

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

Join us Sunday at 10:30am for Worship Service

May 2019 Volume 82

*Where you go I will go beloved, where you go I will go
Where you go I will go beloved, where you go I will go
For your people are my people, your people are mine
Your people are my people, my divine your divine.*



Rev. Jo lower front center

We sang this chant in December when I traveled to the San Diego/Tijuana border, we sang it to show our solidarity to our siblings across the horrible, racist wall.

This June, at our annual meeting there will be a proposition to vote on that would name our May Memorial a member of the Syracuse Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition. No, we are not becoming a sanctuary congregation and will not be directly housing anyone, but by officially joining this coalition we are saying that immigrant's lives matter to us. By joining this coalition we are committing to offering support to other churches that may be housing sanctuary guests, or other immigrant families in Syracuse. This might look like offering car rides, cooking a meal, going grocery shopping, donating clothing... the list of support is long, and that is why they need so many congregations to sign onto the coalition.

If this achieves an affirmative vote, it also means that our Green and Social Justice Committee will have different educational opportunities for us as a congregation to learn more about the lives of immigrants and those seeking Sanctuary and a new home. We will also host congregation wide social justice events where we will ask our members to show up at some kind of witness event to show the city of Syracuse that we are in solidarity with the immigrant community here.

I will be preaching about the immigration and the unjust US border patrol on May 12th, sharing some real stories of real migrants just trying to find themselves a better and safer life. Joining the sanctuary coalition is our chance to rise up and say NO MORE, to say that we care, to commit to showing up where mercy, grace, and compassion are needed right here in Syracuse.

Always remember,
JRev loves you

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Greetings from Your Board!

Last year around this time, I experienced something not seen in my four years at May Memorial – a firestorm of emotion from folks in response to the announcement that our singing bowl was to be moved from the Sanctuary. That decision was wisely postponed for future discussion, which happened a few weeks ago in a townhall meeting. What a difference a year makes! Conversation about what the singing bowl means to us was open and respectful, and people spoke from their hearts.

So, here's what I heard: that the singing bowl is not a "real" chalice...that singing bowls were never intended to hold fire and were not part of a religious tradition, but rather created as souvenirs...that this represents "Orientalism," and trivializes a culture that is not our own...that we should replace our singing bowl with an object more consistent with the UUA's definition of a "chalice," and that now is the perfect time for a new beginning, to choose a chalice more representative of who we are today. That was one side.

From another viewpoint, many members described the deep emotional attachment they feel toward an object has served as May Memorial's chalice for a VERY long time...that they would miss it, particularly its resonating sound, lovingly described as meditative, centering, and healing...that there is a fine line between disrespectful adoption of another culture, and the natural sharing of cultures that evolves in a melting pot nation such as ours. It was asked whether singing hymns from other cultures was also cultural misappropriation.

As the discussion wound down, it was obvious to me that the congregation was not ready to move the singing bowl. And that's when something wonderful happened - the glorious result of an honest airing of differing opinions. The suggestion was made that we keep the singing bowl for mediation, AND add a new chalice for our opening and closing rituals. This seemed to be acceptable to those in both the "keep-it" and the "move-it" camps. The Board will take this up at our next meeting, and the plan is for everyone to get a chance to weigh in with a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting on June 9th.

Our congregation has been characterized as conflict averse. We don't like conflict, we avoid it, and then things "blow up" - when listening to ideas different from our own and trying to find common ground would have brought us to a healthier place. It's a skill that gets easier with practice, and we may have just gotten it right this time!

See you in church!

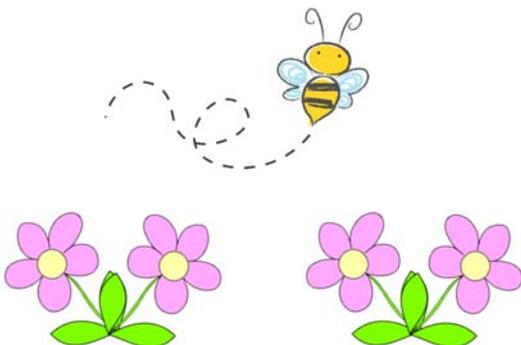
Jane



Are You Interested in Becoming a Member?

