



It can be difficult, at times, to have hope for the future. With the state of our nation and the world- climate, politics, natural disasters, mass shootings, and so much more- how do we find hope? Add to that the daily struggles of living, making ends meet, navigating our children's complicated lives, and living with illness and death, it is hard to have hope. Yet, most humans are able to plow through with hope for the future- and not without good reason.

Our media- whether it is news or books or movies or TV- keep us focused on the difficult things- because it sells. Yet, even then we turn our attention not to those things that make us feel good, but those complicated messy things that hold us. The good things and bad things, living side by side, that at the end of the day are worth our time and our presence. When we are able to hold these two things in our hearts, there hope can abound.

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

*December's Theme is Hope- as the sun wanes and the nights become longer we explore hope- hope in the world and in the season.*

**Sunday December 3rd - "Out of the Ashes: Hope from Despair"**  
**with Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe and Worship Associate Barbara Kamerance**  
Hope often comes from the places we least expect it. As we honor World AIDS Day, we will explore how hope came out of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and how that hope lives on today. What is hope and how do we help manifest it in our lives and our communities?

**Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>—"Singing the Mystery"**  
**with Glenn Kime and Worship Associate Amanda Winkler**  
The choir presents a service of music and readings, featuring the beautiful "O Magnum Mysterium," of Tomás Luis de Victoria. Find out how the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson work with the music of a Spanish Catholic composer. A great mystery indeed!

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>—"Not My Holy Day: A Holiday Service for the Humanist and Atheist in All of Us"**  
**with Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe and Worship Associate TBD**  
The holiday season can be particular trying and/or fascinating for the non-believer. This service is dedicated to the Humanists and Atheists. Can meaning be found in the holiday season and what would that be?

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017- 6:30 p.m. service- "Winter Solstice Ritual"**  
**with Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe and the Worship Associate**  
Our intergenerational Winter Solstice evening gathering will invite us into the longest night of the year through movement, reflection, candles, and community. This service is specifically designed for families of all ages. Pagans in our community are invited to reach out to Rev. Sunshine to help with the rituals of the evening including the calling of the directions and the yule log.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017-"A House for Hope: Our Shared Theology"**  
**10:30 a.m. service will be a joint service at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 109 Waring Rd, Syracuse, NY 13224. with Intern Minister Bethany Russel-Lowe**

"Theology...is architectural—it provides a framework for human life" write Unitarian Universalists ministers and theologians Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker and Rev. John Buehrens in their book *A House for Hope*. If UU theology is architectural, what are our walls made up of? Our roof? Our foundation? Our garden? Come explore the house for hope that is Unitarian Universalism.

*(continued page 2)*

In their book, [A House of Hope](#), Revs. Drs. John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker talk about the importance of liberal theology to be a place of hope in a world of struggle. They state that metaphor is an important tool to help us imagine the future and that the metaphor of a “theological house” allows us to frame “frames that give our dreams shape and meaning.” Understanding our liberal religion as the foundation that helps us find a home for our dreams- our hopes and visions- can guide us through the difficult time and lift up the wonderful times- particularly when they live side by side.

Unitarian Universalism says “yes to life.” We say yes to community, to connection, to accountability, and to integrity. We say yes to making meaning and to letting each of us have our own unique definitions. We say yes to listening to the wisdom of Christianity, Humanism, Islam, Hinduism, and much more all in the same breath. In our theological house lives many lives and much diversity. Yet we lay it on the foundation of the generations before us. We live in it with the people in our lives today. We maintain it for the hope of generations to come.

This holiday season, I invite you to consider who or what or where has given you hope- particularly in the face of tragedy or struggle. Perhaps it is the snow or the rain. Perhaps it is a loved one who died long ago. Perhaps it is a child in your life who reminds you of the possible. Hope reminds us that there is more than just now-in-this-moment. Hope calls us to a vision beyond our own individual lives. Hope lights our lives in possibility and wonderment.

