

# May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society



*We embrace all spiritual journeys and encourage service as we build a more loving and just world*

November 2018 Volume 81 No. 11



## Greetings from Your President!

I woke up this morning with the refrain from “The Fire of Commitment” insistently running through my brain. It’s not the usual kind of earworm, so I pulled out my hymnal to figure out what the heck my subconscious was urging me to pay attention to! It was the final phrase that stood out: “When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within, then our promise finds fulfillment and **our future can begin.**”

When I joined this church at the end of Reverend Jean’s ministry, think it’s safe to say, not many of us were looking toward the future with anything resembling a fire of commitment. But we’ve successfully made it through a healing transition, ending one ministerial relationship, spending a year in recovery without a minister, and then learning during two years with Pastor Sunshine, as she deftly pushed and prodded us in myriad ways to get unstuck. Through Sunshine’s workshops and discussions, we became more self-aware as individuals and as a congregation.

Systems theory, conflict styles, respectful communications, enneagram personality typing, re-establishing organizational structure, microaggression and white privilege awareness workshops – all of these made it possible for us to know ourselves, and to start looking toward the future. We created new statements of Mission (who we are) and Vision (where we want to go), and a new congregational Covenant. WE’VE DONE SO MUCH GOOD WORK TOGETHER!

And all that good work brought us to where we are now. At a place where “our future can begin” with Reverend Jo. In partnership with Rev. Jo and with her guidance, the Board continues to re-invent itself, and to structure its work to make time for asking big questions about where YOU want us to go, about what kind of church YOU want us to be. We’re ready to listen to the answers you have for us. At our last Board meeting, we realized that although *we’ve* made big changes in our governance model, and have empowered Committees to dis-

cuss issues and make decisions that might previously have been brought to the Board, we haven’t communicated that shift to the larger church community. We’ll take steps to fix that. In addition, “Chat with the Board” sessions are resuming, so please come see us with your concerns, questions, and thoughts. These are wonderful, magical times at May Memorial!

See you in church!

Jane Fagerland, President  
Board of Trustees



Join us on Sunday November 4 after Sunday services for a delicious lunch hosted by the Men of May Memorial!

**November 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.

**NOVEMBER 6**

Marty Pelham, Ministerial Intern  
First Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse  
Fred Fiske, Musician

**NOVEMBER 13**

Rev. BJ Norrix, Pastor  
Erwin First United Methodist Church, Syracuse  
Rev. Karen Bellimer, Musician

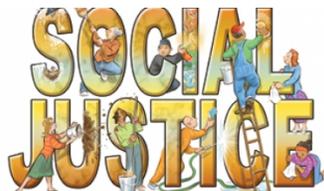
**NOVEMBER 20**

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias  
First Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse  
Sara-Jo Brandt-Doelle, Musician

**NOVEMBER 27**

Chaplain David E. Pasinski, M.Div. MA  
Remembrances & Healing  
Fred Fiske, musician

**These services are sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Society, and all leaders and musicians are volunteers**



**Social Justice Tuesday!  
Join us November 6 at noon!**

Join Rev. Jo on the front lawn/roadside of the church on the ***first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:30pm*** (or however long you have time). Bring your social justice signs no matter what they say! We are going to start becoming known again in this community and this is an easy way for us to be visible. If you would like to come but have trouble standing for long periods of time we will get a chair for you. This is a multigenerational event and kids are especially welcome as we teach them how to love out loud.

Hope to see you there!



**Getting in touch with Rev Jo**

Rev. Jo can be reached at  
[ministerjrev@gmail.com](mailto:ministerjrev@gmail.com) or  
by scheduling an appointment through  
[www.calendly.com/jrev](http://www.calendly.com/jrev).