Have you been attending May Memorial for long enough that it feels like home to you? Are you ready to jump into membership, giving of your time, your talent, and your treasure?

If you are interested in becoming an official member of May Memorial please contact Reverend Jo at ministerjrev@gmail.com or call her in the office. There is also a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of her office so she can call you if that's what you would prefer!





When I was a kid this was the time of year that my mother would wash the windows. It was a grueling task that included removing them from their frames and scrubbing them with a rag that was repeatedly dunked into a bucket of hot vinegar water. I thought it smelled disgusting! And was grateful that it was warm enough outside to be far away from the icky vinegary smell. The removal and reinsertion of the windows and the repeated dumping out and refilling of the bucket were positively back breaking, but it was something my mom just needed to do in the spring. I did not inherit the itch to deep clean the windows, and even though my windows claim to be easy to remove for cleaning purposes, I feel a good wipe down of the parts I can reach when I open them is just fine. But I do understand that springtime urge to clean—especially the windows since they are finally being opened after the long, long (ever so long) winter!

Spring cleaning (or any cleaning if I'm being honest) is not my specialty, but I recognize that it isn't just about making things clean, that there is a spiritual element to it. I know from experience that when my surroundings are neat and tidy I feel more calm within. And I know that when my kids' toys, games, and books are all put away, that they have an easier time getting along and finding something to do. Our surroundings impact our inner peace. I am by no means proposing that I am going to change my ways entirely and become the neat and tidy type though, I know my personal limitations. But I have been feeling the spring cleaning bug and found some ways to include the whole family. So

far we have sorted bookshelves and donated a big box of outgrown books to a friend with a Little Free Library making space for the piles of books that were accumulating on the floor. And we rearranged some furniture to make our main living space (still affectionately known as the "play room") more usable for growing tweens.

It definitely doesn't rise to the level of intense window washing, but having a book purge definitely felt cleansing and made our house feel a bit more organized. Maybe these positive vibes will inspire even more spring cleaning around the house, especially if it means we can pass on to others what we loved and enjoyed but have outgrown ourselves. Welcome spring and welcome the inner peace of a tidy bookshelf and an open window.

In peace,

Stacy Sceiford, Director of Religious Education



The April First Sunday Lunch was the last one for the church year. Randy Archambault, who has organized these lunches for 15 years is retiring from doing this job. It is time for someone or someone(s) to step up and take the reins.

Please contact the office or the board to volunteer

Thank you Randy for all you've done organizing the Sunday Lunches! Big shoes to fill for sure.

HistoryCorner

May Memorial's Silver Communion Set



Among May Memorial's historical artifacts is a silver communion set, displayed in the Memorial Room. No information has been found in the archives to show when it was purchased, but a stamp on each piece indicates that it was manufactured by Rogers & Brothers of Waterbury Connecticut, a company that no longer exists. Based on his research, Rog Hiemstra has speculated that it was manufactured around 1847-1855.

(See his 2015 book.)

In the mid-1800s, when Rev. Samuel May was preaching at the Church of the Messiah, Unitarians were still celebrating the Christian sacrament of communion. Unlike more traditional ministers, Rev. May did not limit participation in the ritual. Rather, he invited everyone to share in communion who wished to commemorate the life and teachings of Jesus, whom he viewed as a "divinely inspired model."

In 1914 Rev. John Applebee wrote in his diary about celebrating communion, and in 1925 the congregation discussed reviving the communion ceremony as part of the Easter service. Instead, the trustees decided to hold a "simple memorial communion service" on Palm Sunday. Although communion was celebrated occasionally after that, it had disappeared by the 1950s, according to May No One Be a Stranger (1988).

May Memorial's silver communion set has adorned the chancel from time to time over the years, and Reverend Jo used it at Easter. The history committee was concerned to find that it had deteriorated considerably since its use in 2014. Apparently, a box of wooden matches stored in the cabinet with the silver set caused the silver plating to start peeling off.

