



The Heart of Letting Go

“When you look deeply you begin to understand. The moment when you understand, compassion is born in your heart. And then it is possible for you to forgive.”

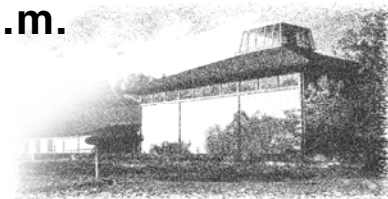
Thich Nhat Hanh

There is generally an understanding that forgiveness is a good thing to do. It also can be a difficult thing to do. There is a paradox with forgiveness- in order to let go of that which needs forgiven, you must first be able to hold it in your heart. Scientists and theologians alike agree that in order for forgiveness to occur, one must start at a place of compassion.

At the heart of forgiveness is the ability to own what has been done, see the humanity in the person(s) who need(s) forgiving, and in seeing that

(continued on page 4)

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



November’s Theme is Forgiveness- we will explore forgiveness toward self, toward others, and communal forgiveness.

November 5th, 2017- “Repairing the Circle: Forgiving Authority”
with Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe and Worship Associate Barbara Kamerance

In this service, Rev. Wolfe will share her experiences as a Unitarian Universalist (UU) Advocate- a person who supports those who have experienced misconduct from a religious professional. Sharing some of the recent learnings and conflicts in the Unitarian Universalist ministry, she will discuss what all denominations have learned about preventing and recovering from misconduct. What can a path to forgiveness of leaders- in any sphere- look like? This service will cover adult themes and parents are *highly* encouraged to have children attend religious education.

November 12th, 2017- “Ancient Egypt: The Great Circle of Life”
with Dave and Barbara Kamerance Preaching and Worship Gabor Hardy

The historian Herodotus wrote that Egypt was the “Gift of the Nile” What the ancient Egyptians in turn gifted to humankind was a belief system that so many have incorporated into their own lives down to the present time. Egyptologist David Kamerance will tell how the principles of the ancient Egyptian religious canon relate to our UU principles.

November 19th, 2017- “May Memorial and the Deathly Hallows”
with Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe and Worship Associate Amanda Perrine

This intergenerational service will share the story of Harry Potter’s “The Deathly Hallows” as a way to explore forgiveness, family, and grief. As we prepare for the holidays, we remember those who we have lost in the past year and those who will not be with us. This service will include a Memory Tree ritual and bread communion. All ages welcome!

November 26th, 2017- “Circles of Forgiveness: Forgiveness of Self”
with the Worship Associate Team

Perhaps the most difficult place to begin in forgiveness is with forgiveness of one’s self. Religious leaders agree that forgiveness of others is impossible without the forgiveness of oneself. Through the art of reconciliation, integrity, and resilience we find that in forgiving ourselves we understand and can support others. This service will explore self-forgiveness through poetry, story, and song.

Inside:

President’s Letter.....	2
Notes from R.E.....	3
Ministerial Search.....	7
Music & The Arts	8
History Corner	11

News from the Board of Trustees!



Writing this Board update each month forces me to review what we've accomplished in the last month. It's a good reality check, because the Board is always "busy" with the tasks of keeping May Memorial running, but what have we *actually* done that moves us toward our Vision? And, by the way, what IS our Vision? We've articulated our Mission, but now WHERE are we headed? WHERE do we want to take our church? Well, on Saturday, November 18th, you'll be able to work on answering this important question. Please RSVP for the **All-Congregation Vision/Covenant Workshop** by signing up in the foyer, calling the office, or at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E084EA5AC2BA5F49-visioncovenant. Help us set the stage for our settled minister and for the future of our congregation!

A key Board decision this month was to approve the salary range for a new minister. This range was proposed by the Search Committee Negotiating Team (Rob Niemeier, Peter Colman, and myself), and is based on UUA Salary Recommendations and a review of our church's financial and membership history. The reality is that candidates will expect compensation consistent with UUA recommendations. For a minister with 4-7 years' experience (the congregation's preference based on the Search survey), this is approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 more than we are paying our Interim Minister, and approximately \$14,000 to \$25,000 more than we paid our last minister. For several reasons, we believe we have the financial resources to pay the UUA-recommended salary for an experienced minister. Attendance, membership, and pledge amounts are all trending upward. The church budget has been strongly in the black at the end of the past two fiscal years, with a surplus of more than \$12,000 in 2015/16 and of nearly \$28,000 in 2016/17. We were recently able to transfer \$25,000 from the Operating Fund back into the Capital Fund, and we paid our full UUA dues for the first time in many years. We have healthy reserves: the Capital Fund balance is a little more than \$87,000, and the Endowment Fund balance is over \$161,000. Pastor Sunshine assures us, based on experience with other churches, that May Memorial is financially stable. Of course, continued financial well-being depends upon a strong Stewardship Campaign, and we're pleased that this year we will once again have \$15,000 available to match pledge increases. If we take full advantage of the match, this will cover the difference between our current minister's salary and the highest proposed salary for a new settled minister.

