

# May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

June 2019 Volume 82

Join us Sunday at 10:30am for Worship Service

## Let us Become Immersed in the Power of Worship



(Caption: JRev at Lake Tahoe)

In May I spent a week at a beautiful retreat center in Lake Tahoe, NV at a conference that focused on the worship experience. I gleaned so much from this place and from the workshop itself, and was rejuvenated to spend time with colleagues both Christian and UU, and to make new friends. The biggest take home for me from this workshop is how we can turn our worship service into a deep emotional and spiritual journey... a time to give us more fuel for the work ahead of us.

You will begin to see some changes in worship starting in October, we are going to try on a few things for size. We are going to be adding a "Threshold Moment" to the beginning of each worship service. We are also going to be working in some "Worship Series" through the fall and into the winter. I'm excited to see what we can create together. I will need some help with these new worship elements, so if you find yourself a creative person, please do reach out and let me know what excites you about creating things and we can find a spot for you to help for as little or as long as you like.

My friends, I am deeply excited for the new worship year and I cannot wait for us to go on this new journey together.

And always remember,

JRev loves you.

## In This Issue

President Report	2
Religious Education Report	3
History Committee	4
Green and Social Justice	5
Upcoming Events	6





## Greetings from Your Board!

Well, here we are at the end of the church year, at the end of my three years on the Board and two years as your President. These have been eventful times at May Memorial! When I joined the Board, we had just called Pastor Sunshine as our Interim Minister, and as I leave, we have welcomed Reverend Jo, our new Settled Minister. I feel so privileged to have been a part of this.

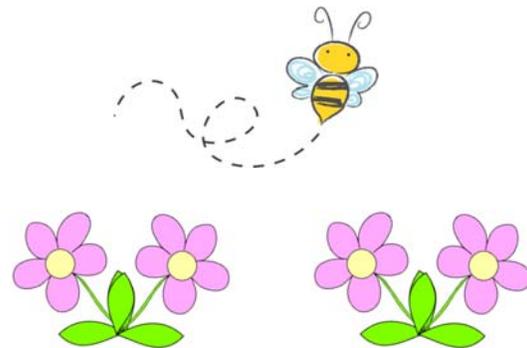
As any of you who've attended our Board meetings can attest, the agendas have been jam-packed, and we've worked hard to stay on topic and to focus our time on activities that move our mission forward. I'll highlight our accomplishments in my Annual Report, but I want to use this last newsletter to say thank you to my fellow Board members – to officers Kevin King, our Vice President, who was always there when I needed him, and to Linda Wobus, our Secretary, who faithfully chronicled meetings and decisions. Many thanks to outgoing Trustees Jay Brenner, who skillfully managed the review of our by-laws and policies; and Leah Cronlund, who helped restore and maintain cordial relations with The Growing Place. We're all busy people, but Jay and Leah negotiated the extra challenges of demanding careers, being present for their families, and STILL making meaningful contributions to the Board for three years. Thank you, too, to Joan Weiser, our Treasurer, who oversaw the church's fiduciary responsibilities, made more challenging by a small Finance Committee. Two Trustees will continue on the new Board: Diane

Chappell-Daly, who strengthened the link between the Board and Program Council; and Sue Savion, who maintained our Perpetual Calendar and brought important issues from Green and Social Justice to the Board's attention.

Special gratitude, also, to everyone who reached out to me in the past two years – with comments, complaints, new ideas, historical perspective, and most of all, with support. I've learned so much from each of you, and I look forward to continued service at May Memorial with the wisdom and knowledge I've gained from the honor of serving as your President.

See you in church!

Jane



## You voted!

### Here are the results!

1/2 of all non-pledge Sunday offerings in 2019/2020 church year will go to the following organizations

Sept.-Oct. '19 Blessings in a Backpack

Nov.- Dec. '19 Planned Parenthood

Jan.- Feb. '20 Interreligious Food Consortium

Mar.-Apr. '20 Center for New Americans

May-Jun. '20 Vera House

July-Aug. '20 Minister's Discretionary Fund

Many thanks to the 71 people who responded to the survey.



**FOR**





### Get ready to join the adventure in Religious Education!

I am seeking folks who are interested in being part of a guide team in our elementary level RE classes next year. Lesson plans and materials are provided for you and your teammate. We have four different age groups in the elementary program, and I am looking for four adults for each of them (2 in the fall and 2 in the spring). Guiding is a 10-week commitment, with Sundays off for school vacation weeks, holidays and intergenerational worship services. Take a look at the classes we are offering next year:

**Picture Book UU:** read a story to our youngest RE children then participate in a craft, song, or activity to build on the message of the story. Children in this class have an opportunity for a light snack and free play to round out the morning. If you enjoy pre-k and kindergarten age kiddos, this is the class for you!

**World of Wonder:** this curriculum is rooted in our seventh principle, the interdependent web of life, and lessons have an environmental focus. There are lots of stories about animals and lots of opportunities to go outside...and sometimes get a bit dirty. This class is for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

**Love Connects Us:** this curriculum centers itself on building community with a focus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> principles. What are our responsibilities to one another? How do we set out on our search for truth and meaning while honoring the search of our friends and neighbors? This class is for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

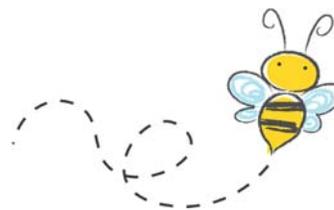
For 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders this year we won't be using one specific curriculum but will draw from several curricula including Building Bridges and the Picture Book UU World Religions expansion. The class will explore what people who follow different faiths believe and how they practice their faiths. *I am particularly interested in people who are knowledgeable about Minecraft* to lead this group as we may be incorporating ChUUrchcraft into the mix as well!