There is a story at May Memorial that the communion set was stolen at some point but was discarded when the robbers realized that it was silver plated, rather than sterling silver. That may be the reason for the dents and the damage to the base of one goblet that prevents it from standing up. Although the silver communion set is rather battered and worn, we are fortunate that this piece of our heritage has survived.

Mary Louise Edwards

Chair, MMUUS History Committee

The History Committee Meets the
3rd Wednesday of the month in
Room 8.

All are welcome!



Join us on Sunday morning at 10:30am for worship service.
Stay for coffee hour right after service in the Social Hall.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Speakers</u>
5/5	Different Voices	Director of Music Glenn Kime & MMUUS Choir
5/12	Hola Somos Amigos	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Kent Lindstrom (Intergen)
5/19	COA tour of Boston	Teens
5/26	TBA	Jeanne Cameron and Worship Associate Eliza Bailey

I strongly support the proposal for MMUUS to join the Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition.

My understanding is that the Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition formed to provide a strong, faith-based statement of support for immigrants in the face of fierce xenophobia and harsh immigration laws.. The Coalition provides education on the issue of immigration and the challenges faced by those without immigration status in the US. It also advocates for legislative reform of the immigration system, and helps to recruit volunteers to assist immigrants in a variety of ways. For example, the University Methodist Church recently welcomed a family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Our purpose in joining this coalition would be to add our voice to other faith groups to support human rights for all regardless of their immigration status. Each congregation may participate to the extent that they feel comfortable in terms of what specific actions they undertake. Some may engage in direct support to immigrants in the form of providing rides or food. Others may focus on providing education and advocacy.

As an immigration lawyer in central New York for 21 years, I see this as an opportunity to provide support to an organization that is addressing a serious human rights issue in our midst. Many of those who are entering the US without documents are fleeing from violence in their home countries. The UN High Commission for Refugees interviewed 800 children who arrived at the southern border of the US several years ago. The UN determined that at least 48% of these children had directly experienced violence in their own lives. The fact that the current US administration seeks to limit the ability of those fleeing for their lives to apply for asylum, is a violation of US law and international human rights law. As a faith-based organization, we have a unique opportunity to amplify our voices in support of human rights by joining this coalition.

Diane Chappell-Daly

April 17, 2019



Green and Social Justice Committees



Information Session for congregational support of the Carbon Fee/Dividend policy

The Green & Social Justice Committee will be presenting the first of two informational meetings toward congregational support of the Carbon Fee/Dividend policy.

- **The first meeting will be held in the Social Hall on Sunday, April 21st from 12:15-1:15pm.**
- **The second meeting will be held on May 5th from 12:15-1:15pm.**

Background information: The Carbon Fee and Dividend is a policy to put a federal price on carbon-based fuels at the well-head, mine or extraction point. This policy would place a steadily rising fee on the CO2 content of fossil fuels. All of the revenue from this fee would be returned to all households in the U.S.

Border adjustments would be applied to keep business from relocating. The fee would also be applied to methane leakage. The payments to households would be made on a per-person basis for those over 18 years of age. Many countries have this carbon fee applied but do not distribute the money to its citizens. This policy would.

This issue of the Carbon Fee and Dividend will be considered for congregational support by vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting in June.



Music Sunday May 5

Different Voices

The choir will present a service of anthems from different cultures and times, with contributions by Megan (Wobus) Beller, Nancy Pease, and Chris Dranchek.

*Celebration
of Life*

Memorial Service for Muriel Kirkpatrick will be May 12, 2 p.m.

A reception will follow. If you can bring cookies/bars and/or help during the reception and cleanup, email Janet Hiemstra at janethiemstra@gmail.com or Linda Wobus at linda.wobus@gmail.com

Crone Con

Crone Con will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, NY, 183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, N.Y.

