



View from the Study Window...

For the past 10-15 years, May Memorial's Trustees have given a lot of attention to the interconnected areas of finances, membership, and volunteerism. Balancing the Budget and staffing our Shared Ministry are indeed intertwined with the strength of our Membership. It has been easy for those working "in the trenches" of governance to give, inadvertently, the impression that we seek new members *because* we need more pledge income and committee members.

Your ministers have worked gently to counter that impression. We have urged a deep attention to those walking through our doors. We have encouraged listening to newcomers' hopes and needs – not what we suppose they want or need. We have encouraged honesty about what May Memorial can and cannot offer.

Over the past fifty years, our

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



May 3

RE Sunday

Stacy Sceiford and the RE Committee

Come this Sunday for a fun and interactive look inside our Religious Education Program.

**12:00 pm— First Sunday Luncheon hosted by Spanophiles y amigos.*

May 10

Music Sunday

Glenn Kime and the MMUUS Choir

The music of Haydn and Bartok, with orchestra, and a trip to the organ loft. Come join us!

May 17

Vigilance

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

May 24

Labyrinth

Pilar Lyons

A labyrinth can be followed as a metaphor for life's journey: the path twists in unexpected ways, taking us close to our goal before turning us away again for a time. Sometimes, using a labyrinth is a way to engage in a meditation with one's whole body, while at other times it is simply a pleasant setting for a stroll. *How can a labyrinth improve your life? Can we members and friends of May Memorial find value in labyrinths?* Several temporary labyrinths in various styles will be available to use after the service.

May 31

Teen Service

MMUUS Teenz



CareRing News & Notes

Still shocked, the far-flung children of **Verah Johnson** nevertheless attended church at May on Sunday. They reported that Verah, 88, had unexpectedly died the day before. She had had to move to a congregational setting in Barrington, R.I. last summer and was back here just for the weekend. She had called her children together to engage them in the necessary decisions involved in closing her Syracuse affairs and selling her house. As it turned out, she was able to die here in Syracuse with all of her children (and two grandchildren) surrounding her.

Members of May were glad to be able to help the Johnson family to determine what Verah's wishes had been regarding her final arrangements. **A memorial service will be held here for her on Sunday, June 14th, at 1:00 pm.** We will miss her.

Adam Crafter, Laura Knight, and Ellery Crafter will be moving to Reno, Nevada, in mid-June, as Laura has accepted an employment offer there. While they are looking forward to warmer weather, they will miss their MMUUS friends and the connections they have made during their five years here.

Sherrie and Richard Coombs, who have given so much of themselves to May Memorial and the Teenz, are moving to California this month. We will all miss them!

Seen on the PBS Newshour on April 17th: Molly Hennessey-Fiske, Houston Bureau Chief of the L. A. Times and daughter of our own **Fred Fiske**. (Molly's report was on a Texas immigration issue.) Fred must be very proud!



May Memorial's Biennial Book Sale is only two weeks away!

May 15—May 17

That's right! **The big sale runs from Friday, May 15th—Sunday, May 17th, with set-up taking place on May 13th and 14th.**



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. **You may now drop off your books, CDs, DVDs, etc. at May Memorial. Please pack them in either boxes or sturdy grocery bags. When you drop them off, please put them neatly in the coat room.** More notices about dates and opportunities to volunteer at this fun fundraising event will be forthcoming.

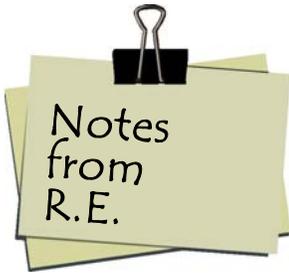
We accept the following: **books** (for adults and children) fiction and Non-fiction (hard cover and paperback), **CDs** (music and children's educational programs), **Audio Books** (CDs only), **Movies** (DVDs), **Computer games, Vinyl** 33 1/3 or 78 **in good condition**. We do not accept textbooks, 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.

Hours for the 2015 Book & CD Sale are:

- ✓ **Thursday, May 14th** (Preview Sale) from **6:00 pm—8:00 pm** (\$5 admission)
- ✓ **Friday, May 15th**, from **10:00 am—5:00 pm**
- ✓ **Saturday, May 16th**, from **10:00 am—4:00 pm**
- ✓ **Sunday, May 17th**, from **12:00 pm—3:00 pm** (Bag Sale - \$5/paper grocery bag of books. Media items are half price)



Questions? Please call **Alice Chico** at 478-2393 or email her at Chico421@twcny.rr.com



You've seen them, those RE kids at the beginning of the service. They start out in the sanctuary with all of us, maybe a few of them have wandered up to you and shaken your hand with a "good morning" before filing down the aisles to the stage for the "story for all ages" (which by the way, I have heard truly is for all ages in that a lot of the grownups enjoy the story just as much as the children do!). Then we sing them off, "go out in joy and come back in peace", we wish them. But if you haven't been a part of RE, perhaps you wonder what it is that they are doing "down there", or down the hall in the Teen Room. And now I would like to encourage you to come find out just what it is that we do in RE, by volunteering as a guide this coming church year!