There is an internet meme that says, “Remember that you are the product of the love of thousands.” You are the product of the hope of thousands. Every generation has been met with struggles that left them wondering if there was a future. Live in this moment remembering all that you are connected to and all that is to come. Holding on to the love for the possible allows us to stay open to the possible gifts for the future. It reminds us that, yes, there is environmental destruction AND there is a teenager who invented a way to get all of the plastic out of the oceans. There is illness AND there is the love of family, friends, doctors, nurses, and so many others to walk with us if we let them. There is struggle AND there are communities of connection with a will to re-shape the world.

In this season of hope, as the days grow shorter and the world around us colder, may we remember that the spring will come. May we remember that we have this church and one another. May we bring warmth to those who despair. May we offer possibility in the face of uncertainty. May we be the vision of hope for the future.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Sunshine

#### **Pastor Sunshine’s Office Hours and Away Schedule:**

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.acuityscheduling.com/> 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>.

**6:30 p.m. service-** “Spirit of the Christmas Tree: Christmas Pageant” with **Stacy Sceiford, Glenn Kime, Intern Minister Bethany Russel-Lowe, and Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe**

This Christmas Nativity story invites wonder in the many ways we view the Christmas holiday. Filled with song, story, and candlelight, the service is sure to be a delight for people of all ages. Bring your spirit, your family, and the beauty of this season.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**10:30 a.m. service with be a joint service at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, 3800 East Genesee, Syracuse, NY, 13214- “Fire Communion” with the Worship Associate Team**

Join us in a ritual of letting go in preparation for the coming year. You will literally be invited to burn away that which you would like to let go. The service will invite us into a time of reflection, hope, and wonder. What hopes do you have for the coming year? What hopes do you have for yourself and other.

### **Newsletter**

Deadline for January newsletter submissions is December 15.

Submissions must be 500 words or less. Anything longer will be sent back for editing.

**MMUUSletter** is a publication of events and information at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society



## News from the Board of Trustees!

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees!

Our “Chat with the Board” sessions after Sunday services are intended to bridge information gaps between the Board and the congregation - and they’re working! The top two concerns brought to us in recent chats revolve, not too surprisingly, around the Ministerial Search process and on Buildings & Grounds matters. We’ve learned there continues to be anxiety based in misconceptions about the Search process and how decisions will be made in selecting and calling our settled minister. To alleviate these types of concerns, the Search Committee (Don Milmore, chair) provides updates each month in the church newsletter, and welcomes the opportunity to talk with anyone who has unanswered questions!

Buildings & Grounds concerns are ongoing, and expected to continue as our beloved building begins to show its age. Our current stop-gap method to deal with building maintenance is to contact the Office Administrator, Teri, who will triage repairs and service calls appropriately. The Board is dealing with larger issues, such as replacing the lower level exterior doors, on an ad hoc “project” basis. We’re thankful for our B&G volunteers, and would like to recognize the team of Gary Carter, Bruce Macbeth, and Katie Erickson, who recently cleaned out a sidewalk seam and re-sealed it with foam to prevent water from leaking onto the furnace. Kevin King patched the large area of damaged concrete in the front sidewalk, eliminating a tripping hazard. New member Tom Carlin has been working with Teri to simplify and upgrade our computers and other electronics. Tom repaired the video link to the sanctuary, so services can once again be seen and heard in the Memorial Room. Many thanks to these volunteers and to all the others who perform unseen tasks around the church!

Other issues brought to our attention during Board Chats include the level of interaction with First UU and raising awareness of shared activities between the two congregations. Also, comments from new members prompted a good discussion at our last Board meeting about how to engage new members and make them aware of the opportunities for participation on committees and other activities. Two chat sessions are scheduled in December, on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>, and there will be more in the coming new year. We’d love to talk with you – please stop by our table!

The Board welcomes Diane Chappell-Daly as a trustee to fill the vacancy created when Emanuel Carter left the Board. Diane will lead Program Council and serve until our next Annual Meeting when a permanent trustee is elected. We are grateful to the Nominating Committee for selecting Diane, and thankful to her for her willingness to serve during this busy time in our church.