Join us as we nurture and celebrate the power and wisdom of women. We will offer workshops, crafts, discussion, a dance party, a Croning Ritual and more. Open to all women over 35 whether or not they identify as crones. Meals will be provided from snacks on Friday through breakfast on Sunday. Bring a sleeping bag if you wish to stay overnight. Crone Con will run from 6:00pm Friday through 9:00am Sunday May 10 - 12, 2019. Registration will be open until May 3.

Crone Con is open to Women 35 and over from the following Unitarian Universalist congregations: Binghamton, **May Memorial**, First Syracuse, Big Flats, Cortland, Ithaca, Athens and Sheshequin.

Please disseminate internally in your respective congregations.

Please register using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzFY3ZMtCjduF0KIkCjMyhvZyHZrD4VSShTMsztEtEJ7SGxw/viewform?usp=sf_link



May Memorial offers many groups and classes tuned in to mind, body and spirit

A depression support group meets every Thursday at 4:30pm in the Teenz Room

Tai Chi led by Ann Pia is held in the Social Hall every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 3pm

Spiritual Enrichment groups are held at various dates and times through out the month, check the calendar for details.

SPAGHETTI DINNER A DELICIOUS SUCCESS

Friday, April 26 found over 150 friends and members sharing a delicious spaghetti dinner in our social hall.

Many volunteers made for a sharing of the work load for such an undertaking. It was great to work eat and visit together as a community.

The popular basket raffle added to the flavor of the evening:

- **S'MORE EXTRAVAGANZA** including a patio fire pit, S'More fixings, glo sticks, candles, skewers and more was contributed by the Board of Trustees and won by Alexa Carter
- **PRODUCTS OF NEW YORK** featured wines, jams, syrups and other goodies made in our great state. John Percival took that prize home. It was donated by The Green and Social Justice Committee.
- **ITALIAN BASKETS I AND II** were donated by the women's groups, Evenings Beyond Eves and Sister Circle, and featured all the delicious Italian treat one could imagine and some you've probably never heard of. Joan and Ike Loveridge Sanbonmatsu took one home and Mardie Ninno took another.
- **SAMPLER OF WINES AND BEERS** was so loaded, it was difficult to move. This popular item was donated by the Choir and won by Jane Fagerland.
- **START YOUR OWN WINE CELLAR** was donated by the Worship Associates and won by Cat Hammond.
- **COFFEE MATES (LIQUEURS)** was won by Eliza Bailey and donated by the PR Committee. The goal for fundraising for the evening was \$1,000 and we were successful in achieving it. Our goal for community building and fellowship was even more important, and we met that one too. Spending an evening with friends and good food is always a delight. Keep an eye out for the next all church event that comes along and be sure not to miss it!



Art Gallery

The Finger Lakes Fiber Artists to Display Fiber Arts

The Finger Lakes Fiber Artists includes 20 artists working in all areas of fiber arts. Drawing from a wide area, the artists meet at the Schweinfurth Art Center every other month to support one another and to encourage the development of professionalism in fiber arts. This exhibit will include works from the group's quilters and felters. Each artist has her own unique style and the exhibit will highlight the variety of expressions found in this diverse group of artists.

Social Justice Tuesday! Join us May 7 at noon!



Join Rev. Jo on the front lawn/roadside of the church on the **from noon to 1:30pm** (or however long you have time). We have pre-printed signs! Just bring yourselves and dress for the weather. We are going to start becoming known again in this community and this is an easy way for us to be visible. If you would like to come but have trouble standing for long periods of time we will get a chair for you. This is a multigenerational event and kids are especially welcome as we teach them how to love out loud.

Hope to see you there!

About Folkus

Great live music. Friendly people. All volunteer run.

Quite simply, the Folkus Project is all about bringing great, live acoustic music to Central New York. We've been doing that for over 18 years, and cultivating a community of acoustic music fans in the process.

Folkus is a not-for-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers committed to bringing a wide variety of live music to our area. This includes old favorites, up and coming artists, and seasoned performers new to our area – all high quality, and all at affordable prices. We present shows twice a month on Friday nights, from September to May.