Volunteering in RE is a commitment of approximately 8 Sundays. We divide the year into three terms and ask each adult to sign up for just one of the three terms. That means that we need **a lot** of volunteers though. Each of our classrooms requires 2 adult guides, and we are seeking at least 6 adults to work with the Teenz this coming year. So if you've been holding back thinking that there isn't a place for you in RE, let me tell you that there *is* a place for you and I'd love to help you find it. If you are a little unsure, please feel free to stop me during coffee hour or give me a call so we can talk about what the best fit would be for you. There are a lot of fun and exciting benefits to making the trek downstairs on a Sunday morning!

One of the comments I hear from folks is that they don't know enough about being a UU to "teach" in the classroom. To you I say, then you can learn right there alongside your young peers! The lesson plans are already prepared for you and easy to follow. And the kids will enjoy knowing that they can teach you something too! They love to share their knowledge. This isn't the kind of program where the grownups do all the teaching and the kids do all the learning, we have a shared community of learning and experiencing our faith together. No experts required! And even if you are a long time UU with a wealth of knowledge and experience, I bet the kids will have you looking at things with a fresh perspective.

Another reservation some people have is that they are worried about being "in charge" of a class full of children, especially if they don't have children of their own or don't have classroom experience. Once again, we've got you covered. Each classroom has two adult guides, and if you have concerns about

(continued above right)

("Notes from R.E." continued)

classroom management speak to me about it so that I know to pair you with a more experienced guide. You will not be alone.

So, picture a precocious little UU looking up at you and asking "will you be a part of my faith journey with me?" Our youth are curious, bright, creative, artistic, and energetic. They are amazing young people and they love learning and sharing with the adults who generously give of themselves. But I think you'll find that you will receive just as much as you give if you are willing to be a part of it all.

In Peace,

Stacy Sceiford,
Director of Religious Education



Labyrinth Visioning Meeting

Bring your ideas and dreams about an outdoor labyrinth at May Memorial to the Sanctuary on **Wednesday, May 20th, at 6:00 pm**. We will discuss the possibilities and the constraints of constructing a permanent outdoor labyrinth. If you can't attend the meeting, but wish to contribute ideas, please let Pilar Lyons know via email at pilarlyons@gmail.com or in person the Sunday before.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Savings at May Memorial

Harsey Leonard reports that with our new roof insulation, furnaces and lower windows, we are now saving at least 40% in our heating and cooling costs and at least 40 tons of reduced CO2 emissions per year. That's huge(r)
mmuusgreensanctuary.blogspot.com.



Scrap Metal Collection

Sunday, May 3rd, will mark the resumption of the wildly successful scrap metal drive. The collection trailer will be parked in our lot the first Sunday of each month beginning May 3rd and running until snow flies again. Last year's efforts netted over \$2,000 for the general fund. Start your spring clean up early. Call **Gary Carter** at 593-7974 if you have questions.



American Red Cross' Disaster Preparedness Presentation has been rescheduled

The presentation by members of the American Red Cross scheduled for Sunday, May 17th, in the Sanctuary following coffee hour **has been rescheduled**. So as not to conflict with the book sale, **the American Red Cross presentation will be held sometime in the fall**.



The two photographs below were taken at the Pachamama Symposium, which took place at May Memorial. This was held in early October and was co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committees of First UU and MMUUS. It was open to the public and had a good showing of over 30 people. The folks from Rochester, who put on the program, stated it was the best symposium that they had yet conducted. Members of Green Sanctuary donated snacks and hosted the presenters at their homes for the night.



The next two photographs (below) were taken by **Sue Savion** at last fall's Citizens Climate March in New York City.



Sue wrote: "I was in New York City along with some 400,000 other people for the People's Climate March. This worldwide happening of 2,808 individual events took place in 166 countries on Sept. 21 declared by many as a historic day. I was on one of 3 buses that traveled from Syracuse to the Big Apple. Another bus or two were filled with Native Americans from here. There were people of faith—including a large UU presence. I connected with someone who knows Liz Strong very well from her time in Boston. There were also Sierra Club, Pachamama, NAACP, sand mine activists, 350.org (Of course! Bill McKibben instigated the whole idea and planned the event to coincide with the meeting of many nations at a U.N. meeting on the Climate.), unions, students and grandparents, infants and teenagers, and lots of retired people like me. We were full of gratitude to be able to go express ourselves on the streets quietly, boldly, but all civilly respectful. It was exciting and exhilarating to see so many peacefully and creatively protesting."

Look for these photographs and more in the near future on May Memorial's website—www.mmuus.org.