Beyond the issue of dollars, though, this all boils down to a question of how much of an investment each of us is willing to make towards the future of our church. I've listened to concerns about taking this financial risk, especially whether we can sustain a higher salary over the long term, and have relayed these concerns to the Board and the Finance Committee. The sentiment of the Board is that we need to make an investment to get a return, that we need to be bold and to take this risk. As Peter Colman put it during one of our Negotiating Team discussions, "The future of our congregation depends in no small part upon the skills and competence of the minister we call." The Board unanimously approved the proposed salary range, but we want to hear your questions and concerns! Board members will be available in the Social Hall after services on November 5, November 19, December 3, and December 17 to discuss this and any other issue you might have.

See you all in church!

Jane Fagerland, President

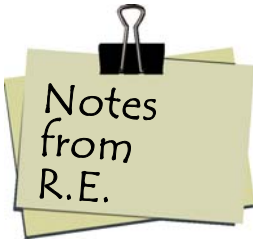
MMUUS Board of Trustees



May Memorial's Mission Statement



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



I have on more than one occasion had to step into a disagreement or scuffle between my kids, it's the nature of having three close in age siblings growing up together. When those involved have successfully been separated and reasonably calmed down and the story has been shared from multiple perspectives there comes the time for reconciliation. Often a begrudgingly muttered "sorry" is all a still angry kid is willing to offer, and often it simply isn't enough to bring harmony back to the relationship. Even after some time has passed, I will occasionally hear "but I said I'm sorry!" from the other room where obviously the conflict has not fully resolved and though "I'm sorry" was said, forgiveness has not been granted. But we all know that "I'm sorry" isn't a panacea, there is no magic wand that erases the hurt because we say the words. We can't expect someone to forgive just because we say the words, and yet "I'm sorry" feels like a get out of jail free card to young children.

The tricky part of all of this is that in expecting children to apologize and forgive there is an assumption that they are operating sort of as mini-adults rather than meeting them where they are developmentally. An apology uttered without true compassion isn't helpful to either party, and yet we encourage children to say the words. Julie Daniel just brought an article to my attention that speaks to this very concept and outlines a more developmentally appropriate approach to apology. In Michelle Woo's article, "What to Say Instead of 'Say Sorry'", Woo outlines a more active approach for apology where the adult helps walk the children through the empathetic response. The adult explains what they observed, demonstrates empathy for the child who was harmed or wronged, and then helps the wrongdoer take an action to help make things better. The action depends on the problem, if a child is hurt maybe going to get an ice pack or bandaid will help, if the child spilled someone's juice maybe helping to clean it up and going to get more juice will help. The final step that Woo describes is to "make a guarantee", for the child to express a reassurance that it won't happen again. These steps help repair trust more effectively than saying "I'm sorry".

So I've been talking about this like it's a kids' problem, but honestly there are things about apologizing and empathy that I as a parent can certainly work on too. Let's say, hypothetically, that one of my kids had some leftover pizza from a restaurant that they were really looking forward to packing in their lunch the next day. And let's say, hypothetically, that mom was in the fridge looking for a snack after the kids were in bed for the night and came across said pizza. Mom didn't think the pizza would be missed and didn't know that kid had a plan for the pizza, so mom munched the pizza, hypothetically. The next morning when kid does not have pizza, the words "I'm sorry" didn't make the pizza reappear, and didn't make the kid feel any better. When mom expressed that she (...okay the pretense of the hypothetical is breaking down here, I ate the pizza!) that I understood why kid was upset that I ate the pizza and I offered lunch money to buy school pizza that day, I also assured kid that in the future, I would check with them before munching their leftovers because I would be sad if someone ate my tasty leftovers without asking. I had expressed genuine em-

pathy and actively did something to try to make it right, these things made it easier for kid to come to a place where they could forgive. And being able to forgive is a healthy place for all of us to be because forgiveness benefits us as much, or more so, than the person we are forgiving.