Many folks, young and old, unleashed their creative spirits to create posters exemplifying our new Mission statement. We plan to display the posters so everyone can see them, and are discussing ways we might be able to use the beautiful images, perhaps on tee-shirts or bumper stickers. Gratitude to all of our artists!

And finally, have you attended Safety Training yet? Pastor Sunshine’s sessions cover all elements of personal safety while in our church building, and we encourage EVERYONE to attend, so you’ll know what to do in case of any kind of threat. The next session is December 3rd, and there will be two additional classes in the future. The children are already trained – now, the adults need to get on board, too!

Wishing you peace and joy in this holiday season!

Jane Fagerland, President  
MMUUS Board of Trustees

### Christmas Eve Choir: One Time Opportunity!!!

Have you wanted to sing in the choir, but not had the time? Members and friends of all ages are welcome to participate in the Christmas Eve Choir.

The Christmas Eve service will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to participate in the choir, please attend as many of the rehearsals as possible (two preferred, but arrangements can be made by contacting our Music Director, Glenn Kime).

#### Rehearsal dates are:

- December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-8:30pm
- December 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30-8:30pm, after Winter Solstice Ritual
- December 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-6:15pm, before the Christmas Eve Service



The worship theme for this month is “hope” --and with a steady stream of news that calls up feelings of pain, grief, and fear, I find that it can be hard to focus on the hopeful. So I went for a walk with the intent to meditate on just that, what makes me feel hopeful. I was pleasantly surprised when the answer came to me almost immediately--youth ministry. One of the topics that you can get me gushing about pretty quickly is how

amazing UU youth are and how fortunate I am to work with youth and adults who are committed to living and growing their values through UU youth programming. This feeling was reinforced and magnified when I read a comment posted by one of our volunteer youth advisors. This advisor had just volunteered her time for a whole weekend to attend the regional youth conference, or “con”. In order for youth to attend, this advisor was called upon to organize the paperwork, drive the youth to New Jersey, supervise them for the entire event, and then drive them home. Those who haven’t experienced youth ministry might think that that would be rather taxing, but her comment was one of joy and gratitude. She said that being with youth “gave her so much hope for the future”. And that sums up how I feel when I get to witness the community that our youth build together and consciously maintain. It isn’t easy--they trip up sometimes, but they also hold each other accountable and call each other back into covenant when they fall out. Senior high youth are at the age where they are inching ever closer to moving on to college or other enterprises, where they will take the values and experiences they have gained through youth ministry beyond the container built for them in our congregations. It excites me to know that they will take their experiences and growth with them, and that it will help inform their decisions and relationships impacting all who get to know them.

While I’m on the topic of youth ministry, I’d like to take a moment to share with you a more immediate opportunity for our youth and adults working with them that I am excited about. We are planning a service learning trip for this coming April to West Virginia. We are working with the UU College of Social Justice and their partner organization, the Southern Appalachian Labor School. We selected a UUCSJ journey because in their words, their programs are “designed to help people cross boundaries, gain insight, and imagine new ways to make a difference in the world”. The youth are preparing for the trip with several lessons designed to prepare them for social justice work, lessons including topics such as: Legacies of Systemic Injustice, Showing Up Respectfully--Crossing Boundaries, and Showing Up Respectfully--Bearing Witness. All of the youth have the benefit of learning through exploring these ideas in youth group, though only some of the youth will be attending the trip. The youth who do go on the journey will be able to bring back what they learn and share their experiences in a way that will be more meaningful thanks to the preparation and support of the whole youth group.

