



### Betsy Fuller's Memorial Service—March 26

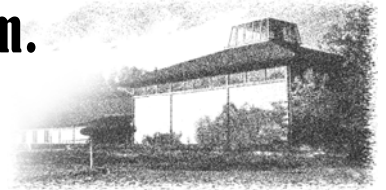
The memorial service for **Betsy Fuller** will be held **in the Sanctuary at eleven o'clock on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**. A reception will follow in the Social Hall.

**Note from May Memorial's CareRing:** *If you are able to bake cookies for the reception, or help us clean-up afterwards, please email the CareRing at [carering@mmuus.org](mailto:carering@mmuus.org).*

*Thank you!*

*~ May Memorial's CareRing Committee*

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



### March 20

#### Daily Spiritual Practice

*Spiritual Enrichment Group*

Please join Spiritual Enrichment Group facilitator Alexa Carter and members of our congregation this Sunday as they share their individual spiritual practices.

*\* First Day of Spring!*

### March 27

#### Easter Sunday Service

*Matt Meyer*

Back by popular demand is UU Drummer Matt Meyer, who will be leading the intergenerational worship service this Easter Sunday.

Matt Meyer is an artist of percussion, knowledgeable and experienced in a variety of styles, including Latin-jazz, Brazilian, folk, funk, Hip-hop and pop. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and has studied in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America.

Matt Meyer is also a member of the Tribal Rhythms performing arts Company, an organization that uses the theme of the "Tribe" to teach children about community building and how the arts can be used to develop a culture of caring, cooperation and respect.

### April 3

#### Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey

We invite you to join us this Sunday, as we welcome Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey to the pulpit for the first service of the month of April.

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## Care Ring News & Notes

Longtime friend, member and past president of May Memorial, **Bob Grinnell**, died on February 28<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 74. He moved not long ago from his house on Lake Ontario near Rochester to assisted living. His daughters Heather and Elizabeth have not announced plans for a memorial service, which may be private. Bob's work and career focused on college administration, development and fundraising. He was active in several MMUUS stewardship campaigns, and served as the congregation's president from 1986 to 1988. Bob's ex-wife Gail Grinnell, who stayed in touch until the end, can be reached by email at [gailgri@gmail.com](mailto:gailgri@gmail.com)

**Al Obrist** recently had some surgery and is now at The Crossings, a nursing home in Minoa. The only remaining effect of the surgery is weakness, which he hopes to recover from and return home. Al says his life at The Crossings is boring, and he fervently requests visitors. He says if he is asleep when you get there to wake him up!

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, **Vicky Schipper and Bill Miller** became grandparents to Mason Gregory Miller. Parents, Greg and Gina, and baby are doing well and grandparents are very excited. *Congratulations, Vicky and Bill!!*



## May Memorial's Public Relations/Website Committee seeks your opinion!

**D**o you have an opinion about May Memorial's website? Would you like our public events to be more widely recognized? Would you like to see YouTube videos of our recent services? Do you have access to a computer?

If you answered yes, the Public Relations and Website Committee wants to teach you new skills or give you the opportunity to practice existing skills. We want you to help us to share MMUUS public events with our wider community and to give homebound members access to past Sunday Services.

If you are willing to donate anything from one hour of computing once all the way to a couple of hours every week, the Public Relations and Website Committee would love to have your help. We will give you the necessary training to expand your skills doing things like:

- Advertising MMUUS events open to the public on local community calendars
- Keeping the MMUUS online calendar up to date
- Editing, creating, and updating pages on the MMUUS website
- Doing simple editing to Sunday Service video recordings and uploading them to the May Memorial YouTube page
- Posting updates to our Facebook page
- Sharing images on our Instagram account

If you're interested in helping out short term, send an email to [pr@mmuus.org](mailto:pr@mmuus.org) and let us know your availability and if there is a particular task or skill you're excited about.

**If you're interested in making a larger commitment, we're meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm, and we would love to see you at our meeting.**



# President's Letter

## Greeting and Salutations Beloved Community!

**We kicked off our Stewardship Campaign!** (a.k.a., Our Annual Pledge Drive to support May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society [MMUUS])

I'm sure most of you realize that of the 200 or so **Members and Friends** of MMUUS, we finance over \$200,000 to our Operating Budget—every year! That's Fantastic! We, the Members and Friends of MMUUS fund about 70% of our total budget, while rental income and fundraisers help out the rest of the way. We get no funding from the Diocese (*umm . . . we don't have a Diocese!*) Actually, we provide money required to the UUA (*albeit far less than the minimum amount*), so that they can help support us when **we** need it (*and oh boy, did we need their support in negotiating Rev. Jean's departure last year!*) We are going to need the UUA's support for the next couple years, while we enter into a search for a new minister. It would be great if we could actually pay them for all their help! But I digress . . . My point is that we need your pledges in order to put together a budget that continues to pay our staff and keep the building operating.