In Peace,

Stacy Sceiford



CareRing News & Notes

Sadly, **June Card** died in October at an advanced age. Her grown children attended our Sunday service while they were here to make final arrangements. June, a Canadian, will be buried next to her husband, **Howard**, in Canada.

As we anticipated last month, **George Adams** did have a knee replacement. The knee is coming along well. However, due to a complication, he remained in rehab much longer than expected and was finally discharged last week. He's home at The Nottingham.

Meal train information for the **Brown Family**. Their newest member entered the world 11 weeks early and, although doing exceptionally well, she will be in the NICU until December. If you would like to help by providing a meal, a gift card to a local restaurant, or grocery gift card please follow this link to see when and where donations are needed <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/5nweqz> The family is grateful for all of the love and support that May Memorial has already given!

“Off The Trapeze”

(continued from page 1)

humanity hold compassion for their imperfections. The truth is that the person who is liberated by forgiving is as much for the forgiver as the forgiven. It is normal for the forgiver to forgive and the person who is forgiven to be unable to forgive themselves. As long as we cannot forgive ourselves for our mistakes then we are unable to receive the forgiveness of others.

The regrets of our lives- those things that we need to offer ourselves forgiveness for- hold onto us. They can fester leaving us in spiritual and emotional pain. This can cause health problems, burden relationships, and cause us to tune out. The heart of letting go of regrets is compassion- accepting one's fallibility. We must first accept that we will err. We will say and do things that are hurtful despite our good intentions.

Understanding this, we can offer compassion to ourselves. That self-love is the opposite of narcissism invites us into a place of humility and hope. Learning from our mistakes, we love deeper, we accept forgiveness, and we grow. The heart of letting go of regret and the injuries received from others is to know the great capacity for learning. No longer are we bogged down by failure. Rather, we are buoyed into growth through the healing power of compassion.

May you find understanding in yourself. May you have compassion for yourself and others. May you embrace the world in humility and find a path to healing and wholeness in forgiveness. May it be so.

Blessings on the journey,
Pastor Sunshine



A Glorious Unirondack weekend 2017

The Unirondack weekend (Sept 15th - 17th, 2017) for members of May Memorial and First UU was weather-perfect with warm, sunny, clear days and cooler, yet comfortable nights. Although all Central New York congregations were invited, it ended up that only MMUUS and FUUS members participated this year. About 50 folks, ranging from 1 year to over 70 years, joined in the inter-generational fun! We had 4 sets of twins in the group, and 2 adults who are ½ of twin pairs. What is the likelihood of 10% of the group being twins?!

The twins and singletons had community building time enjoying each other while they prepared and shared meals, hiked, biked, played field and board games, completed (or not!) a jigsaw puzzle, boated, swam (Yes, it was warm enough!), and worked with wood. We enjoyed a bonfire with toasting marshmallows, eating sticky some' mores and hearing stories. As a bonus, families got to enjoy a magic show while some of us got the fire roaring. Additionally, there was time to engage in fun and interesting conversations as the cherry on the sundae. What a superb weekend!

This is the 8th year of this Unirondack weekend and many participants want to keep coming. Save the date, and put a bit of money aside each month to be prepared for the weekend. At this time, it is expected the 2018 weekend will be September 14-16, 2018; mark your calendar to join in on the fun! The anticipated 2018 price will remain the same at \$70 *per person* 11 and over; \$65 for youth ages 4-10 and children 3 and under are free. This is *inclusive* of your housing, the use of the Unirondack facilities and 5 meals - what a deal!!

Stephanie Cross, MMUUS member and Coordinator.

Discussion of UUA Common Read Centering on Sunday, November 19th, at Noon

Each year, the UUA selects a book or books as common reads for Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations. This year, there are two books. There will be a group discussion for Centering in November and Daring Democracy in February. Copies of the books will be kept in the Memorial Room for your perusal. You can learn more about UUA Common Reads at <http://www.uua.org/books/read>.

