



## Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and MMUUS

**This Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 pm—2:00 pm**

If you are curious about what goes on around here, or want to learn a bit more about Unitarian Universalism, or simply meet some new folks, then this program is for you. This introduction will be led by Rev. Jean, and hosted by the Membership Committee

There will be some basic information and resources. The bulk of the time, however, will be given to participants' questions. *How can MMUUS be of the most value to you on your faith journey?*

We will meet in the Memorial Room over a lunch-time snack.

Let Rev. Jean or the office know by Friday if you will need child care.

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



### March 15

#### Fifty Years Strong: Stewardship Sunday

*Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom with Stewardship Co-Chairs Jane Fagerland and Alexa Carter*

Stewardship is about supporting what we value and enabling it to grow. When we become stewards, we take responsibility and contribute our time, talent and treasure.

*\*12:00 pm—Kick-Off/Cook-Off in the Social Hall (see page 2 for details)*

### March 22

#### Samuel May Sunday

Guest Speaker: *Beth A. Broadway*

Samuel May Sunday honors our mission to serve the cause of justice and human rights in our world. This year's speaker is Beth Broadway, President/CEO of InterFaith Works.

### March 29

#### Passion and Suffering

*Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom*

We all know the saying "that which doesn't kill us outright makes us stronger". But to what end? When is passion worth the price?

### April 5 - Easter Sunday

*Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom and Stacy Sceiford, DRE*

Join the May Memorial staff and choir for an intergenerational Easter celebration.



## CareRing News & Notes

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Kathy Sobotka**, who is recovering at home after surgery.

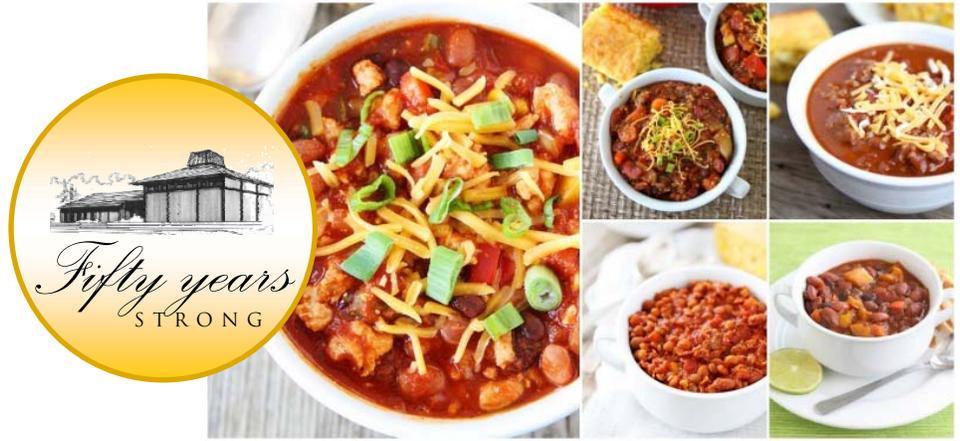
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*We want to include your news in this column. Although news of illness and bereavement will always be covered (if we know about it and you consent,) GOOD NEWS is especially welcome to balance it. Please let a member of the CareRing (**Peggy Ryfun,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

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### Correction to the March 1 MMUUSletter

The biography for **Lisa Harter** (May Memorial's gallery artist for March 2015) that appeared in the March 1<sup>st</sup> *MMUUSletter* incorrectly stated that Lisa attended Rochester School of Design (which does not exist). Lisa attended the Rhode Island School of Design.



## The “Kick-Off/Cook-Off!” is this Sunday!

**O**ur 2015-16 Stewardship Campaign—Fifty Years Strong!—launches this Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, with a special stewardship service and a chili and cookie cook-off competition, the *Kick-Off/Cook-Off*, in the Social Hall afterwards. **Alexa Carter** and **Jane Fagerland**, stewardship co-chairs, have lined up some of May Memorial's best cooks to participate.

Here are your instructions on how to judge the entries (and enjoy some delicious chili and cookies!):

- Proceed to the Social Hall immediately after this Sunday's service
- You will see nine possible food choices for tasting—5 chili samples and 4 cookie samples
- You may taste all nine items or only a few
- All food samples will be served in disposable containers marked with an identifying number
- When you have sampled as many as you care to, throw away all the containers except the containers for your chosen chili and your chosen cookie
- Take those containers to the voting table where you will see numbers 1-9 displayed
- Place your empty containers next to the number on the table that matches the number on your container
- We can all watch as the number of containers at each number tells the story of the voting

There are sixty samples of each available item, and the presentation of awards will take place when all samples have been consumed.