Stewardship (Annual Pledge Drives) have entered into some controversial territory. I know several of you have read "*Not Your Parents Offering Plate*" by J. Clif Christopher. This book proposes a couple of significant things. First, if your Chief Executive Office (*in our case, the minister*) is not **actively engaged** in promoting your Stewardship Campaign, *then why bother?* Second is that we often fail to convince potential givers that their gifts will have an impact on our mission. This is, of course, why it is SO important to have a good mission statement—one that is no more than a single sentence, understood by a twelve year old, and can be recited under duress! (*can you recite our mission statement?*)

Another really controversial Church Fund Raising book is "*Making the Annual Pledge Drive Obsolete: How Churches Can Get Out of This Business Once and For All*" by Timothy Dombek and Michael Durall. In this terrific future-focused book, Durall and Dombek argue that the annual stewardship campaign is actually **counterproductive!** Think of all the time and talent spent raising money! Imagine if the Stewardship Committee were researching and securing Sunday morning speakers, or doing UU outreach (*we probably could have had a float in the St. Patrick's Day parade with all that energy!*) Durall and Dombek ask several probing questions about why the reader gives to the church, or even at all. Again, it circles back to the importance of the church's mission statement, and asserts that that is the top reason people give—to *further the mission*. Our Mission Statement is:

*"We are committed to being an inclusive, respectful, caring community of faith that reaches out in welcome while coming together for mutual inspiration, empowerment and lifelong learning."*

*(continued above right)*

*("President's Letter" continued)*

Will your gift to MMUUS have an impact on our mission? Will your gift to our community help to make us more respectful, caring or welcoming? Does our mission attract those in our community who are looking to belong to a community that cares about others and helps people in need? Might we look at revising our mission statement so that it might attract people in Central New York who are trying to making sense of their lives amidst the political disarray and life-denying dictates of our consumer culture? There are people in Central New York looking for meaning in their lives and want and need connection with others. *Is it our mission reach out to them? If not, to whom do we reach out to?*

*Lots of questions!*

See you on Sunday!

~ Mariah Ducey,  
President, MMUUS

## Upcoming Board Chats



Thanks to all who came to and participated in the Board Chat on January 24<sup>th</sup>. We were glad to answer your questions, and to have your support. **Two more informal Board Chats are scheduled, the first of which will be held on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, and the next on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.** Both will be held in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour.

~ Alice Chico,  
MMUUS Board Secretary

# Twisted Sisters

**New start time: 6:00 pm**

Twisted Sisters meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in either the Memorial Room (or the Teen Room if the Board is working hard). **We have moved the start time to 6:00 pm** so **Andrea Wandersee** isn't so stressed out about getting there on time.

**This month's Twisted Sisters meeting will take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

*See you there, ladies!*

## The Growing Place Child Care Center

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

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



## Homeless & Hungry News

**O**n Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, May Memorial will be serving our next meal for the Homeless & Hungry at the Samaritan Center in downtown Syracuse. We generally work from 10:30



am—3:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact **Julie Daniel** at [jdanielyoga@gmail.com](mailto:jdanielyoga@gmail.com) or 622-3423. If you are unable to help in person, please consider making a financial donation to support this important work in our community. Checks should be made out to "MMUUS" with "Homeless and Hungry" on the memo line.

Please remember to donate regularly to our Food and Personal Care baskets in May Memorial's foyer. **Vicky Schipper** reports that last year we donated over 1500 pounds of food to the needy! Let's keep up the momentum! Remember to pick up a few items each week when you are in the grocery store or drug store. Suggested items: canned fruits & vegetables, peanut butter, soup packets, toiletries, feminine hygiene products, baby food and toiletries, socks, raisins, pasta, cereals. Thanks for your ongoing support of this vital program!



## Unirondack Scholarships!

**M**ay Memorial UU Society has an endowment scholarship to help our youth attend Unirondack, the UU camp and conference center in the Western Adirondacks. Attending a week at Unirondack is a life changing, esteem-building, affirming experience for many youth. If you have been considering a week at this UU camp, and finances have put the brakes on the plans, please apply for some funds to help make attending Unirondack a reality.

A scholarship application will be provided when requested by emailing **Stephanie Cross** at [mscross@windstream.net](mailto:mscross@windstream.net). **The application needs to be returned by April 15, 2016 for the scholarship committee (Fred Fiske, Anne-gret Schubert, Stephanie Cross) to review. Camper applications and payment are due to Unirondack by May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Campership scholarships are also available through Unirondack itself. For more information or to view the application and photos, please visit [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org).



