



## Mid-Year Report to the Congregation

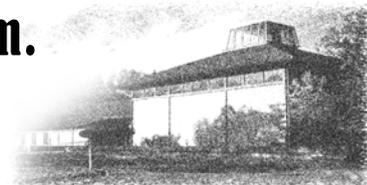
Please join members of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee for a mid-year report to the congregation. **We will meet in the Sanctuary at noon on January 24, 2016** to review MMUUS' finances to date, as well as to share information about the work your Board of Trustees has been doing. This will include an update on our plans to search for an interim minister, who will begin this August. It is also a chance for you to chat with our leadership about all things MMUUS.

Contact **Alice Chico** (Board Secretary) with your questions (478-2393/[Chico421@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Chico421@twcny.rr.com)). See you there!

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



### 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 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

#### **Kyle Thomas** (Syracuse Citizens Climate Lobby Group Leader)

Kyle Thomas, Citizens Climate Lobby's (CCL) 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.

### February 7

#### **Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey**



## Care Ring News & Notes

May Memorial member **Anita Hastings** and Rick Slagle were wed on December 19, 2015, with family and close friends in attendance. Congratulations, Anita and Rick! We wish you many happy years together!

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 know of your joys as well as your sorrows. We can be reached at [carering@mmuus.org](mailto:carering@mmuus.org).

### The Growing Place Child Care Center

Since beginning operations in 1983, The Growing Place (located in the lower level of May Memorial) offers infant, toddler, and preschool programs.

Although there are no childcare openings at the moment, please watch for opening notices, which will appear in future newsletters.



## May Memorial's Annual Potluck and Bingo Party

**M**ay Memorial's Annual Potluck and Bingo Party will take place on **Saturday, January 23rd, from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm in the Social Hall.** We hope you can come, and bring some friends! The good news is that **EVERYONE IS A WINNER!**

Here are some guidelines:

- Bring your own place settings (this is a green event!)
- Bring a dish to share (we will provide drinks)
- Bring a gift for the prize table—1 for each person playing Bingo.
- Come with a good appetite for food and fun!

Cost \$1/person (proceeds will go to our Homeless & Hungry fund).

Questions? Contact **Julie Daniel** at [jdanielyoga@gmail.com](mailto:jdanielyoga@gmail.com) or call 622-3423.



## KICK OFF COOK OFF

### Kick Off-Cook Off Scheduled for March 13

**I**t'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.



~ Alexa Carter

President's Letter



Update on Change for Change

We are happy to report that in November/December 2015, our Change for Change program collected \$584.64 for Francis House, a group that provides a home and supportive extended family to people with terminal illnesses with a prognosis of six months or less to live

The Christmas Eve offering of \$478 went to UUSC Disaster Relief Fund.

January/February 2016 donations will go to Vera House, a group that tirelessly works to end domestic and sexual violence and other forms of abuse.

Thank you, everyone!!!

Greeting and Salutations Beloved Community!

The Board of Trustees is having an open meeting (board chat) on January 24th, at noon in the Sanctuary for anyone who has any questions about what the board is up to. Childcare will be provided.

I received a great email this week that I would like to share:

"We visited May Memorial recently, and found the people were warm, welcoming, and nice. The services, however, were simply not the level of intellectual depth we had expected. Now that May is searching for an interim pastor, I wonder what kind of direction May will take. Will it become a more intellectually curious and challenging place? Will it be true to the UU history of diverse forms of knowledge and intellectual debate?"

What great questions!

I'm not sure that our community is moving toward being more intellectually curious. I've heard from many of you who have told me you are "spiritual but not religious". I'm not sure if that means you have existential leanings, and/or that you want to be part of a community that practices gratitude and reverence to life, without the commitment to having a personal relationship with Jesus. As UUs, we believe what our hearts tell us is our truth—so perhaps we don't want anyone messing with our own truth! Maybe we don't want to be challenged intellectually. Nobody tells us what to believe, and perhaps that's part of the appeal of being UU.

Personally, I'm not buying it. I think in order to grow we need to be challenged. We need to stretch ourselves intellectually, while being open to new possibilities—and yes, new challenges.

Sure, there are some of you who are looking for a comfortable and tolerant community of friends to hang out with on Sunday morning. I get that! But as more and more churches become tolerant of everyone who walks in the door, how do we take what we have, and market it to the next generation of UUs? Think about it!

See you on Sunday!

~ Mariah Ducey, President, MMUUS

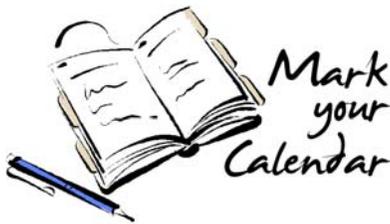
Spend a Tuesday evening with

## Twisted Sisters

*Twisted Sisters* is an open, drop-in, stress-free, commitment-free, women's social group celebrating the unique camaraderie of women.