Questions? Contact **Alexa Carter** at [alexacarteralexa@iCloud.com](mailto:alexacarteralexa@iCloud.com) or **Jane Fagerland** at [Jane\\_F@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jane_F@sbcglobal.net).



## Social & Environmental Concerns

### “Children of Gaza Benefit Dinner” Wrap-Up

**O**n Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, May Memorial's Social Hall was the site for a co-sponsored event by the Syracuse Peace Council and our own Social & Environmental Concerns Committee (formerly the Green Sanctuary and Social Justice Committees). This benefit looked like a small United Nations, with people representing local mosques, a large Jewish and Palestinian presence, and many folks from Women Transcending Boundaries.

The dinner featured Palestinian food—*makluba* (a dish consisting of layered rice, carrots, eggplant, and potatoes topped with pine nuts, parsley, and sour cream) was the entree. Though traditionally made with meat, vegetarian and vegan versions of *makluba* were served, along with Lentil soup, pita bread, hummus, and olives. Dessert was baklava and date-filled pastries.

*CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel*, a committee of the Syracuse Peace Council, planned the benefit to provide humanitarian aid for those Gaza families left living among the ruins of this past summer's Israeli-Gaza Conflict. This was the third major conflict in just over five years. It left more than 2,100 Palestinians dead, the majority of them civilians, including hundreds of children, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. For many Palestinians in Gaza, heat, clean water, and electricity were only available part of the time. Young children and infants died from freezing conditions and lack of basic medical care.

The dinner was followed by speaker Ariel Gold, a member of Friends of Sabeel North America. Gold, who is Jewish, visited Israel recently and participated in a non-violent peaceful protest march on the West Bank, as there was no admittance to Gaza allowed. Her thirteen year old son and twelve year old daughter made the trip with her. She felt it was important that they be there because she wanted her children to understand, as Jews, when Israel is *“committing a crime in our name, it is our responsibility to act against that.”* Gold is an organizer with Jewish Voice for Peace. During their three week trip, she and her family stayed with both Israeli and Palestinian families in the West Bank. She felt it was important to see the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories with her own eyes. *“It's brutal to live under occupation,”* she said. *“It really impacts every aspect of daily life. One of the most difficult things for me, as a mom, is to see how it impacts children.”* She witnessed families shoving towels under doors to prevent tear gas from entering homes. Her family met with a sixteen year old boy, whom an Israeli soldier had shot

*(continued above right)*

*(“Social & Environmental Concerns” continued)*

while the young man was participating peacefully in a nonviolent protest. *“He still can't walk correctly,”* Gold said. *“I think that's quite similar to what we see here in terms of issues with valuing the lives of white individuals over the lives of people with color. They're valuing Jewish lives over the lives of indigenous people.”* Gold displayed a photos of her trip as she talked which showed images of the march, her children, the wounded young Palestinian and damaged buildings.

For these reasons, Gold said that rebuilding Gaza should matter to the people of CNY because *“humanity is an issue. We [Americans] are dealing with systematic violence against young men of color,”* Gold said. *“It's very similar to the targeting of Palestinian boys in the West Bank. It's unacceptable. I can't imagine how this can go on.”*

Though Israel claims that Palestinians regularly use children as human shields, Gold said that this is a propaganda lie. In actuality, she said, it is the Israelis that sometimes use Palestinians as human shields.

A Palestinian mother from Syracuse also spoke about the deaths of children in Gaza, breaking into tears at one point.

Proceeds from Saturday's dinner were sent to Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), a relief organization. MECA's current programs in Gaza include direct aid of warm clothes and blankets through cash donations, a project to provide clean water and psychological support to help children deal with trauma.

To garner additional funds, three handmade quilts were also raffled off.

~ Sue Savion, Co-Chair,  
Social & Environmental Concerns  
Committee



### Get a Move On!

The Music & Arts Committee proudly presents a Sunday Serenade featuring "Then Again" on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 12:15 pm in the Social Hall.** "Then Again" is a trio made up of MMUUS member **Anne Shelly**, friends Pat Rector and Carol Murphy. They will sing popular dance tunes from the Charleston-era thru the Disco-era. All are invited to dance along or just listen and enjoy!