This month I feel like the election needs a mention. I certainly cannot tell you who to vote for, but I can encourage you with much zeal to exercise your right to vote and if you have children at home to engage them in the process. Whenever possible, I have taken my kids with me into the voting booth. I remember when it was actually a booth and how cool it was to close the little curtain and have my own little voting hideout where I could click tiny levers into place and hear the satisfying clunk when I submitted my final ballot; this process was especially adventurous with toddlers in tow! The study carrels and scanner just don't have the same magic—but I take my kids with me anyway. We cram around my paper ballot as I carefully read over the choices and fill in my bubbles with black ink and then we all watch the computer gobble up the paper and light up a little check mark of approval—my vote was cast. I hope that by walking them through this process over and over again as children that they will see it as their civic duty and exercise their right to vote when they are old enough. For now, I feel like my vote carries an added weight, the weight of the best interests of my children's future



since they cannot yet vote for themselves. I realize that you don't have to have children to feel that weight; after all, our elected leaders lay out the path that our country will follow going into the future.

Admittedly this election feels especially weighty, like 500lb barbell kind of weighty. Regardless of where you fall on the political spectrum, I think everyone can recognize that our country is experiencing a division of values and vision. As Unitarian Universalists we uphold the principle of: "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large". Or in the simplified language we use in chapel to: "have a voice and work for the common good", which is immediately followed by an exclamation of "Woohoo!" Woohoo indeed, it does feel good to have a voice in government, and I intend to use mine.

I also find myself calling up the other principles when deciding on my vote as well, which candidate will value the worth and dignity of every person, which candidate will work to protect our interdependent web of life? I know that there is a lot of anxiety around this election on November 6<sup>th</sup>. No matter what the outcome, we have a responsibility to continue to hold our elected leaders accountable.

In Peace,

Stacy Sceiford,  
Director of Religious Education

### Reverend Jo's Start Up Important Information!



I have learned recently that for my start up, the entire congregation should only plan to come on Friday night (Nov 30th) from 6 to 8pm. We may have a potluck before but that has not yet been decided. ALL those who consider themselves church leaders should plan to be present on Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12, and the Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry should plan to be present on Friday night AND Saturday from 9:30 till about 3pm.



## History Corner

October was an exciting month for those of us who admire Rev. Samuel Joseph May, our second minister and namesake (1845-1868). The culmination was Rev. May's induction into the National Abolition Hall of Fame & Museum on NAOFM Non Oct. 20. After a formal nomination and seconding by banner sponsors, each inductee's banner was unveiled. It was an inspiring event, and May Memorial was well represented!

In the 19th century, Central New York was a hotbed of social reform, especially abolitionism and women's right. From his arrival in Syracuse in 1845 until his death, Sam May was right in the middle of things. We are thrilled that his contributions to abolition have been recognized by the NAHOFM.

In addition to honoring abolitionists for their work to end slavery, the NAHOFM's mission also affirms their commitment to what they call "the second and ongoing abolition – the moral conviction to end racism." Although slavery was abolished 150 years ago, we have only to listen to the news to know that racism is alive and well. Rev. May was committed to the cause of racial equality, as well as abolition. If he were alive today, it is very likely he would be supporting Black Lives Matter and fighting against prejudice and discrimination wherever they occur, from housing and jobs to unfair sentencing practices and attempts to suppress minority voting. We can carry on Rev. May's legacy by continuing to work for the equal treatment of minorities and all those who suffer from discrimination. (More next month!)

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee

The History Committee Meets the  
3rd Wednesday of the month in  
Room 8.

All are welcome!



## Green and Social Justice Committees

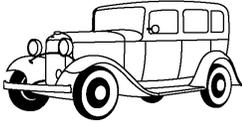


Come to the REINVEST CNY! Workshop here at May Memorial on Nov. 18th, from 12pm-1:30pm. Learn how to incorporate your values & principles into your personal finances which will have an effect at the local, national & global levels. Find out how your financial choices can address issues such as climate change, criminal justice reform, and community reinvestment. By using the Divest-Reinvest-Engagement Model, participants will explore how to have the power to influence change.

This event is sponsored by the Green & Social Justice Committee of May Memorial.

For more information, contact Peter Cannavo, [pcannavo@hamilton.edu](mailto:pcannavo@hamilton.edu) 315-471-7530

The Green and Social Justice Committee meets on the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to join or to help us with our action plans.



## Why Must We Improve Our Parking Lot?

This is the first in a series of articles concerning that most dangerous and sorry sight at May Memorial: our parking lot! While we've talked about this for decades, our Board of Trustees has now made a formal commitment to address the challenges of the lot: it commissioned a professional landscape architect!

