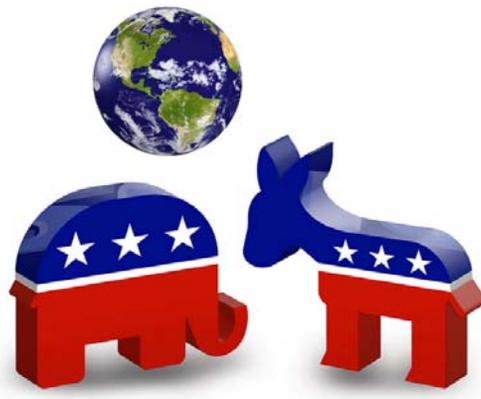
All of us are very frustrated because of the extreme difficulty of getting our political and corporate leaders to change their current course of action of polluting and destroying our environment. Our leaders, whose minds are entrenched with opposing and polarizing beliefs, are not willing to do what is necessary to protect our environment. The cause for this stems from extreme political ideology and greed for profit. To make any real progress will require changing these entrenched minds, but how? Everyone says it's impossible!

A strong initiative for dealing with this serious problem is coming from the **Institute for Cultural Evolution** and its current effort is called *"Depolarizing the American Mind—How America Can Grow Beyond Its Currently Polarized Politics"*. Political gridlock in Washington is one of the most troubling problems faced by America today. The polarized state of our democracy has been called a *"wicked problem"* because there are multiple causes but no clear solutions. As a result of this logjam in the legislature, action on other pressing problems is stalled. Important issues such as income inequality, climate change, budget deficits, campaign finance reform, immigration reform, and tax reform all remain unaddressed.

Some of America's best minds are working on specific proposals to reduce gridlock and political polarization. Some proposals call for a revitalization of the political center through the formation of a third party that represents independent voters. Others recommend action at the state level that employs ballot referendums to disempower partisan control over primaries and congressional redistricting. Still others argue that polarization results from the corrupting influence of money in politics, which causes legislators to answer more to special interest groups and large campaign contributors than to voters who favor bipartisan compromise. Many of these proposals tend to assume that the problem lies with the parties or structural elements within our political system. Polarization, in other words, is seen as unrepresentative of the people's will. But the focus of the **Institute for Cultural Evolution** (ICE) is on understanding the cultural roots of the problem and envisioning the cultural solutions that could emerge. Often the assumption in the mainstream media is that both sides are responsible, which leads to the conclusion that the appropriate remedy is for politicians to simply meet in the middle and compromise for the greater good. However, if liberals respond to the provocations of the right with rigidity, vitriol, outrage, and a growing unwillingness to compromise, they only strengthen the hand of their conservative opponents.

ICE believes that the causes of polarization are in fact to be found not just in

*(continued above right)*



*("GoinGreen" continued)*

the Republican retrenchment for the past twenty years, but in the liberal and progressive flowering that happened in the decades before that. ICE believes that the perceived threats posed by the cultural developments that began in the 1960's and 70's that have pushed many Republicans to move further to the right. In the 1960's and 1970's, America's *"liberal consensus"* became destabilized by the rise of a distinct countercultural worldview, which ICE identifies by the term *"post modernism"*. This progressive postmodern worldview burst onto the political scene with all the promise characteristic of new movements. As millions began to identify with the values of this worldview, it changed the political dynamics of the country permanently. The *"post-war consensus"* of previous decades was effectively broken. Compromise has thus become ever more difficult, resulting in an increasingly dysfunctional political system which can only be understood through an increasingly sophisticated cultural analysis. Postmodernism has the potential to be the most evolved form of culture yet to appear. Its values and concerns have already transformed our society. But unlike centrist proposals, which seek to *"cut off the extremes"*, ICE's analysis recognizes the importance of postmodernism's role as the most progressive segment of American culture. On the other hand, postmodernism is too immature and countercultural to provide effective leadership for the nation as a whole because postmodern positions tend to threaten the very identity of many cultural modernists and traditionalist Americans. As a result, studies show that

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*("GoinGreen" continued from page 3)*

one's position on climate change can now be reliably predicted by one's party affiliation. Even the use of the word "*environmentalism*" has now become highly polarizing. This means that managing America's highly polarized democracy will inevitably entail the emergence of a less countercultural, less divisive "*Future Left*". Because the two sides of this polarity are interdependent, you cannot choose one as a 'solution' and neglect the other. The objective is to get the best of both opposites while avoiding the limits of each. ICE's campaign to reduce polarization seeks to influence both Democrats and Republicans by suggesting what forward movement means for each—the best aspects of both sides need each other and are worthy of preservation. It is imperative that we find a way to live in harmony with the earth and each other if we hope to survive on this beautiful planet of ours.

All of this is much more than just a theory; ICE is building an organization that will actually apply the theory. Two men are the founders and driving force of the Institute for Cultural Evolution—Steve McIntosh who is the author of "*Evolution's Purpose: An Integral Interpretation of the Scientific Story of Our Origins*" and Carter Phipps who is the author of "*Evolutionaries: Unlocking the Spiritual and Cultural Potential of Science's Greatest Idea*".

The short summary above is just a peek into the program ICE is working on—a 24 page detailed document is available. Please go to the website [www.CulturalEvolution.org](http://www.CulturalEvolution.org).