## May Memorial's Biannual Book Sale is just around the corner!

**T**hat's right! **The big sale runs from May 15<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup>, with set-up taking place on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.**

As you contemplate the arrival of spring (It **will** come!) and spring cleaning, please consider saving the items listed below for our biannual Book and CD Sale. **Unfortunately, we cannot store donations at May until two weeks before the sale.** More notices about dates and opportunities to volunteer at this fun fundraising event will be forthcoming.

We accept the following (for adults and children):

- Fiction and Non-fiction (hard cover and paperback)
- CDs (music and children's educational programs)
- Audio Books (CDs only)
- Movies (DVDs)
- Computer games
- Vinyl 33 1/3 or 78 in good condition (*Most of the well-used, well-loved records we received two years ago did not sell*)

We do not accept textbooks, old computer software, Audiocassettes, encyclopedias and condensed books because they don't sell. When packing items, please put them in smaller boxes or double-bagged paper grocery bags so we can easily handle them.

Questions? Please call **Alice Chico** at 478-2393 or email her at [Chico421@twcnv.rr.com](mailto:Chico421@twcnv.rr.com)





## InterFaith Works' Senior Services Seeks Program Companions

**A**re you at least 55 years old? Would you like to earn extra money? Do you drive? If you answered "yes", are you interested in becoming a senior companion and helping elders maintain independent living? If so, we'd love to speak with you!

For more than twenty years, the Senior Companion Program has been addressing the physical and emotional needs of frail elderly people throughout Central New York. The agency recruits and trains senior companions who are matched with an elderly client to provide friendship and companionship, alert doctors and family members to potential problems, and provide general assistance on an as-needed basis. Senior companions are providing thousands of frail elders with the ongoing support they need to remain healthy and live independently in their own homes.

For more information, contact Aileen Jackowsky, senior services director at (315) 459-3552, ext. 109, or email [ajackowsky@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:ajackowsky@interfaithworkscny.org).

## Twisted Sisters

**is now on Twisted Tuesdays!**

Our first choice for a Tuesday didn't work out so well, so we are switching to the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month** for 2015. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Room.**

Please join us for a fun, drop-in, social evening. Email **Laura Knight** at [lauraknight.md@gmail.com](mailto:lauraknight.md@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Our Care Baskets



The weather in Syracuse has been extreme!

Extreme cold, amounts of snow ... even ice. As a congregation let's respond with EXTREME donations to help those with limited (or no) income who are especially vulnerable at this time of year. Please consider making the following donations during the next month:

**Food Items needed:** canned soups, a variety of ready to eat foods, bottled water, juices, powdered milk, peanut butter, rice, and baby formula.

**Personal Care Items needed:** band-aids, thick socks, antibacterial ointment, small lanterns with batteries, reading glasses, tissues, feminine hygiene products, and nail clippers.



### **Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Forum to be held at First UU**

How can we make the Town of DeWitt a better place for walkers, runners, and bikers? Join an open forum community discussion with "Moving DeWitt" on **Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 pm—8:30 pm, in the Parlor (First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, at 109 Waring Road in Syracuse).** If you have an interest in addressing and improving pedestrian and bicycle safety near First UU, then this is the gathering for you! Light refreshments will be served.

Questions? Contact Theresa Mandery, chair of the First UU Green Sanctuary Committee, via email at [theresamandery@gmail.com](mailto:theresamandery@gmail.com). For more information about the *Moving DeWitt* campaign, visit <http://www.townofdewitt.com/MovingDeWitt.aspx>.

## **Spring 2015 Folkus Concert Series Schedule**



### **March 20<sup>th</sup>—Cricket Tell the Weather**

Cricket Tell the Weather is an indie string band featuring bluegrass-inspired original music. Cricket is rooted in the bluegrass tradition, and expands to include rock, pop, and chamber ensemble elements. The band represents one of the most exciting crews of younger folks in the New York bluegrass scene right now. Along with strong original material, Cricket performs traditional, rock, pop, and Americana material with youthful energy, as well as professional solidity. The quintet's voice carries a new spirit that explores a century of influences, owing as much to the traditions that inspired bluegrass to the journey that follows.



Songwriters Andrea Asprelli (fiddle) and Jason Borisoff (guitar) are well-known to local "freshgrass" fans. They met and played in Syracuse, in the band Atlantic Flyway. Jason was playing in Syracuse bluegrass band Boots N Shorts and Andrea responded to a Craigslist ad they posted looking for a fiddler. They played in Syracuse together for two years before Andrea moved to Connecticut and Jason moved downstate. They are joined now by NYC native Doug Goldstein on the banjo and Jeff Picker (from Portland, Oregon) on bass.