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry, edited by Mitra Rahnama (Skinner House, 2017), centers the stories, analysis, and insights of a number of Unitarian Universalist religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in Unitarian Universalist communities. ***This is highly recommended for members in preparation for calling a newly settled minister.***

All Congregation Vision/Covenant Workshop November 18th

Mark your calendars! We will have our final all-day workshop of the interim time on Saturday, November 18th, from 10am-3pm. This important work helps set the stage for your settled minister and for the future of this congregation. Child-care will be provided. All members and friends ages 13 and older are invited to attend the workshop. Please RSVP for the workshop by signing up in the church foyer, calling the office, or at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E084EA5AC2BA5F49-visioncovenant

The Vision statement helps leaders within our congregation determine if their work is helping the congregation get where it wants to go. It is about assuring that we have a sense of what is to come so that the congregation does not fade away. The Covenant is a statement of how we wish to be in relationship with one another. Each of these have significant roles in congregational health. Come join a fun day of conversation, learning, and creation!



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.

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 attending a minister's study group- Ohio River Group- in Cincinnati, OH from November 6th to 9th and taking compensation days from November 10th to 13th for gher birthday. Ghe will be away preaching and visiting friends in Hartford, CT from November 22nd to November 26th.

Ministerial Intern's Column

One of the things that drew me to Syracuse for my internship was the collaborative ministries between the two churches. Although you all may not feel it, in my experience, First UU and May Memorial work together more often and more intentionally than most other UU churches I know.



One aspect of collaboration that has not yet been formalized is the social justice work between the two congregations. Looking to the coming year, the two groups have some interest in meeting together a few times a year and maybe collaborating on different projects.

One good first step to this collaboration could be to share information about upcoming events. For instance, May Memorial has started a Hotline, which will send occasional emails to communicate simple, easy ways you can make a positive difference in the world through governmental action. You can view previous alerts at mmuushotline.weebly.com/. Email me if you'd like to sign up to get the emails directly.

Also, First UU has a few events this year focused on justice for trans people. This month, on November 20th at 6 PM, First UU will host a Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) vigil to honor those trans people who have died due to hate crimes in the past year. Also, in February (exact date TBD) First UU will host its second annual conference on gender identity. Members of May Memorial and the public is invited to that event!

I hope that in the year ahead we can find ways to work together better and create systems to share our work with one another so that both of the UU congregations in Syracuse are stronger and more vibrant.

Ministerial Intern's Column

(continued from page 5)

Young Adult Group Gathering on Sunday, November 5th at 2 PM at First UU

Are you in your 20s/30s and interested in hanging out with UUs your age? This month our "at church" gathering is focused on sharing our skills and passions with one another. Are you having trouble finding a new job? Deciding what classes to take? Updating your resume? Or working through a particular spiritual issue? Bring your questions and the group will lend their skills and experience to help you work through whatever transition you are going through. If you need childcare, let Bethany know ASAP. Let Bethany know if you will be able to make it (Bethany.e.love@gmail.com). Join the young adult group on Facebook to receive up to date information on young adult activities! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Syr.UUYA/>

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil on Monday, November 20th at 6 PM

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Come mourn the loss of transgender people across the United States and world in the past year. Come gather to witness, pray and sing for more justice for transgender and genderqueer folks everywhere. This event is open to the public.
6pm First UU

Baby it's cold outside!

We are entering the snowy & blowy season. Please watch for hidden slick spots as you enter and leave the building



The Quest for Social Justice

After the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas, various public figures dared, [in the words of conservative commentator Sean Hannity](#), to "politicize tragedy" by calling for gun control. During the recent spate of devastating hurricanes, some folks did something "very, very insensitive," as [EPA Administrator Scott](#)

[Pruitt](#) put it, by urging action on climate change. Neither Hannity nor Pruitt were alone in accusing those who brought up gun availability or climate change of playing politics and acting insensitively.

It is routine to rebuke those who ask difficult or controversial questions in the wake of tragedy and charge them with playing politics. Lately, this seems especially true in cases of gun violence and extreme weather. Of course, in the face of a shooting or storm, the need for sensitivity toward victims and survivors is undeniable. And priority should be given to helping the endangered, injured, homeless, or grieving.

Yet accusations of politicization muzzle discussions, particularly about gun violence and global warming, that may help prevent or address future tragedies. Though it seems insensitive to capitalize on tragedy, such a calamity is what political scientist John Kingdon called a "focusing event" that draws attention to an issue. As the event fades, so does public attention.

The admonition not to "politicize" tragedy also does more subtle and insidious damage to public discourse. First of all, it turns the communitarian spirit following a tragedy into a means for stifling debate and dissent. Second, it promotes a negative view of politics that shields powerful special interests from public scrutiny. Third, it plays into a problematic reframing of issues like climate change or even gun violence as natural phenomena.