We will meet next on **Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Room.** All UU women are welcome—from First UU, May Memorial, or another congregation. Snacks to share are nice, but not required.

If you would like to plan ahead, we meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.



## Return of "Pub Night"

**When: Friday, February 12, 2016**

In honor of **Malcolm Clark** retiring from the Finance Committee (after more than 50 years of service!), we are bringing back *Pub Night!*

More details will be made available in upcoming newsletters and announcements!

## Great Decisions Group forming at May Memorial

**T**he Foreign Policy Association (FPA) was formed in 1918. It is highly respected, and international leaders and Presidents from both parties routinely address its yearly meetings. Since 1954, FPA has run a program known as Great Decisions. I was in a Great Decisions Group at May Memorial in the 1980s, and want to get with the program again **because** it was high quality and good way to get to know and make friends with people.

Each year, experts at FPA select 8 foreign policy issues that are current and complicated. They publish briefing books and DVDs for use by local groups around the country. People who are in a Great Decisions Group purchase their own FPA briefing books. As a group, they can also purchase a set of DVDs on point. From my past experience, these briefing books present information that is often not widely publicized, and various points of view on complicated issues important to us. The materials lead to informed discussions of nuanced policies. The books and website also provide leads for additional information for those with the necessary time and interest.

This year's topics are:

- Shifting Alliances in the Middle East
- The Rise of ISIS
- The Future of Kurdistan
- International Migration
- Korean Choices
- The United Nations Post-2015
- Climate Geopolitics
- Cuba and the U.S.

What strikes me about these briefing books is their high quality and their presentation of multiple ways of thinking about important current issues. You will learn details not generally mentioned on TV or in mainstream print media on important issues that merit serious discussion.

Great Decision Groups can be formed for example on college campuses, in library study groups, and faith-based communities. In 2015, there were many hundreds of these groups, including UU societies. The groups meet weekly or biweekly for 8 sessions. At the conclusion of each meeting, certain questions are presented for votes and the votes of all groups are combined by FPA. These vote totals are presented to our nation's President, Secretaries of State and Defense, and all members of Congress.

I will show my copy of the 2016 Briefing Book after services on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, to all who are interested. You can also obtain more information at <http://www.fpa.org/>.

After Sunday services at May Memorial on January 24<sup>th</sup>, I will place a bulk order for books and a DVD set. During Coffee Hour that day, we could have a brief meeting to discuss dates for 8 weekly or biweekly group meetings. If you are interested but can't make the meeting, just let me know.

In a Presidential election year, this is particularly timely. If you want to be smarter at the end of the year than you are now, here's where to start.

~ Peter Colman  
([sailfast@windstream.net](mailto:sailfast@windstream.net))

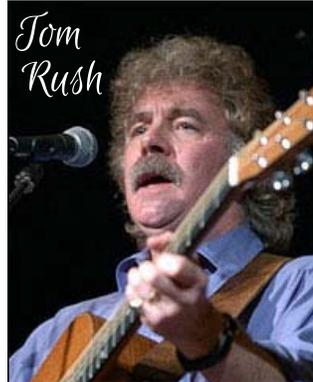


# MUSIC AND THE ARTS

## Upcoming Folkus Concerts



**January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 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 1960s folk revival 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)

**February 5<sup>th</sup> - The Honey Dewdrops** - The Honey Dewdrops are the Virginia-based roots duet of Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish. With a blend of new Americana and traditional folk, they create inspired songs rooted in the experiences and lives of everyone. It's music made in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with a sparse Appalachian clarity on every song.



Their songs shine with energy and emotion through intimate performances featuring a handful of acoustic instruments and tightly layered harmonies. On stage, the Honey Dewdrops dynamically blend their instruments and voices by singing and playing into a single microphone. There is a high lonesome quality to the way their voices join that is familiar, yet the mixture is unique. In their own way, the duo fills the room with energy and emotion that linger long after the show.

Tickets are \$15 (Folkus Member Price: \$12) **\*For the Honey Dewdrops' February 5<sup>th</sup> concert, members of May Memorial may attend the concert for a special price of \$10.\***

All shows begin at 8:00 pm.

To reserve tickets, or for details and info, please visit <http://www.folkus.org>.



## Members of May Memorial to display their work during MMUUS Loves the Arts

You'll especially enjoy our February show, when our members exhibit their art, photography and writings. Here they are:

**Art:** Bev Adams, Joan Applebaum, Peter Cannavo, Lydia Grey, Lisa Harter, Joyce Homan, Dick Pearson, and Sue Savion

**Photography:** Bob Burdick

**Writing:** Nan Gartner, Ann Pearson, Dick Pearson, Donna Rohde, and Sue Savion

This will be a great show – We have so many creative people – this will be a great show! And there will be more talented ones in our March 20 talent show. Stay tuned for them.