A note from Andy Tripp

The letter below arrived last week at May Memorial from currently out of state MMUUS member Andy Tripp:

Dear May Memorial,

It was a delight to return and preach in the summer of 2013. Life has been busy completing my PhD in practical theology at Boston University while serving as a chaplain for Dr. Matthew S. Shwartz Hospice. My project is a practical theological investigation into three urban congregations that have robust ministries of care for the poor in metro Boston. I defend my dissertation on April 27th. I could use your kind thoughts and well wishes.

Skinner House Press, our Unitarian Universalist publisher, has a forthcoming book titled Unitarian Universalist Chaplains: Theology and Practice, in which I authored a chapter titled "Unitarian Universalist Chaplaincy with Dementia." Dementia is a challenging disease, and we UUs often are really great with our minds and our words, but the chapter looks at ways we can care with our hearts using the resources of our tradition for folks with more advanced dementia.

In addition to my academic and professional work, I am getting married on May 24th. It is the weekend immediately after I graduate. Our service will be at Tufts University's Goddard Chapel, which is fitting since my own UU roots come from the Universalists and Tufts was founded as a Universalist institution much like St. Lawrence University.

Best,

Andrew Tripp



Andy Tripp

(photo courtesy of the Boston University School of Theology)



"Be the Change" Auditions to be held May 9 and 16

First UU and May Memorial are combining talents to stage a dinner theater production of the play, "Be the Change - An Activist Dinner Party" by Rev. Steve Wilson. **The Syracuse version will debut Oct. 17th.**

The play features a prototypical UU who finds herself waning in her commitment to her core values. Listening to the daily news leaves her frustrated and overwhelmed in the face of all the troubles in the world crying out for her attention. In her restless dreams, she envisions a dinner party attended by several major historical, political, and literary figures. Rumi, Jesus, Thich Nhat Hanh, Buckminster Fuller, Martin Luther King, Jr., Maya Angelou, Howard Thurman, and Marge Piercy engage our main character in a lively conversation about their lifetime learnings. The result is an uplifting experience that leaves all of us a little more hopeful about the future.

Director, John Seavers, is looking for actors to fill each of the nine roles in the play. **Auditions will be held in the parlor at First UU on May 9th and 16th, at 1:00 pm.** If you've ever wanted to be involved in theater, here's your chance. No previous acting experience is required.

Email John (jseavers@hotmail.com) or Keith (jlymner@yahoo.com) with questions.



Installation of Rev. Joe Cleveland

It is with great hope and joy that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs installs the **Rev. Joseph Cleveland** as its minister.

If you are unable to attend the installation in person, you can watch Rev. Joe's installation online via a live stream at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/uu-congregation-of-saratoga-springs>.

Congratulations, Rev. Joe, from everyone at May Memorial!



Our Exhibiting Gallery Artist for May 2015 is Rachael Ikens

Rachael Ikens, a talented artist from Baldwinsville, will be displaying her work in our Social Hall throughout the month of May. Creative from early childhood, Rachael won a Scholastic Art Award in third grade, which was presented to her at Everson Museum. Her next major achievement was selling her first drawing at age 13.

Her multi-media art has been shown across CNY in galleries, libraries, and schools, and she even has trading cards available on eBay.

Rachael's art was part of a juried show at Everson in 2010. She won second place ribbons at the 2014 NY State Fair for a pen and ink drawing and for a mixed media collage. Her artwork was also chosen as the inaugural cover for the Dragon Poet Review of Oklahoma City.

A photographer, poet and novelist, as well as an artist, she released a book of poetry in March. The cover art with this and Rachael's other books are available on Amazon.com.



MUSIC AND THE ARTS



Emma's Revolution comes to May Memorial on May 1

May 1st—Emma's Revolution—Smart, funny, informative — like Rachel Maddow and Jon Stewart with guitars. Emma's Revolution is the award-winning, activist musicians Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow. With hauntingly beautiful harmonies and powerful acoustic instrumentals that deliver the energy and strength of their convictions, Emma's Revolution writes songs that become traditions. Their music is infused with inspiration from the legacy of music for social change. It is infectiously energizing, imbued with warmth, hope and humor and the power to turn tears into laughter, cynicism into action.

Tickets are \$18 (Folkus Member price: \$15).

Show begins at 8:00 pm.

Special May Day Celebration with the Syracuse Cultural Workers

Syracuse Cultural Workers (SCW) has a longstanding history of support for the labor movement and workers' rights. May 1st (May Day) is the original workers' holiday begun to commemorate the Chicago Haymarket fight for the 8-hour work day in 1886.

In honor of May Day, SCW will give all union members attending the Emma's Revolution concert a free copy of its Harry Bridges poster, printed by union labor of course.

Bridges (1901-1990) was the revered founder of the International Longshoremen's and Warehouse workers' Union (ILWU) in 1932.