What will we be doing in West Virginia? That is an excellent question, and the truth is that we don’t know for sure yet. The beauty of the UUCSJ program is that they are able to design our journey specifically tailored to the makeup of our group and the interests that we have. One definite is that we will be doing construction work of some kind, swinging hammers! The area of West Virginia that we are travelling to has been severely impacted by the loss of coal industry jobs and there are many schools and other facilities as well as homes that are in need of building improvements. We are willing to go where we are most needed. We aren’t sweeping in to save the day though; we know that we will be working to support the community in tandem with people from the community where we will serve. And, we know that we will be gaining knowledge and experiences in reciprocity. That’s why we are saying service-learning trip instead of just service trip. My short term hope is in the youth community and the support of our congregations to make this trip a reality. My long term hope is that we will grow and be

changed through the experience of this service learning trip and be able to bring that learning back with us to share with all of you.

In Peace,  
Stacy Sceiford,  
Director of Religious Education



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### **Philosophy Workshop**

Come spend 1 hour/week for 5 weeks, after the service, with a trained philosopher to address questions such as:

- Is there a God?
- What is reality?
- How do we know anything?
- What is the best way to live?
- Good & Evil: are they absolute or relative?

January 14-Feb11  
Meeting in the Memorial Room

Materials:  
Five Big Questions in Life and how to answer them:  
by Miriam Pia

Bring a Bible or other favored source of truth as well if you like.  
Please RSVP:  
office@mmuus.org

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## Visions of Ministers are Dancing in Our Heads

Ministerial  
Search



This edition of the MMUUSletter goes “live” on December 1st, coincidentally the same day that our Congregational Record (CR) is first viewable by prospective ministers on the UUA site. It is entirely possible that our future settled minister is reviewing our CR at the same time that you are reading this article! If you are excited by that thought, you have something in common with the members of your Ministerial

Search Committee (MSC).

We spent countless hours reviewing our CR in November. Although each of us took responsibility for writing different sections of the document, we did editing and revisions as a committee. This approach was quite time consuming, but we are proud of the final product.

You may be wondering exactly what is included in this document. Every UU congregation in search of a new minister must fill out the same detailed tables of information about finances, membership, previous ministers, etc. Additionally, there are dozens of questions that must be answered in narrative form. As you can likely imagine, a great deal of discussion took place before we experienced a meeting of the minds for each section. A sampling of the prompts we tackled follows:

- Describe the character of the surrounding community.
- Provide a profile of the minister you seek.
- Does the congregation have a mission--not a mission statement, but a glowing coal at its center--and if so, what is it?
- What congregational issues are likely to be most pressing within the next couple of years? The next ten years?
- Describe the role of music and the arts in the life of the congregation.
- Describe the religious education programs for children, youth and adults.
- In practice, are responsibilities for governance widely shared or confined among relatively few members?
- What is the condition of the church buildings, and what funds may need to be raised in the future?
- Assess the capacity of the congregation to exercise forbearance and nurture in assisting a minister’s development.
- Describe the worst mistake your new minister could make.

As we wrestled with these questions and others, we relied heavily on your input from the survey and cottage meetings. Our goal was to communicate honestly, while highlighting the strengths and challenges of our beloved community.

Children may have visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads this month, but the MSC is more likely to be dreaming of ministerial candidates reading our CR and enthusiastically expressing interest in May Memorial.

Wishing you many blessings this season,

Your Ministerial Search Committee:

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



## History Corner

### Greetings from the May Memorial History Committee!

In the November MMUUSletter, we began discussing the social causes of our second minister Samuel Joseph May (1845-1868), for whom our society is named. Rev. May was committed to a variety of social causes, but he is best known for his work to abolish slavery. Because there is so much to say, we are continuing with that topic this month.

While May was visiting with family in Boston in the fall of 1830, he attended three lectures given by the committed abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. That is when Sam May was converted to the cause of “immediate and unconditional emancipation.” At that time, he was 33 years old and minister of the first Unitarian church in Connecticut. The story is told in May’s *Recollections of our Antislavery Conflict*, published in 1869.