If these classes don't appeal to you but you would like to be more involved in Religious Education, please reach out to me to see where you could fit in—there are many opportunities for folks to participate! If you have a particular interest or spiritual practice that you would be willing to share in RE, let's talk to see how we can incorporate that.

Religious Education is an important ministry of our church and serving the education and spiritual exploration of the children in our community serves our mission. I look forward to serving with you!

In Faith,

Stacy Sceiford, Director of Religious Education



A pizza and salad lunch will be available between the regular service and the annual meeting on June 9.  
All are welcome.

June 16, Father's Day, will feature a shared end of the year potluck picnic at MMUUS with the extra treat of strawberry shortcake for all. Bring a dish to pass.



## HistoryCorner

May Memorial has an amazing history of social justice work, going back to Rev. Samuel J. May. Rev. May was a fervent supporter of women's rights and has been referred to as one of the nation's first feminists. Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that one of the local organizations supported by people from May Memorial is Planned Parenthood. In fact, our involvement with Planned Parenthood goes back to its earliest days.

Dora Sedgwick Hazard, who signed our membership book in 1903, was a well-known champion of women's rights and an early advocate of family planning. Her daughter, Sarah Hazard Knapp, was one of the women responsible for the success of the first family planning clinic in Syracuse, and her granddaughter, Sarah Auchincloss, was a long-time member of May Memorial and ardent supporter of Planned Parenthood. (The mansion next to the James Street church that was purchased for religious education space in 1940 was special to May Memorial because it had housed the first "family relations" clinic in Syracuse, the forerunner of Planned Parenthood.)

Members of May Memorial have continued to support the mission of Planned Parenthood, even though the organization has been controversial and has been actively opposed by organized groups. Many from May Memorial have volunteered there through the years, and some have served on the board, including Rev. Nick Cardell, who was chairperson of the board in the 1970s, and Rev. Elizabeth Strong (MRE).

It is likely that our forebears would be distressed by the restrictions recently placed on women's reproductive rights, but they would approve of the congregation's support for Planned Parenthood through our "change for change" program, as well as the efforts of individual members. There is a recent thank you letter from Planned Parenthood on our bulletin board. It attests to the importance of our support, especially at this trying time.

Mary Louise Edwards  
MMUUS History Committee



### Notes from the Admin Office:

#### Summer office hours will begin Sunday June 23rd

Office will be open: Sunday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-12  
Phone messages will be checked daily.

**E-blast** will still go out on Thursday, please have submissions to me by 5pm Wednesday



## Green and Social Justice Committees



### Beatitudes for Earth Sunday

Reading By Richard S. Gilbert

Blessed are the heavens,  
for they declare the power of creation.  
Blessed is the earth, our beloved home,  
for she is a planet of plenitude.

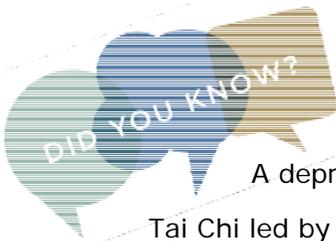
Blessed are the waters thereon,  
for they gave rise to living things.  
Blessed is the land,  
for it is the source of life abundant.

Blessed is the air we breathe,  
for it fires us to life and love.  
Blessed are the beasts of the field,  
for they are glorious to behold.

Blessed are the birds of the air,  
for they carve a graceful arc in the sky.  
Blessed are the mountains and the seas and the valleys,  
for their variety makes rich our habitat.

Blessed are the fields of grain, the orchards of fruit,  
for they give sustenance, asking nothing in return.  
Blessed are the dwellers on earth,  
for they cherish the privilege of living upon it.

Blessed are they who protect the earth and all her creatures,  
from the plants of the field to the trees of the forest,  
for their reward shall be harmony with the web of existence.  
Rejoice, and be glad,  
for the earth and her people are one.



**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.



We will be power washing and staining the pavilion this summer so that people both from May, and outside renters can use it. This work has not been done in over ten years. Rob Neimeir has volunteered to do the power washing, but I do need people to come to stain the structure after it has dried. I will announce a day and time to do this work and will email people.

Randy Archambault

# Congregational Meeting



## May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Notice of Annual Meeting

**Meeting Announcement:** The Annual Meeting of May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society will be held in the Sanctuary at *noon on Sunday, June 9, 2019.*

**Voter eligibility:** To be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, a member must have signed the book at least 30 days prior to the meeting and have made a financial contribution of record in the previous 18 months.

Major Agenda Items:

Adoption of Operating and Capital Fund Budgets for 2019-20

Election and Installation of Officers, Trustees, and Nominating Committee

Terms expiring:

Jane Fagerland, President

Kevin King, Vice President

Linda Wobus, Secretary

Trustees: Jay Brenner and Leah Cronlund

Nominating Committee: Mariah Ducey, Jennifer Newman

Vote on Chalice Proposal

Vote to support Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy

Vote to support joining Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition

Jane Fagerland, President  
May 26, 2019

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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

---

**June 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.

**June 4**

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

**June 18**

Rev. John Rose  
Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Church  
Member of InterFaith Works  
Fred Fiske, Musician

**June 11**

John Hottenstein  
Retired UCC Minister  
Nancy Pease, Musician

**June 25**

Jim Brule, Multifaith Spiritual Storyteller  
Ordained Jewish Spiritual Storyteller  
Fred Fiske, Musician



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