This initial article provides an overview of the problems--safety, drainage and environmental concerns-- and their likely solutions.

1. There are two main safety issues. **The first** is the irregular gravel surface. Plows are unable to clear the snow closely enough to such a surface; what remains is so thick it cannot sublimate away quickly. Instead, it leaves unpredictable and hidden icy spots and depressions. With even a little rain, the surface becomes a slippery muddy mess. *Solution: Paving of some kind.* **The second safety problem** is the (lack of) lighting. Many dread the irregular, sometime slippery surface we can't see well; falls and serious injuries are a constant threat. And there's concern about prowlers. *Solution: Adequate lighting.*
2. Then there's the obvious drainage of streams of water, gravel and mud coming down the driveway, even following minor rains or snow melts. What many may not see, however, is that this stream goes over the hill and regularly washes out the playground. It's already destroyed the gravel terraced stairway to the play areas; this necessitated a costly asphalt walkway. Water seeps under our brand new fire doors downstairs and will eventually undermine even the asphalt. *Solution: Lessen the drainage by encouraging more water absorption (see #3) and redirect the rest into the culvert under the driveway.*
3. Environmental concern is one of our U/U principles. Asphalt paving, while safest, is nonetheless also an ugly heat sump. The City of Syracuse mandates that after paving there must be LESS water runoff. The current lot projects a poor image of May Memorial that the passing public easily sees. *Solution: Islands of plantings in the middle and along the sides of the lot to reduce runoff and contribute shade and beauty.*

This is merely a brief sketch of the many challenges. The landscape architect brings not only professional knowledge/skills but also artistic talent to fill in the myriad details necessary to effectively and responsibly reconstruct our parking lot.

Future MMUUSletter articles will keep you apprised of the progress. Rest assured that the congregation will have ample opportunity to review, discuss and refine plans once they are formulated.

But the planning is only just beginning. You are welcomed to discuss the project with any Board member or Don Milmore, who has agreed to steward this project.

Next month's article will describe the unique professional qualifications our landscape architect brings to this project.

### Do you like Art AND Children?

JRev wants to auction off a special activity for children only at our upcoming auction but she needs two adult helpers. Please contact her if you would be interested in helping with an awesome craft project to be scheduled in the late winter/early spring! [ministerjrev@gmail.com](mailto:ministerjrev@gmail.com)

## Notes from the Admin Office:



- **Just a reminder:**  
All meetings and events must be scheduled through the Office Administrator.
- **Deadlines to remember:**  
Any submissions to the **E-Blast and Order of Service** need to be to me by *mid night on Wednesday*.
- **Newsletter:**  
**Deadline for December newsletter is:** November 23 by noon.  
Any submissions received late will be omitted from the newsletter and added to next month where appropriate

Looking for Office Hours? Events happening in our church? Closures or special notices? Check out the bulletin board located to the right of the Admin Office door for answers to those questions and more!

### As we enter the season of uncertain weather conditions please note:

- Our lawn care service will only show up on days when the accumulated snow reaches 2 inches.
- I have placed at every entrance a bright orange bucket with ice melt. If you encounter a slick spot please address it immediately then alert the admin office.
- Any closings will be announced on Facebook, by e-blast, and be included in the alerts on local news media. Rev. Jo is the final word on whether Sunday Services are cancelled...when in doubt please err on the side of your personal safety and stay home.



#### About Folkus

Great live music. Friendly people. All volunteer run.

Quite simply, the Folkus Project is all about bringing great, live acoustic music to Central New York. We've been doing that for over 17 years, and cultivating a community of acoustic music fans in the process.

Folkus is a not-for-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers committed to bringing a wide variety of live music to our area. This includes old favorites, up and coming artists, and seasoned performers new to our area – all high quality, and all at affordable prices. We present shows twice a month on Friday nights, from September to May.

It's important to us to give our performers a great experience playing with us, and to have our audiences feel a part of a greater community of folks who enjoy listening to live music out with others. For us, it's about the music as well as the experience that live music creates.