Although we all know that Rev. May was an abolitionist, seeing some of what he wrote in *Recollections* can help us appreciate how truly radical he was. On that same 1830 visit to Boston when he attended Garrison’s lectures and spent hours talking with him, May was scheduled to be a guest in the pulpit of a fellow minister. After meeting Garrison, Rev. May pulled out a sermon on Prejudice that he had brought with him and that was soon to be published. He “touched it up” as well as he could, in keeping with his recent conversion to the cause of immediate abolition of slavery. After the sermon, May was surrounded by excited parishioners, some of whom were converted to the cause of abolition by his words. One woman with tears streaming down her cheeks told him, “Mr. May, I thank you! What a shame it is that ... today, for the first time, I have heard from the pulpit a plea for the oppressed, the enslaved millions in our land!”

Although some of the parishioners were enthusiastic about Rev. May’s message, the minister was not pleased. He reprimanded May and told him that he would never again be welcome in his pulpit! The following day Rev. May found that even his father, an active member of King’s Chapel in Boston was “much disturbed” by the reports of Sam’s preaching. Some of his business associates called it “fanatical,” “incendiary,” or even “treasonable,” and they begged him to stop his son. Only one conceded, “the young man is more than half right.” Sam’s father tried to dissuade his son from attempting to overthrow the system of slavery. Like many others, Joseph May had come to regard slavery as an “unavoidable evil” that the founders of the Republic had let stand. He believed that slavery would gradually be removed “by the progress of civilization, the growth of higher ideas of human nature, and the manifest superiority and better economy of free labor.” The elder May feared that if Sam persisted, he would “lose his standing in the ministry and his usefulness in the church!” Joseph May failed to convince his son, and within ten years, he was reconciled to the course Sam had decided to follow.

When the American Unitarian Association accepted the sermon on Prejudice for publication, they insisted that the additions Rev. May had made regarding slavery be omitted. He later regretted consenting to this demand, acknowledging the power of the slaveholding economy in the North, as well as the South. In his *Recollections*, May wrote, “*What a pity that my words in that sermon, respecting slavery, were not published...! They might have helped a little to commit our Unitarian denomination much earlier to the cause of impartial liberty, in earnest protest against the great oppression, the unparalleled iniquity of our land.*” May viewed the failure of Christians (including Unitarians) to fight for emancipation as “a glaring inconsistency... unparalleled in the whole history of mankind.”

Many members of the clergy who were opposed to slavery nevertheless thought that it was so embedded in the economic system of the United States that there was little hope of immediately abolishing it. We can be proud that Samuel Joseph May was not one of them!

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee Chair

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## A PIECE OF MAY MEMORIAL HISTORY: Cast Iron Table In The Foyer

As you may have seen in the 11/22 email blast, the cast iron table in front of the fireplace in the foyer was brought to May Memorial after the 11/19 service by former member Ann Waterman. (We hope to find someone in the community with knowledge of how to restore the table.) Ann and her husband Don attended May Memorial, both on James Street and in our present church. After Don died in 1979, Ann moved away. She has now come back to the Syracuse area to be near her son.

Before the James Street church was demolished, some of the furnishings were offered for sale. Don Waterman, who was an art professor at Syracuse University, bought the floor furnace grate and designed a base for it. He had the base made at the "old foundry" in Manlius. In her note, Ann Waterman wrote, "I hope that the table will continue to bring joy and happiness to the UU Community!" In a P.S. she noted that the fabric wall hanging in the sanctuary is "Don's interpretation of the furnace grate."

Please notice the table in front of the fireplace and the wall hanging in the sanctuary.

MMUUS History Committee

## Ministerial Intern Column

As we enter December, Christians around the world are observing Advent. One of my classmates in seminary made me love Advent. She loves this season because it is a time when she can listen deeply for the small, still voice within herself. The voice she calls God. It is a time for her to do a moral inventory of her spiritual self, in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



And while my theology is different from hers, I learned from her how to make it through this season. When society wants to pull us into busyness and buying, when we can be tempted to drive frantically from holiday party to holiday party, we have another option. We can stop, get quiet, and listen to the small, still voice within.