In the wake of tragedy, there is typically a call for "thoughts and prayers," [a ritual increasingly criticized](#) as an empty gesture or a way of deflecting serious discussion about causes and policies. There is also a much more meaningful response: an affirmation of community, as people come together to assist in rescue and recovery and assist survivors.

Climate communications expert George Marshall [notes](#), "In disasters, especially in areas with strong communities, people tend to pull together and show a remarkable and inspiring sense of collective purpose." However, [Marshall cautions](#) that "**disasters can reinforce social networks (and with them established norms and worldviews).**" Such "a stronger cultural cohesion could make it even *harder* for ideas that challenge existing worldviews to be voiced or accepted," for example "creating even further obstacles for the acceptance of climate change in societies that are currently skeptical."

The communitarian tendency in the wake of disaster, while certainly a blessing, can therefore create pressure to "get with the program" and avoid uncomfortable but necessary questions. In such circumstances, it is easy to exploit communitarian sentiment to claim that such questions "politicize" a tragedy, especially if we see politics as a tawdry competition for self-promotion or partisan advantage that taints the compassion, altruism, and heroism that follow a tragedy.

President Obama, when calling for gun control after a 2015 mass shooting, [had an interesting reply to the charge of politicization](#): "This is something we *should* politicize. It is relevant to our common life together, to the body

(continued on page 10)

Ministerial Search



In a month where we traditionally acknowledge blessings, the Ministerial Search Committee finds much for which to be grateful. The input we have received from all of you through the survey and cottage meetings has been invaluable. We feel fortunate to have the guidance of Pastor Sunshine and the support of the rest of the MMUUS staff. We also appreciate the advice of Jeffrey Donahue, Reverend Kron and Evin Carvill Ziemer from the UUA. So this seems to be an appropriate time to stop and express how grateful each of us is for the energy, expertise and support of our team members on the MSC.

Our Chairman, Don Milmore, sets the agenda and facilitates our multitude of meetings. He works hard to keep us on task (a table full of UUs DOES like to discuss all sides of an issue) and ensures that we hold to our timelines by placing our deadlines front and center. He also serves as the main liaison between the MSC and staff from the UUA and frequently originates the MSC email blasts and announcements that appear in the Order of Service.

Eliza Bailey serves as Secretary for the MSC. Other committee members are likely grateful for this, since nobody else volunteered for the role! She hopes this will allow them to overlook any shortcomings. All kidding aside, she is responsible for taking minutes at each meeting and preparing an update for the monthly MMUUSletter. Down the road, she will have a role in corresponding with prospective ministers.

Larissa Brenner has lent her considerable organizational skills to be our Arranger. To date, she has “arranged” everything from food for our retreat, to the details of the Beyond Categorical Thinking weekend. And this is only the beginning of her responsibilities! She has already set up neutral pulpit locations and dates for our future pre-candidates. She will also arrange their travel and accommodations, as well as those for the final candidate we present to the congregation.

Stephanie Cross has bravely taken on the role of Web Packet Editor. She is spearheading the creation of the web-based packet that will be shared with ministers who are interested in being considered by May Memorial. In addition, she is the final editor of the lengthy Congregational Record that is being prepared for viewing by prospective ministers on December 1st. This important document will be our first point of contact with ministers in search.

Peter Colman, our Survey Coordinator, brings insight from his experience as co-creator of the last congregational survey. The current survey results will inform every part of our process, from the creation of the Congregational Record, to the questions we ask our candidates, to our final selection. We are lucky to benefit from Peter’s legal expertise on a sub-committee that is developing our future minister’s contract.

Josh Cronlund is our Reference Checker. He will establish the process by which we check references and compare candidates. As he waits for his assignment to be at the center of our work, he has played a crucial role in bringing our survey into the 21st Century through Survey Monkey. Josh has also facilitated the use of the Zoom app to conference with UUA leadership, which prepares us to use this technology for initial screening interviews with candidates.

Rob Neimeier spent ten years as Vice President of the Board of Trustees, so he was probably glad to discover that Vice President was not an option on

this committee. Fortunately for us, he accepted the job of Treasurer. Rob oversees our budget and has worked to establish protocols for all things financial within our committee. He also has a crucial role on the sub-committee that is putting together a financial package and contract for the new settled minister.

We are thankful for each other and all of you!