~ Lynne Perry  
Chair, Music & Arts Committee

## Folkus' May Memorial Appreciation Night is February 5



On Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Folkus is offering a special discounted ticket price of \$10.00 to any May Memorial member for the Honey Dewdrops concert. When you arrive, just let a Folkus member know you're a member of May Memorial.

If you want to buy your tickets in advance, you may claim your "refund" on the night of the show.

For more information about the Honey Dewdrops concert, see the article to the left.

## Drum Circle

Sunday,  
January 31<sup>st</sup>,  
12:00 pm

### May Memorial's Sanctuary



There are many styles of drum circle facilitation. Sandra offers a relaxing rhythmic interaction which offers drummers opportunities to express, explore and play with percussion. All levels are invited and beginners are warmly welcomed. Sandra offers a quick hand drum lesson in the beginning and we all enjoy riding the waves of soothing rhythms and upbeat releases.

*"....., The magic of the drum circle has an effect on our hearts and minds as we allow ourselves time to just "be". Our cells remember the first sound we heard before our birth; a re-connection to the mother drum. Drum circle is sacred space that brings us back to other earth to nurture ourselves, find peace and connect with ourselves and our drum community."*

Bring your own drum or reserve one. Please RSVP **Carroll Grant** at 882-4910 or [cgrant6@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cgrant6@twcny.rr.com).



THE WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE

## White Privilege Conference

The conference will be held in Philadelphia, from Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>—Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Questions? Email [wpcinfo@theprivilegeinstitute.com](mailto:wpcinfo@theprivilegeinstitute.com).

More information is available at [www.whiteprivilegeconference.com](http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com).

## Community News



## Looking for a different kind of vacation this year?

If so, please read on! *WhaleCoast Alaska* is a Unitarian Universalist eco-cultural and spiritual program for people who are looking for a more authentic Alaskan experience. *WhaleCoast Alaska* is operated in cooperation with four UU Alaska fellowships – Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka – that provide home stays, dinner parties, activities, and transportation for the guests.

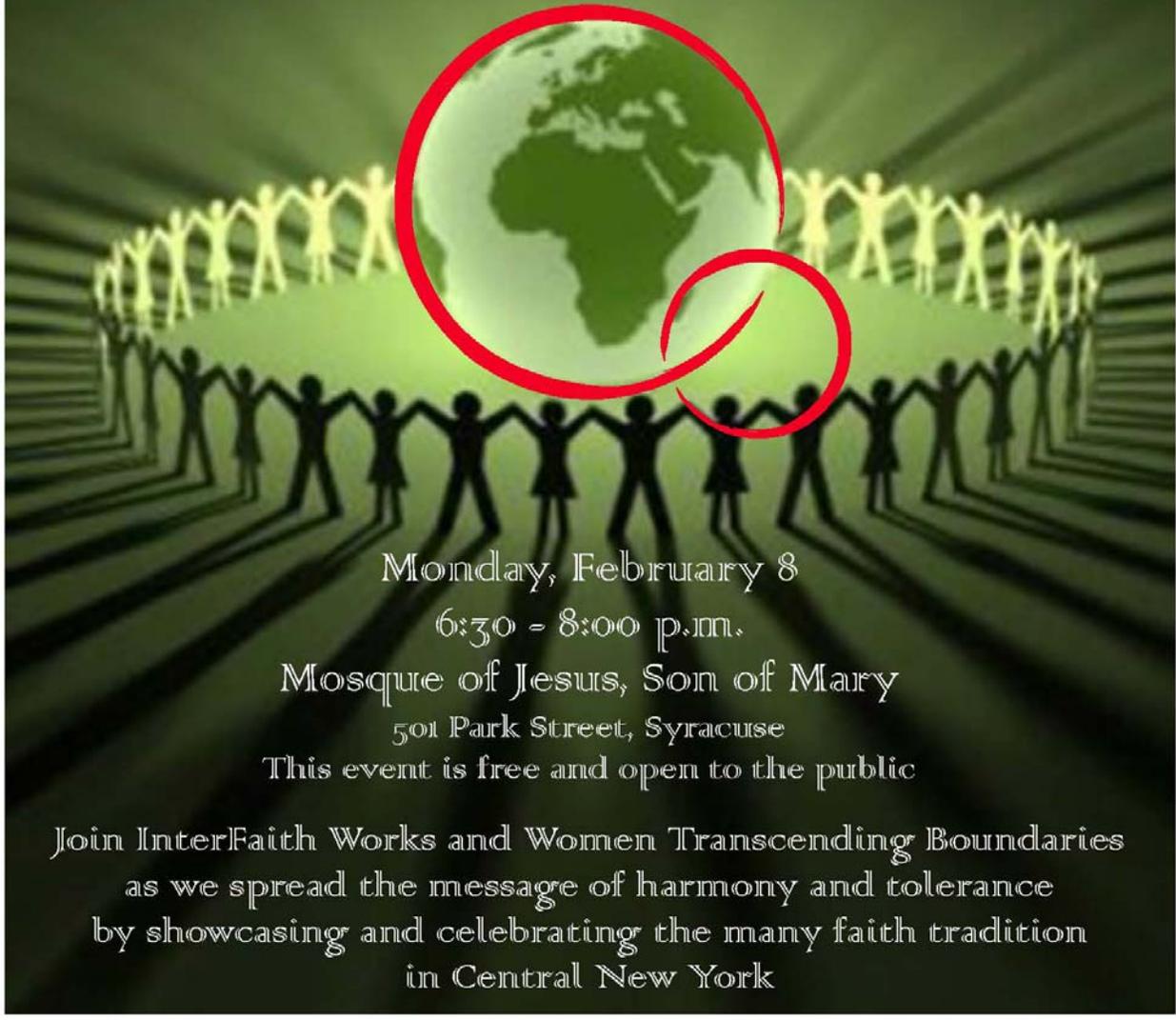
Significant funds raised through *WhaleCoast Alaska* helped finance the construction of the farthest north UU church in the world in Fairbanks. The Anchorage UU congregation recently moved into a beautiful new sanctuary with the help of tour proceeds. In 2015, the participating Alaska congregations raised over \$36,000 through *WhaleCoast Alaska*. Over the past 23 years, a total of over \$430,000 has been raised for the work of these congregations. Over a thousand guests have visited Alaska with our program.