It's important to us to give our performers a great experience playing with us, and to have our audiences feel a part of a greater community of folks who enjoy listening to live music out with others. For us, it's about the music as well as the experience that live music creates. Tickets at FOLKUS.org



"...one of Central New York's hidden treasures"
— Chris Baker, nytimes.com

The Folkus
Project of Central New York



Eliza Gilkyson

Friday, May 03, 2019 at 8:00 PM

May Memorial UU Society

Eliza Gilkyson is a politically minded, poetically gifted singer/ songwriter who has become one of the most respected musicians in folk and Americana music circles. This Grammy nominated artist grew up knowing that her life would revolve round music.

General Admission \$20.00 FOLKUS Members \$17.00



Durham County Poets

Friday, May 17, 2019 at 8:00 PM

May Memorial UU Society

The Durham County Poets are a lively and soulful group, who write and perform an eclectic blend of blues, folk and rock, with tinges of country, gospel and swing tossed in for good measure.

General Admission \$18.00 FOLKUS Members \$15.00

FOLKUS May Memorial Appreciation show

May 3rd, 2019

Artist: Eliza Gilkyson

We invite any May Memorial member to come to the show at the same discounted price as our Folkus members - \$17.

You can either buy a "Member Ticket" for our Eliza Gilkyson show online until noon the day of the show - <https://www.folkus.org/events/eliza-gilkyson/>, or you can buy a discounted ticket at the door by just letting us know that you are a May Memorial member.

The above link provides some added info about Eliza Gilkyson, as well as being where folks can buy their tickets online.



Unirondack weekend 2019 — Mark your calendars!

Put the weekend of Sept 13-15, 2019 on your calendar for the annual Unirondack weekend for our MMUUS congregation and other UU congregations in Central New York. The price will increase slightly from last year due to the increases in the cost of food. \$75/PP for those over 10 years old; Children 4-10 years \$63; Children 3 and under are free. This is inclusive of 2 nights (F, S) lodging, 3 meals Saturday and Sunday breakfast & lunch and the use of all the facilities on the Unirondack grounds. Our costs are \$31/night to Unirondack and the small balance is for the groups' food costs for 5 meals. Friday dinner is on your own. Check out the website for a look at the facilities: Unirondack.org

A 50% deposit is required to hold your space; the balance needs to be paid 2 weeks in advance of the weekend. Please respect this payment schedule!

Reservations can be made by sending your name(s) to:

Stephanie Cross at
mscross1234@gmail.com.

Deposit checks should be made to "Stephanie Cross", given to her at MMUUS or mailed to:
3844 Pompey Center Road,
Manlius, NY 13104.

Please include your contact information (phone and email), names of people attending and ages of the children attending with your check. You will receive an email confirmation.

This is a great weekend for our UU community - I hope you will join us!

Stephanie Cross, Coordinator, from May Memorial UU Society

Stephanie Cross
mscross1234@gmail.com
home 315/682-0586
Cell 315/430-0372

Annual Gathering of Men: June 7-9 at Unirondack

<https://www.unirondack.org/mens-weekend/>

UU men of all ages, colors, creeds, and orientations gather to share their experience as men with workshops, discussions, hikes, canoeing & kayaking. From preparing meals to sharing a campfire, we enjoy good fellowship. Quiet time for reading & solitude. Use the link to register.



Was it really 6 months ago that you were top bidder??

Have you enjoyed all the goods and services you won?

If you haven't cashed in on your treats, services, and adventures, now might be the time to make that contact and arrange to enjoy your winnings. However, if you finished enjoying your winnings do not despair – the next Goods & Services Auction is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 2019 – so circle it on your calendar and get ready for another fun evening and more wonderful treats, services, gatherings & adventures.

And everyone – it is time to start thinking about what you might donate to this year's auction.

Let's make it even better than last year!