Your Grateful Ministerial Search Committee,

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

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

Fall/Winter 2017 Folkus Concert Schedule



The Folkus group is proud to announce the following concerts that are scheduled to perform at May Memorial in 2017

Harpeth Rising - October 20
The Acoustic Guitar Project Concert - November 3
Chris Smither - November 17
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. Advance sale tickets are available via PayPal and other methods; advance ticket holders receive preferential seating.



Newsletter

Deadline for December newsletter submissions is November 15.

Guidelines:

- * Each committee will be allotted 1(one) page in the newsletter.
- * Please keep any reports or updates to the space of 1(one) 8 1/2 x 11 page.



MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Artist Exhibits

Fiber Arts Featured
In November Show

The Finger Lakes Fiber Artists will display their works during the month of November. They will present a beautiful show, with each artist having her own unique style.

Lorraine Benjamin, has a strong tradition in the traditional needle arts. She a variety of threads and uses both hand and machine stitching to complete her pieces.

Carol Boyer, who has more than 40 years experience in fiber arts, is inspired by nature and strongly emphasizes texture in her works.

Marcia DeCamp prefers abstract designs with geometric patterns. Maria's color palette reflects the strong connection she feels to the Southwest.

Anne Garretson photographed landscapes in black and white for many years, focusing on shape, line and light, rather than color. She now features contrast and visual texture in her fiber work.

Angela Maroun is inspired by the flora and fauna of Hawaii. Angela uses silk painting, felting, embroidery and screen printing to create her original textiles.

Pat Pauly's work is internationally recognized, and she is a sought-after lecturer, who teaches throughout the country about art quilt and surface design techniques.

Cheri Sheridan learned to sew on her grandmother's treadle machine. This early interest has taken her to many adventurous pursuits, from knitting rag rugs to batik resist, stenciling, handstitching and printing her own designs.

Regina Sweet came to quilting through working with ceramics. She mixes her love of color and texture with a playful attitude that make her work unique.

Sharon Bottle Souva is an award-winning quilter with more than 40 years experience. Sharon, who says she "mixes traditional with non-traditional techniques," holds a BFA from SUNY Oswego, and will soon earn an MA in studio art.

Ruth White's wide-ranging interests and training in various sciences have found a home in her work, while her ongoing battle with appendix cancer has sparked a series of her fiber art works.

Sponsored by the Art Gallery Committee

Ministry and Staff Team

Pastor Sunshine J. Wolfe
Interim Minister
swolfe@uuma.org

Bethany Russell-Lowe
Intern Minister
Bethany.e.lowe@gmail.com

Stacy Sceiford
Director of Religious Education
dre@mmuus.org

Glenn Kime
Director of Music
Phone w 315.729.3734

Teri Coon
Office Administrator
office@mmuus.org

Leslie Dendy
Bookkeeper
ldendy@mmuus.org

Board of Trustees

Jane Fagerland
Society President
president@mmuus.org

Kevin King
Vice President
vp@mmuus.org

Ruth Yanai
Board Secretary
boardsecretary@mmuus.org

Joan Weiser (Ex-officio)
Treasurer
treasurer@mmuus.org

Jay Brenner
Policy Portfolio

Leah Cronlund
The Growing Place Portfolio

Sue Savion
Perpetual Calendar Portfolio

Vacant
Program Council Portfolio

Ministry Committees

Care Ring
Carol Bickart, Chair
carering@mmuus.org

Green and Social Justice
Peter Cannavo and Barbara Kamerance, Co-chairs
green@mmuus.org

Religious Education
Stacy Sceiford, Lead
re@mmuus.org

Transitions Team
Pastor Sunshine Wolfe, Lead
Alexa Carter,
Therese Hogle,
Don MacKay,
Barbara Monsour,
Mardie Ninno, Jason Winkler
transition@mmuus.org

Worship Associates
Pastor Sunshine Wolfe, Lead
Randy Archambault,
Barbara Kamerance,
Gabor Hardy,
Amanda Perinne,
Kevin Salamone,
Amanda Winkler

Congregational Committees

Nominating Committee
Cynthia Carter,
Julie Daniel,
Mariah Ducey,
John Percival,
Jennifer Newman

Search Committee
Don Milmore, Chair
Members:
Eliza Bailey,
Larissa Brenner,
Peter Coleman,
Josh Cronlund,
Stephanie Cross,
Rob Neimeier