SCW is a North American publisher of progressive products. Founded in 1982, its mission is to further *"a culture that honors diversity and celebrates community; that inspires and nurtures justice, equality and freedom; that respects our fragile Earth and all its beings; that encourages and supports all forms of creative expression."*



Calendar (continued from page 8)

Saturday, May 16th

10:00 am—4:00 pm

10:30 am
10:30 am

Book & CD Sale

Worship Committee
Environmental & Social Justice

Social Hall

Memorial Room
COA

Sunday, May 17th

9:40 am
10:30 am
10:30 am

Individual Spiritual Practice
Worship Service
Teenz

Creekside
Sanctuary
Teen Room

12:00 pm—3:00 pm

12:15 pm

Book & CD Sale

Spanophiles

Social Hall

COA

Monday, May 18th

6:30 pm

Spiritual Enrichment Group

Memorial Room

Tuesday, May 19th

3:00 pm
7:00 pm

T'ai Chi Chih
Board of Trustees Meeting

Social Hall
Memorial Room

Wednesday, May 20th

3:00 pm
6:00 pm

Spiritual Enrichment Group
Labyrinth Visioning Meeting
(see page 3 for details)

Memorial Room
Sanctuary

6:30 pm

Men's Fellowship Potluck/Discussion

Social Hall

Thursday, May 21st

3:00 pm
7:30 pm

T'ai Chi Chih
Choir Rehearsal

Social Hall
Sanctuary

Sunday, May 24th

9:40 am
10:30 am
10:30 am

Individual Spiritual Practice
Worship Service
Teenz

Creekside
Sanctuary
Teen Room

Monday, May 25th

****Memorial Day—Office Closed****

Tuesday, May 26th

3:00 pm
5:30 pm

T'ai Chi Chih
Twisted Sisters (Women's Group)

Social Hall
Memorial Room

Thursday, May 28th

1:30 pm
3:00 pm
6:00 pm
7:30 pm

Bookenders
T'ai Chi Chih
Spiritual Enrichment Group
Choir Rehearsal

Memorial Room
Social Hall
Memorial Room
Sanctuary

Sunday, May 31st

9:40 am
10:30 am
10:30 am

Individual Spiritual Practice
Worship Service
Teenz

Creekside
Sanctuary
Teen Room

Afternoon Spiritual Enrichment Group

A new Spiritual Enrichment Group led by Rev. Jean now meets **on alternate Wednesdays 3:00—4:00 pm in the Memorial Room**. A Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG) is a small group of people who meet together on a regular basis to explore the challenges of living. Please contact Rev. Jean or Brian Betz if you are interested in participating.

View from the Study Window

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religious and cultural landscape has changed dramatically. Households and family life have changed. Syracuse has changed. — You know all this. My point is that we must change, as well, if we are to thrive as a faith community.

One thing has not changed: the desire for progressive, wide-ranging religious education, with an emphasis on the ethics needed to be in Right Relationship, and a moral emphasis on living as responsible citizens of the Community of Earth. We all know that this is our future. We know that it is expensive, a net drain on any congregation's resources. And we know that we will do it anyway, no matter the time and money it takes. It's that important.

Meeting the needs of tomorrow's members will mean becoming a May Memorial we can barely imagine and may find hard to recognize. What will endure is the essence of our Society. We will always be committed to Standing on the Side of Love. We will remain a people of "big hearts, open minds, and helping hands". We will celebrate our connection to the Community of Earth. What will change is only our way of showing it.

~Blessings, Jean

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@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.

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

TIME VALUE

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Calendar

Friday, May 1st 8:00 pm	Folkus Concert: Emma’s Revolution	MMUUS
Sunday, May 3rd 9:40 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Individual Spiritual Practice Worship Service Teenz First Sunday Luncheon	Creekside Sanctuary Teen Room Social Hall
Monday, May 4th 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, May 5th 3:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	T’ai Chi Chih Articulating Your UU Faith Syracuse UU Young Adults	Social Hall Teen Room Memorial Room
Wednesday, May 6th 3:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Thursday, May 7th 3:00 pm 7:30 pm	T’ai Chi Chih Choir Rehearsal	Social Hall Sanctuary
Sunday, May 10th 9:40 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Individual Spiritual Practice Worship Service Teenz	Creekside Sanctuary Teen Room
Monday, May 11th 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, May 12th 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	T’ai Chi Chih Articulating Your UU Faith	Social Hall Teen Room
Thursday, May 14th 3:00 pm 6:00 pm—8:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	T’ai Chi Chih Book & CD Preview Sale Spiritual Enrichment Group Choir Rehearsal	Foyer Social Hall COA Sanctuary
Friday, May 15th 10:00 am—5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Book & CD Sale Folkus Concert: Seth Glier	Social Hall MMUUS

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