We travel throughout Alaska to see wildlife in their natural habitats – humpback and killer whales, sea lions, seals and sea otters; bears, wolves, moose, caribou, Dall sheep, eagles, murrets, puffins and other birds in some of North America's most beautiful scenery.

This year's exciting getaway is our **National Park Tour**, which takes place from **June 11-20, 2016**. Information on the National Park Tour is available at <http://www.whalecoastak.org/nptourdescription.html>.

You will be impressed with the uniqueness and quality of our *WhaleCoast Alaska* tours. If you are looking for a more personal and authentic Alaskan experience, this is the right tour for you! For more information, email the *WhaleCoast Alaska* tour directors at [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call (907) 322-4966.

6th Annual World Interfaith Harmony Assembly  
*Opening Windows of Understanding*



Monday, February 8

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Mosque of Jesus, Son of Mary

501 Park Street, Syracuse

This event is free and open to the public

Join InterFaith Works and Women Transcending Boundaries  
as we spread the message of harmony and tolerance  
by showcasing and celebrating the many faith tradition  
in Central New York

World Interfaith Harmony Week has been celebrated since 2010 when it was first proposed at the United Nations General Assembly by King Abdullah II of Jordan. It provides a platform for all interfaith and goodwill organizations to demonstrate their impact and necessity. The movement is strengthened by building ties among world religions, educating ourselves about each other, and helping our community appreciate the beauty and diversity of our faith traditions and our diverse cultures.

For more information, contact InterFaith Works' Daryl Files at 449-3552, ext. 208 or email [dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org).



[www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com](http://www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com) [www.interfaithworkscny.org](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org)  
[www.wtb.org](http://www.wtb.org)



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

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS  
Email:  
newsletter@mmuus.org

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

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society  
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Syracuse, NY 13214

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**TIME VALUE**

**Calendar**

<b>Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30 am	Worship Committee	Memorial Room
<b>Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30 am 10:30 am	Worship Service Teenz	Sanctuary Teen Room
<b>Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup></b> 6:30 pm	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>*Office Closed*</b> Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
<b>Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup></b> 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
<b>Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup></b> 3:00 pm 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group Men's Fellowship Discussion/Potluck	Memorial Room Social Hall
<b>Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup></b> 3:00 pm 7:30 pm	T'ai Chi Chih Choir Rehearsal	Social Hall Sanctuary
<b>Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 8:00 pm	Folkus Concert: Tom Rush	MMUUS
<b>Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 10:00 am—3:00 pm 6:00 pm—8:00 pm	St. Lawrence District Meeting Annual Potluck & Bingo Party	Memorial Room Social Hall
<b>Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm—1:00 pm 12:15 pm	Worship Service Teenz Board Chat Spanophiles	Sanctuary Teen Room Sanctuary COA
<b>Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup></b> 4:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
<b>Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup></b> 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
<b>Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup></b> 1:30 pm 3:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bookenders T'ai Chi Chih Choir Rehearsal	Memorial Room Social Hall Sanctuary
<b>Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30 am	Green & Social Justice Cmtee.	Memorial Room
<b>Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup></b> 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Teenz Drum Circle	Sanctuary Teen Room Sanctuary

*(see page 6 for details)*