Board Committees

Finance
Joan Weiser, Chair
finance@mmuus.org

Denominational Affairs
Kent Lindstrom, Chair
denomaffairs@mmuus.org

History
Mary Louise Edwards, Chair
history@mmuus.org

Hospitality
Alexa Carter and Linda Wobus, Co-Chairs
hospitality@mmuus.org

Membership
VACANT, Facilitator
membership@mmuus.org

Memorial Garden
Randy Archambault, Chair
memgarden@mmuus.org

Music & Arts
Lynne Perry, Chair
music@mmuus.org

Program Council
VACANT, Chair
programcouncil@mmuus.org

Public Relations
John Percival, Chair
pr@mmuus.org

May
Memorial

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

First Sunday Lunches

Here is the line-up for the fall:

- **Nov.** Men's Group
 - **Dec.** R. E. Committee
-

PR Committee

Anyone interested in joining the PR Committee can do so by attending a monthly meeting. The meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month, 9 am in the Memorial Room. Please join us on Oct. 8 to find out more about us. All are welcome. So the meeting dates after Sept. are as follows:

2017	2018
October 8,	January 14,
November 12,	February 11,
December 10,	March 11,
	April 15,
	May 13,
	June 10



Not receiving our weekly informational email?

Email the office administrator at 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 is in your contacts book.

Monthly Theme: Forgiveness

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

Adult:

Self-Compassion: Stope Beating Yourself Up and Leave Insecurity Behind by Kristin Neff, Ph.D.
The Power of Forgivness (documentary)

Youth :

Paper Clips 2004 (documentary)
"The Power of Forgiveness" website including a quiz on forgiveness:
<http://www.thepowerofforgiveness.com/>

Children:

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
What if Nobody Forgave and Other Stories of Principle by Colleen M. McDonald



November Office Closings

Friday November 10: Veterans Day(observed)

Thursday & Friday November 23 & 24: Thanksgiving Holiday

(continued from page 6)

politic." Obama's remark pointed to a more venerable conception of politics as deliberation about the common good, an idea going back to Aristotle.

This conception of politics is not only unfamiliar to many Americans; it is also inconvenient for those who would rather use the political process to advance selfish ends. By contrast, the more negative view of politics reduces questions about climate change or guns to mere posturing. This gives cover to special interests like the National Rifle Association, gun dealers and manufacturers, the fossil fuel industry, and enabling politicians, all of whom bear significant culpability for shootings or weather disasters.

The pressure to eschew "politics" in moments of tragedy also plays into a reframing of climate change and gun violence into natural phenomena. This further shields special interests from accountability. Opponents of climate policy declare that "[the climate is always changing](#)". Representative Joe Barton (R-TX), whose political career has been fueled by [almost \\$4 million](#) from energy interests, [remarked](#), "I guess we could pass a law saying you can't have hurricanes, but I'm not sure Mother Nature would listen to us." Even a mass shooting – [unless of course committed by a Muslim](#) – is turned into a natural phenomenon, [a matter of mental illness](#) or [even an unavoidable price for the exercise of basic rights](#). If a problem has largely natural causes, it is easy to silence those who seek accountability by declaring they are just out for political advantage.

The need for sensitivity to the victims of tragedy is indisputable, but we must also recognize that charges of politicization damage our political discourse and make future calamities all the more certain.

Greetings from the May Memorial History Committee!



Marvelous History Corner

To prepare for the ministerial search process, members of May Memorial, under the guidance of Pastor Sunshine and the search committee, have done a great deal of thinking over recent months about who we are as a community and what's important to us. In the spring the May Memorial History Committee decided that this would be

an especially appropriate time to revisit the many social causes of our second minister and namesake, Rev. Samuel Joseph May.

As Pastor Sunshine reminded us in the October 15 service, none of our past ministers have been "perfect" [nor should that be expected]. Nonetheless, Samuel Joseph May was so highly regarded that after his death, the Unitarian congregation that he served (our congregation) was renamed in his honor. As we contemplate our future, it's good to remember Rev. May and what he stood for. This will provide the material for our next few monthly newsletter columns.

Samuel Joseph May was born into a prominent Unitarian family in Boston in 1797. He graduated from Harvard in 1817 and attended the divinity school there. He was ordained at King's Chapel in Boston in 1822. Early in his ministry, Rev. May worked briefly as an assistant to the well-known Unitarian minister Rev. William Ellery Channing, visiting and speaking at churches in New York and other cities. His first settled ministry was in Brooklyn, Connecticut, where he stayed for 14 years. Rev. May then worked for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society for over a year, followed by six years as minister of the Unitarian Church in South Scituate, Massachusetts.