Environmental activist and writer Bill McKibben has some wise words on the season of Advent: "Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself." When we get quiet, we might hear footsteps. Or singing. Or words. Or maybe even hope.

Whether or not you get excited by the celebration of the birth of Jesus, you can practice being quiet and listening this time of year. It will do you soul some good. Even if all you can find is few moments a day to rest and listen. Because winters are long here in Syracuse. And we'll need something other than good shovels and hot chocolate to get us through. We need to retune our bodies and minds to our souls again. We need to find the pieces of hope dwelling within us and pull them forward to remind us that warmth and life will return. Advent is a perfect time to do that. May you find moments of quiet this month, whether they be short or long, to stop, get quiet, and listen.

In faith, Bethany



## CareRing

**Yoshiro Sanbonmatsu**, brother of longtime MMUUS member **Akira Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu**, passed away on 10/23/17 at age 93 in Plymouth, MA where he was long a member of the Unitarian Universalist congregation at First Parish of Plymouth. He was Ike's last remaining sibling. Yosh was surrounded by his devoted family at the time of his passing. Let us keep Ike and Joan and their family in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

**Steve Reiter** brought his father, Sam, from Long Island in February to live at The Oaks. Mr. Reiter had lived alone for many years and had been a photographer with his own business. You may have seen some of his photos displayed in our Social Hall in August. However, in a rapid downward spiral, Mr. Reiter died on November 19 at the age of 99. Our sympathy to Steve, whose affection and admiration for his father were evident.

## Fall/Winter 2017 Folkus Concert Schedule



The last concert of the year is tonight!

**Cricket Tell the Weather  
- Dec. 1**

The Folkus Project, a registered nonprofit organization, was originally created to present folk and acoustic concerts in Syracuse's legendary (now since closed) coffeehouse, Happy Endings. Each year, between Labor Day and Memorial Day, Folkus presents concerts at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, 3800 East Genesee Street in Syracuse. Typically, two shows are presented each month providing the region with a rich variety of folk, acoustic, blues, bluegrass, and other roots/Americana forms. Tickets range from \$15 to \$22. More information and tickets are available at [www.folkus.org](http://www.folkus.org). Advance sale tickets are available via PayPal and other methods; advance ticket holders receive preferential seating.

### 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.

Sept	Faith
Oct	Death
Nov	Forgiveness
Dec	Hope
Jan	Justice
Feb	Love
March	Brokenness
April	Transformation
May	Transcendence



## MUSIC AND THE ARTS

### Artist Exhibits

December Photographer:  
A Life of Grand Adventure

By any standards, Justine Fenu, who is presenting our December art show, has lived a life as colorful as her photographs. She was born in Sampson, NY, to an aeronautical engineer and a "savvy mom" who, after the family moved to a suburb of Washington, DC, "dragged me and my younger brother and sister to sessions of Congress, art galleries and even a factory, just to see the assembly process. As a child, Justine took piano, ballet, and art lessons, all of which, "shaped me as an artist," she says.

After attending Boston University, she switched to Emerson College, where she majored in psychology and acting. Then she and her partner, John, moved to the Hoh Rainforest in Olympic National Park of Washington State for what was to be a month-long adventure. They stayed for seven years -- off the grid, hauling water, chopping wood, having her son by natural childbirth, planting up to 1,000 trees a day for the U.S. Forest Service -- all in the shadow of Mt. Saint Helens. But, when the mountain erupted in 1980, their trees were buried in an avalanche.

Justine and John came to Syracuse, where his cousin, Joe Nicoletti, was getting married. They also got married, their two daughters were born, and Syracuse became their home.

When the children were older, Justine went to Siberia with Open Hand Theater, which was collaborating with a puppet theater there. They performed for a Russian audience in Tomsk which, she says, "was a profound experience."

Justine works for NY State, serving developmentally disabled children in a group home. She is a certified natural healer, a Reiki master, and has six grandchildren.

A member of the Syracuse Camera Club, she says that, through all her adventures, she has been "clicking away, preserving precious memories, and always being inspired by that moment that only photography can capture."