Friday October 5, 2018 8pm  
Bettman & Halpin

Friday October 19, 2018 8pm  
The Black Feathers

Friday November 2, 2018 8pm  
The Heather Pierson Trio

Friday November 16, 2018  
The Acoustic Guitar Project

Friday December 7, 2018 8pm  
Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman

## Updates to the Operations Manual

### FORMATION OF NEW STANDING COMMITTEES

In accordance with the MMUUS Constitution, Article IX, Section 1, the Board of Trustees has established those Standing Committees described in the preceding pages. New Standing Committees may be established as the Board deems necessary to conduct the administration and programs of the Society. The following criteria and processes have been adopted by the Board to guide the formation of new Standing Committees during a two-year development period.

1. The proposed committee must have a clearly stated purpose, responsibilities and specific activities that meet a demonstrated need of the Society and that do not overlap with any existing committee.
2. There must be a core group of people (at least 3) who are committed to serve on the committee during an initial development period of 2 years.

If conditions 1) and 2) are met, the committee will be established by the Board of Trustees as a special committee (or task force) and shall begin operating according to the approved statement of purpose, responsibilities and activities.

At the end of the development period the committee will be established by the Board of Trustees as a standing committee:

If the Board of Trustees determines that the committee has been functioning according to the approved statement of purpose, responsibilities and activities; and

If the Board of Trustees determines that the committee is meeting a demonstrated need of the Society.



Let's remember to continue making food and personal care donations to our baskets in the foyer. Many of us have been away this summer... but sadly poverty never gets a vacation. Try to make it a regular habit to pick up items at the grocery store or drug store and bring something to church each Sunday. Here are a few suggestions: peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup, pasta, quick to fix macaroni packages, cereal, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, lotions, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes. Thanks so much for your continued support of our helping agencies in the community. Questions? contact Julie Daniel: [jdanielyoga@gmail.com](mailto:jdanielyoga@gmail.com) or call: 315-622-3423

**\*\*When donating items to the Personal Care basket in our foyer, make sure all items are NEW and UNOPENED**



## *From Mundane to Magical!*

*Come transform our chil-  
dren's chairs*

*From Spaceships to Thrones,  
Wherever your imagination  
can go!*

*Paint, sculpt, cover and  
play!*

*You can make it your own  
special way*



Wanted: up to 8 groups to participate; families, working groups, individuals or friends. *However* you want to organize. The first 8 committed groups will take and decorate 1 of 8 chairs. Transform it with your imagination, sweat and creative juice. Display them and auction them off to their new homes. A sign-up sheet, on the office door, will be made available for the first 8 groups\*. A meeting of the groups will be organized by Jen N, Brian S. and Alexa C., where some ideas and techniques will be shared in an evening class based on the participants' availability. Finished works will be added to our November 17<sup>th</sup> auction, so work quickly!

Contact: Brian Story with questions [brianstory@nycap.rr.com](mailto:brianstory@nycap.rr.com)

\*a minimum of 4 groups will be required to make the November auction or we will need to postpone for the Spring.

### **Getting in touch with...**

Rev. Jo VonRue

Minister

[ministerjrev@gmail.com](mailto:ministerjrev@gmail.com)

[www.calendly.com/jrev](http://www.calendly.com/jrev)

Stacy Sceiford

Director of Religious Education

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

Glenn Kime

Director of Music

Phone w 315.729.3734

Leslie Dendy

Bookkeeper

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

Jane Fagerland

Society President

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

Kevin King

Vice President

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



## GOOD AND SERVICES AUCTION

NOVEMBER 17, 2018

5:30 - 8:30

TREASURES  
BARGAINS  
FABULOUS FOOD  
GOOD WINE  
GOOD FRIENDS

The evening of our **FALL FUND RAISER** is right around the corner. It's time to enjoy a gathering with friends at MMUUS. Plan to bring a couple neighbors and enjoy a few hours of shopping, bargain hunting, tasty grazing and beverage sipping as we all pitch in to generate some funds for our beloved community while we secure great services, experiences and one of a kind items for ourselves.