~ David Cummings,  
Green Sanctuary Committee

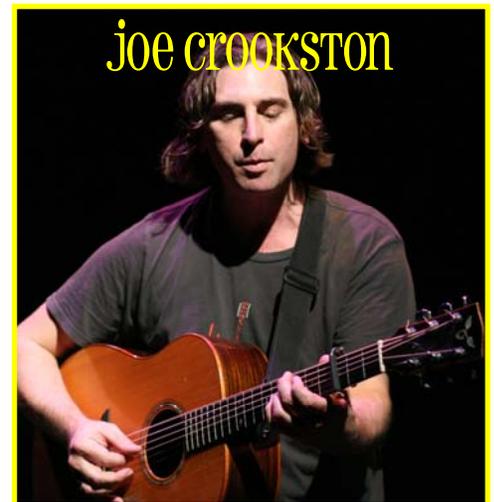
## January 23 is May Memorial Appreciation Night at the Folkus Project



**T**he Folkus Project's concert on **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** here at MMUUS will double as their annual "May Memorial Appreciation Night". **Any member of May attending the show, along with one guest, may attend the show at a discounted price of \$10.** "*We love to get a few extra May denizens to a Folkus show at least once a year,*" says Folkus volunteer Dana Cooke, "*so they can see what we do and receive our appreciation directly. At every show, we tell the audience that Folkus would be impossible without May's support, and it's true!*"

**The performer on January 23<sup>rd</sup> is Joe Crookston.**

Crookston hails from Ithaca but enjoys a growing national reputation. In fact, in a recent survey of folk-music disc jockeys, Crookston was named one of the top folk acts of 2014. He is known for well-crafted and moving story-songs, often based on oral-history research he has done (including a large grant-funded project in New York state a few years back). Plus, he is a glowing and engaging performer — one whose warm sincerity and generosity of the heart transmits to everyone in the room. This will be a show easily enjoyed by anyone.



**The show starts at 8:00 pm on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with doors opening at 7:30 pm.** You can buy tickets in advance by visiting [www.folkus.org](http://www.folkus.org) and following the link to the special May Memorial members' PayPal page; or pay at the door, with cash, on the night of the show.

The nonprofit Folkus Project is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of presenting folk/acoustic concerts at MMUUS. As many as 18 concerts are held at May every year, in categories ranging from singer-songwriter to acoustic blues, Americana, Celtic, womyn's music, bluegrass, and similar forms. Each year, Folkus makes a sizable donation to May, drawn from the receipts at the concert snack-and-beverage tables.



# St. Lawrence District/CEG Event Schedule

**January 23-25, 2015**

***Our Whole Lives (OWL) Teacher Training***

UU Church in Cherry Hill, NJ

Registration Deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>

Details/Registration: <http://www.cerguua.org/events-90926/cegevents-1879/641-15njelemowl.html>

**January 24, 2015**

***Small Wonder (A Day of Learning & Sharing for Smaller Congregations)***

UU Congregation of Stamford, CT

Details/Registration: <http://www.cerguua.org/events-90926/cegevents-1879/607-smallwonder.html>

**February 6-8, 2015**

***Nostalgicon (Youth Con)***

UUC Binghamton

Early Bird Deadline: January 18<sup>th</sup>

Regular Deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup>

Registration: <http://www.sld.cerguua.org/calendar1.html>

**February 20-22, 2015**

***Building Authentic Diversity***

First Unitarian Church of Rochester

Details to follow soon!

**March 5-6, 2015**

***Train to Selma for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

Details/Registration: <http://www.cerguua.org/events-90926/cegevents-1879/647-selma.html>

**March 27-28, 2015**

***St. Lawrence & Ohio-Meadville Joint District Assembly***

Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY

District Assembly Pages: <http://www.sld.cerguua.org/conggrowth/districtassembly.html>

(schedule, workshops, registration & more)

## View from the Study Window

*(continued from page 1)*

*power to control through their own sense of superiority. Yet I believe that every person, no matter how evil, has the seed of goodness within. And no person, because of his or her past, must forever be alienated from the trust and goodwill of the community."*

~ 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.

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

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## Calendar

### Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

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

### Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

|          |                               |           |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 9:40 am  | Individual Spiritual Practice | Creekside |
| 10:30 am | Worship Service               | Sanctuary |
| 10:30 am | Teenz                         | First UU  |
| 12:15 pm | Spanophiles                   | COA       |

### Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

|         |  |               |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 6:30 pm | <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b><br><b>*Office Closed*</b><br>Spiritual Enrichment Group | Memorial Room |
|---------|--|---------------|

### Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

|         |               |             |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| 3:00 pm | T'ai Chi Chih | Social Hall |
|---------|---------------|-------------|

### Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

|         |                                     |             |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 6:30 am | Men's Fellowship Potluck/Discussion | Social Hall |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------|

### Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

### Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

|         |                               |       |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 8:00 pm | Folkus Concert: Joe Crookston | MMUUS |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|

### Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

|          |                               |           |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 9:40 am  | Individual Spiritual Practice | Creekside |
| 10:30 am | Worship Service               | Sanctuary |
| 10:30 am | Teenz                         | First UU  |

### Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

|         |                            |               |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 6:30 pm | Spiritual Enrichment Group | Memorial Room |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------|

### Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

|         |               |             |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| 3:00 pm | T'ai Chi Chih | Social Hall |
|---------|---------------|-------------|

### Thursday, January 29<sup>nd</sup>

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