Notes from the Admin Office:

- **Calendar Items:**
All meetings and events must be scheduled through the Office Administrator.
- **Deadlines to remember:**
Any submissions to the **E-Blast and Order of Service** need to be to me by 5pm on Wednesday.
- **Newsletter:**
Deadline for Summer (June, July & August) newsletter is: May 20 by noon.
Any submissions received late will be omitted from the newsletter and added to next month where appropriate. Please keep word count to 250-300 to allow room for everyone to have a voice in the newsletter

Getting in touch with Rev Jo

Rev. Jo can be reached at
ministerjrev@gmail.com



Annual Report Time!

Please have committee annual reports to my office no later than May 15 to be included in the end of the church year annual report.

Annual Meeting is set for Sunday June 9 after service

In order to save on costs this year we will not be printing the full annual report. They will, however, be available in electronic form and for print upon request and there will be the pertinent budget report and the proposals to have available at the meeting.

Addition to the Operation Manual

GUIDELINES FOR SELLING GOODS AND SERVICES

Adopted April 19, 2019

General purpose: The selling of goods and services on MMUUS property should promote the spiritual, social, aesthetic, or environmental purposes and values of MMUUS. Some portion of the proceeds of such "selling" activity typically should be contributed to the coffers of MMUUS, as indicated below, to support the Society's programs and needs.

General limitations: Purely commercial activity unrelated to MMUUS purposes is strongly discouraged. The reasons are two-fold: to insure that MMUUS activity is consistent with the goals of this religious organization, and to protect in good faith the Society's not-for-profit IRS status.

Examples of appropriate sales on MMUUS property:

- Sales of art works selected by the Arts Committee for display in the Social Hall
- Sales of printed materials authored by invited lecturers
- Sales of UUA-related merchandise such as t-shirts, books, and mugs
- Sales of hand-made craft items, vended in craft fairs organized either by MMUUS members or by collaborating crafts cooperatives
- Sales of food items made by MMUUS members for MMUUS fund-raising purposes
- Sales of "sustainable" and/or socially progressive food items (e.g., certain coffee products) as not-for-profit fund-raisers for MMUUS
- Sales of raffle tickets for goods (e.g., food baskets) and personal services (e.g., car-washing, house-cleaning) donated by MMUUS members for MMUUS fund-raising purposes
- Sales of tickets for performances of musicians performing at MMUUS
- Sales of simple refreshments at events scheduled by MMUUS or by renters held in the social hall.

Examples activity generally NOT appropriate for the MMUUS community:

- Sales, advertising, or promotion of goods and services for personal financial benefit.

Exception

- Fund-raising sales by children and youth for educational or other non-profit organizations whose missions are consistent with MMUUS values.

Terms and procedures:

- Prior to a sale, the sellers must obtain permission from the MMUUS Finance Committee by email to its Chair. (Contact office @mmuus.org.) This request should be made at least five weeks before the sale. The prospective seller will be notified of the decision four weeks before the sale in writing by the Finance Committee, after consultation with the Board Chair, if appropriate.
- MMUUS members and attendees wishing to sell personal items, on MMUUS property, with prior permission of the Finance Committee, expected to donate those items before the sale, or to donate the full sales revenue from those items following the sale, to MMUUS (See the GIFT policy regarding in-kind and monetary contributions.)
- Exhibiting (invited) artists/crafts-people will normally be expected to contribute 10% of their related sales revenue to MMUUS. (Exceptions are occasions when artists/crafts-people rent booths at MMUUS-organized art fairs and similar events where contracts are in effect.)
- Invited speakers who sell their publications at MMUUS at or near the time of their talks will not be expected to contribute their sales revenues
- Tax payments by authors, artists, etc., are the responsibility of the sellers.

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214
315.446.8920
office@mmuus.org
Office hours: Sun -Thurs 9am-2pm

**May 2019
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.

May 7

Marty Pelham, Ministerial Intern
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse
Fred Fiske, Musician

May 21

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
First Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse
Sara-Jo Brandt-Doelle, Musician

May 14

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

May 28

Rev. Don Megnin, Retired Professor of
International Politics and United Methodist
Minister living at The Nottingham
Fred Fiske, Musician



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