## The MMUUS Talent Show is almost here!

We have a terrific show planned for you **on March 20<sup>th</sup>**, the actual Spring Equinox. So come and help us *Bring in the Spring* on exactly the right day. **The show will be held in the Sanctuary at noon, following the Coffee Hour.** Our performers are extraordinary, and you'll be sure to enjoy their talent.

~ MMUUS Music & Arts Committee

## Drum Circle

**April 10/May 15  
12:00 pm**



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

*"... The magic of the drum circle has an effect on our hearts and minds as we allow ourselves time to just 'be'."*

The cost is \$10 per session. Bring your own drum or reserve one.

Please RSVP to **Carroll Grant** at 882-4910 or [cgrant6@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cgrant6@twcny.rr.com).



## Colgate Chamber Singers to perform at MMUUS

**Starting at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**, the Colgate University Singers will present a concert of sacred and secular a cappella music. Repertoire will include the music of Barber, Bruckner, Hogan, Palestrina, and others.

This concert will take place in May Memorial's Sanctuary, and is free and open to the public.



# MUSIC AND THE ARTS

## Upcoming Folkus Concerts



**March 18<sup>th</sup> - Magpie** - With a career that has spanned forty years, Magpie has traveled the globe, bringing its unique sound and breathtaking versatility to audiences everywhere. Award-winning recording artists, songwriters, musical historians, and social activists, Greg Artzner (vocals, harmony vocals, guitar and English concertina) and Terry Leonino (vocals, harmony vocals, harmonica, mandolin, dulcimer, guitar, hand drum and Native American flute) always promise a presentation that is highly entertaining as well as provocative and deeply moving.



Magpie performs various folk music styles, including traditional, classic blues, country, jazz, and Celtic, as well as songs by musical heroes including Phil Ochs, Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Jean Ritchie, Tom Paxton, Buffy St. Marie, etc. Magpie also writes and sings songs they have written, many of historical, cultural, and social interest, and with a large selection of songs focusing on Civil Rights and the environment. Terry and Greg's sound is that of two very strong voices, one female, one male, in powerful leads and two-part harmony, accompanied principally by Greg's virtuoso guitar arrangements, embellished by excellent complement from Terry's second guitar, harmonica, mandolin, and dulcimer.

Tickets are \$15 (Folkus Member Price: \$12)

**April 1<sup>st</sup> - Catie Curtis** - Catie is a veteran on the singer/songwriter folk scene, crisscrossing the US for 20 years – and counting – performing shows, recording and releasing 13 CDs, with devoted fans following her every move. Curtis' studio work, engaging live shows and impressive touring career in the U.S. and Europe have earned her rave reviews.

Her songs have been featured on *Dawson's Creek*, *Felicity*, *Alias*, *Chicago Hope*, and *Grey's Anatomy*. The winner of more than her share of Boston Music Awards, she also took the Grand Prize in the 2006 International Songwriting Competition (out of 15,000 entries) for her song "People Look Around", co-written with Mark Erelli. She's performed at the White House several times, at two Presidential Inaugural Balls, with Lilith Fair, and at Carnegie Hall. She has also toured with Dar Williams and Mary Chapin Carpenter and recorded a duet with Kris Kristofferson for his CD "The Austin Sessions."

Tickets are \$20 (Folkus Member Price: \$17)

All shows begin at 8:00 pm.

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



## Compassion and Choices to Hold Meeting March 30

**T**he Green and Social Justice Committee is sponsoring an informational meeting on **March 30<sup>th</sup>**, about health care for those who are nearing the ends of their lives.

Compassion and Choices New York, a non-profit agency whose mission is to improve end-of-life care, will present Expanding Options: Allowing for Medical Aid to the Dying in New York State.

Corrine Carey, New York campaign director, will be the speaker; and a discussion will follow her presentation. There will be light refreshments at the end of the meeting, which **will be held from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at May Memorial**.

For more information, go to <http://www.compassionatecareny.org/organizational> or <http://compassionandchoices.org>.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Calendar**

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

3:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
5:30 pm	Arts on Genesee Meeting	Memorial Room
6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship Discussion/Potluck	Social Hall

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

7:30 pm	<b>*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*</b> Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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**Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 pm	Folkus Concert: Magpie	MMUUS
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**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am	<b>*First Day of Spring!*</b> Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	First UU
12:00 pm	MMUUS Talent Show	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Great Decisions Session I	Memorial Room
7:00 pm	Great Decisions Session II	Memorial Room

**Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
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**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

6:00 pm	Twisted Sisters	Memorial Room
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**Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm	Bookenders	Memorial Room
6:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

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

11:00 am	Betsy Fuller's Memorial Service and Reception	MMUUS
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**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am	<b>*Happy Easter!</b> Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	First UU
12:15 pm	Spanophiles	COA

**Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

4:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
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**Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

2:00 pm—4:00 pm	Compassion & Choices Meeting	MMUUS
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**Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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