**Tickets are \$15 (Folkus Member price: \$12).**

### **April 10<sup>th</sup>—Brooks Williams**

Singer-songwriter Brooks Williams is just plain good for what ails you. Ranked one of the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, Williams writes groove-laden songs and delivers them with an easy-going vocal style and monstrous guitar chops. His songs and vocal presentation are smooth as silk. And on stage his mood and attitude are deeply centered and quick to win over any audience.

Walking the line between blues and Americana, Williams has worked stages worldwide for over 25 years, amassing a staggering back-catalogue of songs, recordings and tales. With nearly 20 CDs to his name—and more on the way—this Statesboro, Georgia, native is, according to *americanaUK*, "impossible not to like."

**Tickets are \$15 (Folkus Member price: \$12).**

**All shows start at 8:00 pm.**

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



## St. Joseph's Provides Free Community Service

Safe disposal of "sharps," also known as needles, syringes and lancets, is a concern to all members of the Syracuse community. St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center provides a convenient site for the safe disposal of sharps for people with medical conditions that require at-home, self-injections, through the free Residential Sharps Collection Program. **The program takes place on the first and third Saturday of every month from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at St. Joseph's Emergency Department.**

St. Joseph's accepts used needles, syringes and lancets in clean, biohazard-labeled sharps containers or in clean, plastic bleach or laundry detergent bottles with a screw-on cap. Containers must be leak-proof and sealed to be accepted. People with medical conditions that require self-injections, such as diabetes, should immediately put sharps in containers after each use and keep them in a place that is safely away from children and pets. Sharps containers are accepted at St. Joseph's Emergency Department.

Improper sharps disposal is a danger to others who may be stuck accidentally, such as children, trash collectors and recycling workers, possibly exposing them to blood-borne diseases, such as Hepatitis B and C and HIV. Those wishing to drop off sharps may call St. Joseph's at 448-5173 for more information.

St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center is a non-profit, 431-bed hospital and health care system in Syracuse, N.Y., providing services to patients in 16 counties in Central New York State. Through prevention programs and the latest diagnostic treatment procedures, St. Joseph's works with patients to achieve optimum long-term health. A 15-time winner of the National Research Corporation Consumer Choice award, St. Joseph's is affiliated with Franciscan Companies and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis.



## View from the Study Window...

### Tuesday Worship at the Nottingham

1:30 pm—2:00 pm

Rev. Jean leads worship at the Nottingham twice a month. She is joined by **Fred Fiske** or **Nancy Pease** at the piano.

**All are welcome to attend** this short worship in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Services are scheduled and coordinated by Jane Pickett of FUUS.

We gather at 1:30 pm on Tuesdays, in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the main building.

**Rev. Jean's next service will be March 24<sup>th</sup> with Nancy Pease.**

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

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS  
Email ♦ newsletter@mmuus.org

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

**The deadline for the first of the month newsletters is the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for mid-month newsletters is the 5th of the month.** Articles received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. To submit an article, please email it to newsletter@mmuus.org.

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

**TIME VALUE**

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**Calendar**

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:40 am  
10:30 am  
10:30 am  
12:00 pm  
12:00 pm  
12:15 pm

**Stewardship Sunday**

Individual Spiritual Practice	Creekside
Worship Service	Sanctuary
Teenz	Teen Room
Stewardship Kick-Off Cook-Off	Social Hall
Intro to UUism/MMUUS	Memorial Room
Spanophiles	COA

**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm

Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG) Memorial Room

**Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm

Men's Fellowship Potluck/Discussion Social Hall

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm  
7:30 pm

T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall  
Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

**Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 pm

**Spring begins**

Folkus Concert: Cricket Tell the Weather MMUUS

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9:40 am  
10:30 am  
10:30 am  
12:15 pm

Individual Spiritual Practice	Creekside
Worship Service	Sanctuary
Teenz	Teen Room
Sunday Serenade: "Then Again"	Sanctuary

**Monday, March 23<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm

Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG) Memorial Room

**Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm  
5:30 pm

T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall  
Twisted Sisters Women's Group Memorial Room

**Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm  
3:00 pm  
7:30 pm

Bookenders Memorial Room  
T'ai Chi Chih Social Hall  
Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:40 am  
10:30 am  
10:30 am  
12:00 pm

Individual Spiritual Practice	Creekside
Worship Service	Sanctuary
Teenz	Teen Room
Program Council Meeting	Memorial Room