Festivities run from **5:30 PM till 8:30 PM on the evening of November 17, 2018**. If you will require childcare for this event, please contact Jennifer Newman [mamaslash@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mamaslash@twcny.rr.com) by November 11.

We have assembled a great collection of desirables for our catalog. It will be available soon for advance perusal and preparation for the auction. If you missed the deadline for submission but have a terrific item or two, contact one of the committee members immediately and we may be able to still include your offering. For those who cannot attend the auction in person, the catalog offers BIN ( Buy it Now ) items at a set price. The first person to contact Jennifer Newman with an offer to buy, will win these items.

See you on November 17. Bring cash and checks for the evening. No credit cards, please.

Jennifer Newman [mamaslash@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mamaslash@twcny.rr.com), Cynthia Carter [cynthiacc@verizon.net](mailto:cynthiacc@verizon.net), Alexa Carter [alexacarteralexa@icloud.com](mailto:alexacarteralexa@icloud.com)



Friends, it is with a heavy heart that we share with you the passing of member Al Obrist. He was a bright light at May Memorial and his spirit will be missed.

Celebration of Life service:

10am on Saturday November 17 at the May Memorial



Sign ups have begun for the annual  
**Thanksgiving Social Dinner**

**Date:** Thursday Nov. 22, 2018

**Time:** 3pm

**Location:** May Memorial UU Social Hall

Join us for great food and even better company!

Sign up sheet is in the foyer.  
 All are welcome!



Please join us at Plowshares Craftsair and Peace Festival on December 1-2, 2018 at Nottingham High School (3100 E. Genesee St., Syracuse - map). Central New York's premier multicultural Craftsair, Plowshares celebrates a world where people enjoy their work and have control over it. With 130 area craftspeople and community groups, it is a marketplace of ideas and beautifully diverse, hand made items.

More than a Craftsair, it is a peace festival, with music, food and a spirit of fellowship, creating a weekend of grassroots commerce and community. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect at year's end with old and new friends and share in the life of a village marketplace that has no corporate headquarters.

For more information, contact Carol 315.472.5478, [carol@peacecouncil.net](mailto:carol@peacecouncil.net)



If you have recently had changes in your:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- E-mail address

Please pick up a form located under the bulletin board located to the right of the Admin Office and fill it out, drop it on my desk or in the folder on the door pocket under my window so we can make sure your information is correct in our data base.

## November Calendar of Events

Just a snapshot of your month ahead.  
Please refer to the weekly calendar of events listed on the bulletin board located to the right of the Admin Office and throughout this newsletter for special events of interest!

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
11/4	First Sunday Lunch	12noon	Social Hall
11/5	Spiritual Enrichment Group	6:30pm	Memorial Room
11/6	Social Justice Tuesday	12noon	In front of the church
11/6	Yoga Kids	5:00pm	Sanctuary
11/8	Spiritual Enrichment Group	6:00pm	Memorial Room
11/8	Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
11/11	Spanofiles	12:15pm	Coming of Age Room
11/13	Yoga Kids	5:00pm	Sanctuary
11/15	Twisted Sisters	6:00pm	Memorial Room
11/16	FOLKUS	8:00pm	Sanctuary
11/17	Silent Auction	5:30pm	Social Hall
11/18	REINVEST CNY	12noon	Sanctuary
11/19	Spiritual Enrichment Group	6:30pm	Memorial Room
11/20	Writers Group	11:00am	Teenz
11/21	Men's Fellowship Potluck	6:30pm	Social Hall
11/22	Thanksgiving Dinner	3:00pm	Social Hall
11/25	Spanofiles	12:15pm	Coming of Age Room



### May Memorial offers many groups and classes tuned in to mind, body and spirit

A depression support group meets every Thursday at 4:30pm in the Teenz Room

Tai Chi led by Ann Pia is held in the Social Hall every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 3pm

Spiritual Enrichment groups are held at various dates and times through out the month, check the calendar for details.

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13214  
315.446.8920  
office@mmuus.org  
Office hours: Sun -Thurs 9am-2pm

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Join us Sunday mornings  
at 10:30am for our Worship Service  
Directly after, in the Social Hall,  
join us for Coffee Hour!