Don't miss the opportunity to speak with Justine at our Meet the Artist program, following the service on Sunday, December 3.

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Mariah Ducey,  
John Percival,  
Jennifer Newman

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Larissa Brenner,  
Peter Colman,  
Josh Cronlund,  
Stephanie Cross,  
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# May Memorial

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

About five years ago I wrote a column for "Going Green" titled "I Met a Green Angel." The environmental activist I wrote about has certainly not been slowing down in his quest for a greener movie industry in the intervening years. Antonio Saillant launched Angel Light Pictures (named after his younger brother Angel who died in his 20's) after he had already had a successful career as an aerospace mechanical engineer and consultant for Con Edison. From there he stumbled into acting and discovered a talent for it. He did stunt work and acted on "All My Children" and had a role on "The Sopranos." After other roles, filmmaking became his passion. That passion was infused with an even greater passion that came from when his mother, who never smoked a cigarette in her life, died of lung cancer. This made him realize there is something is wrong with the air we are breathing and the food we are eating and the water we are drinking. "As a filmmaker, I feel it is my responsibility to continue the commitment to reduce the impact on climate change and the environment, and be on the forefront of sustainable business practices," says Antonio Saillant. He walked his talk by finding ways to choose sustainable means with costuming, food, water, hybrid automobiles and every other aspect of the film industry. (eg. 22,000 plastic water bottles is average for use on a movie set!)

Saillant (pronounced "say-yant") then became spokesperson for an annual Green Festival. He spoke this past year at the Javit's Center in NYC, Washington, D.C., California and Portland, Oregon. But it was when he spoke at a Syracuse University Sustainability Conference that I first heard his pleas for an eco-film industry.

Saillant states, "We are faced with the greatest challenge of our time, the fight against the climate crisis. The Motion Pictures and Television Industry continue to make progress on the impacts of climate change to our Planet Earth. Our voices and our actions will make an impact for a cleaner future, to better our environment, to love our Mother Earth. We all need to come together to combat and create real and lasting solutions against ultimate threats to our planet that can and will affect us now as well as future generations. We are asking for your help to take action to address climate change. Joining together is the key solution. Let's discover the use of clean energy and less electricity. In unity, we can build the right team and ideas to solve the problem today, not tomorrow, because tomorrow may be too late."

His company, Angel Light Pictures and Planet Greenfest, expresses his vision and passion for creating energy efficiency in movies and television. The motion picture industry is such a large user of electricity for its sound stage shooting and diesel fuel for its location filming that it is a clear target for energy conservation.

Now Angel Light Pictures is launching an "Eco-Friendly" radio program called "Rock It Green" with iTunes. On it you will hear the Voice of emerging eco pioneers. Richard A. Solomon interviewed Saillant on WCWP 88.1 FM regarding his passion in pushing sustainability towards the film and television industry. A few weeks later he was walking by the big rock in Central Park and while sitting on that huge rock the idea of Rock It Green came to him: ROCK IT GREEN RADIO SERIES is about having a simple conversation about sustainability with Scientists, Explorers, Actors, Directors, Producers and top professionals who explore the concept of being sustainable during their professional careers and share their experiences of 'Green Awareness' globally in hopes to nurture, influence, empower, motivate, and inspire future leaders of all audiences and all ages across the Globe. Rock It Green Radio is recorded live in a New York Studio and will be aired weekly on YouTube and iTunes as well as other major venues.

Saillant's roster includes another sustainable project entitled Rock It Green Television, a sustainable talk show having a simple conversation sitting on top of the most sustainable Rock in New York City accompanied by Hollywood Power Players. The Famous Landmark Rock located in New York City's Central Park, will be the setting for the new Youtube TV series "Rock It Green". The focus of this show will be on Sustainability within the Entertainment Business. Creator and Host, Antonio Saillant and Crew are in development of producing Season 1, incorporating new features in the sustainable experience. Saillant will interview Producers, Directors, Actors, Eco-friendly fashion and set designers, and more. Hollywood Power Players (Leonardo DiCaprio? Michael Moore?..) will be asked about Sustainability within the Entertainment Business in Film and Television and how they will be influencing Change. What better way to promote sustainable green practices which include press releases, advertising campaigns, merchandising and media, and interviews with key people involved in the making of the film, like actors, directors, etc.? It is a positive way to spread global awareness to help change the world.