Rev. Sam May is most widely known for his work to abolish slavery. In his Recollections of our Antislavery Conflict, published in 1869, Rev. May wrote about what brought him to be so committed to this cause. While visiting Boston in October of 1830, he attended a public lecture given by abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. In that lecture, Garrison espoused "immediate emancipation" as "the right of every slave and the duty of every master." Further, Garrison argued that "*antislavery reform must be thoroughly accomplished before our Republic can stand upon a sure foundation.*" Sam May later wrote that hearing Garrison's lecture "gave a new direction to my thoughts, a new purpose to my ministry. I had become a convert to the doctrine of immediate, unconditional emancipation, liberation from slavery without expatriation.... I could not again speak to a congregation as a Christian minister and be silent about the great iniquity of our nation." Rev. May was critical of the role of the United States and Great Britain - the major "Christian nations" - in failing to stand up against slavery. (Thanks to the extensive efforts of Don Milmore, Rev. Samuel May has been nominated for inclusion in the Abolition Hall of Fame, and we should learn the outcome of the selection process within a few months.)

Rev. Sam May had visited and preached in Syracuse in the summer of 1843 while traveling with his wife Lucretia. After the death of Rev. John Storer in 1844, Rev. May came back as a candidate for the pulpit. By that time he was known as an activist who was committed to pacifism, temperance, and especially the abolition of slavery. Having left two previous ministries because

of objections to his activism, he made sure that the people of the Unitarian Society of Syracuse understood who they would be calling, if they called him to be their minister.

Late in 1844 members of the Unitarian congregation unanimously agreed to call Rev. May, and he and his family moved to Syracuse in the spring of 1845. Thus Rev. Samuel Joseph May became our second settled minister, serving from 1845 until 1868. The varied social causes for which he worked will be discussed in up-coming history committee columns for the MMUUS Newsletter.

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee Chair



New Member Orientation November 5th at Noon

Are you thinking of becoming a member of May Memorial or signed the book recently? Please join us for New Member Orientation on November 5th after service. We will discuss Unitarian Universalism, May Memorial, and the gifts and responsibilities of membership. This is an intergenerational meeting- children and youth welcome.

Please contact Pastor Sunshine with questions at swolfe@uuma.org.

The deadline for submitting to the newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month. To submit an article, please email it to 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.

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

November 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.

November 7

Bethany Russell-Lowe

Ministerial Intern at May Memorial and First UU churches

November 14

Pastor Sunshine J. Wolfe

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

November 21

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias

First Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse

November 28

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

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

Calendar

Friday, November 3rd 5:00 pm	FOLKUS	Social Hall
Sunday, November 5th 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service First Sunday Luncheon	Sanctuary Social Hall
Monday, November 6th 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, November 7th 10:00 am 3:00 pm	Writer's Group T'ai Chi Chih	Memorial Room Social Hall
Thursday, November 9th 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:30 pm	T'ai Chi Chih FOLKUS Open Mic Choir Rehearsal	Social Hall Social Hall Sanctuary
Friday, November 10th	Office Closed (Veterans Day)	
Saturday, November 11th 4:00 pm	OWL Overnight	Social Hall
November 12th 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:15 pm	PR Committee Worship Service Sunday Sign-Up Spanofiles	Memorial Room Sanctuary Social Hall COA
Monday, November 13th 2:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, November 14th 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
Thursday, November 16th 3:00 pm 7:30 pm	T'ai Chi Chih Choir Rehearsal	Social Hall Sanctuary
Friday, November 17th 5:00 pm	FOLKUS	Social Hall
Saturday, November 18th 8:00 am	Covenant/Vision Workshop	Social Hall
Sunday, November 19th 10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Monday, November 20th 6:00 pm	Transgender Day Of Remembrance	First UU
Tuesday, November 21st 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall
Thursday, November 23rd 12:00 pm	Pot Luck Thanksgiving Dinner	Social Hall
Friday, November 24th	Offices Closed	
Sunday, November 26th 10:30 am 12:15pm	Worship Service Spanofiles	Sanctuary COA
Tuesday, November 28th 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih Twisted Sisters	Social Hall Memorial Room
Thursday, November 30th 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih	Social Hall