Here's the interview now on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/z6sZoQ7KX0c>

Website for the radio interview: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/rock+it+green/15f26343ebcf766f?projector=1>

In addition, Antonio is in pre-production of a very unique sports movie. And this movie production will be made with sustainability embedded in their DNA. "Knights 58," may well be the first sports movie to use state-of-the-art green production techniques. He plans to produce and direct perhaps the first-ever sports-themed movie to use state-of-the-art green production practices that shows the ever broadening scale of the Green-Sports world.

For more information please read his latest interview from sports writer, Darren Cooper: <http://www.northjersey.com/story/sports/high-school/varsity-aces/2017/10/16/full-scoop-q-a-antonio-saillant-creator-knights-58/769684001/>

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## December Transforming Spirit Programs

All Transforming Spirit classes run from Noon-1pm on the Sunday they are held. Programs are open to all in the community ages 14 years and older unless otherwise noted. All programs are facilitated by Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe unless otherwise noted.

December 17<sup>th</sup>- Unitarian Universalism 101: The Origins of Religious Humanism

This program will discuss the creation of religious humanism and particularly the work of Rev. Curtis Reese- co-founder of religious humanism in the 1920s. How was religious humanism shaped by Unitarianism? How has religious humanism influenced Unitarian Universalism today?

## December Monthly Theme: Hope

This month our theme is *Hope*. Here are some resources to help ground our exploration.

**Adult:** [Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities](#) by Rebecca Solnit  
[Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future](#) by Margaret J. Wheatley

**Youth:** [A Thousand Never Evers](#) by Shana Burg (novel)

**Children:** [On That Day- A Book of Hope for Children](#) by Andrea Patel  
[Hope is a Ferris Wheel](#) by Robin Herera

### **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.

### **Emergency Response and Safety Training**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:45-1:00pm-**



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.*

## December 2017 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.

### December 5

Pastor Sunshine J. Wolfe  
May Memorial Unitarian  
Universalist Society

### December 12

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

### December 19

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias  
First Unitarian Universalist Society,  
Syracuse

### December 26

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

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

### Not receiving our weekly informational email?

Email the office administrator at [office@mmuus.org](mailto:office@mmuus.org) and sign-up for it.

*Did you already sign-up and you haven't received it?* Some web-based accounts (including Gmail) can be overzealous when trying to protect you from spam, and will sometimes send large mailings to the spam folder. Check your spam folder to see if they've been going there, and make sure that [office@mmuus.org](mailto:office@mmuus.org) is in your contacts book.

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

## Calendar

### Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

5:00 pm

FOLKUS

Social Hall

### Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:30 am

Worship Service

Sanctuary

12:00 pm

First Sunday Luncheon

Social Hall

### Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am

Writer's Group

Memorial Room

3:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih

Social Hall

### Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih

Social Hall

7:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

### Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

5:30pm

Artist Reception

**Social Hall**

### Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am

PR Committee

Memorial Room

10:30 am

Worship Service

Sanctuary

12:15 pm

Spanofiles

COA

### Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

2:30 pm

Spiritual Enrichment Group

Memorial Room

### Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih

Social Hall

### Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih

Social Hall

7:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am

Worship Service

Sanctuary

### Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih

Social Hall

### Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

6:30pm

Solstice Service

Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am

Christmas Morning Service

**FUUS**

6:00pm

Christmas Evening Service

Sanctuary (MMUUS)

### Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih

Social Hall

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

10:30 am

Worship Service

Sanctuary



## May Memorial's Mission Statement

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