





Send off for Rev. Jean

Please bring you favorite fanciest dessert to an all church gathering on **Saturday, June 27th, at 7:00 pm** to spend some time with Rev. Jean and wish her well. We will gather in the **Social Hall** for one last get together.



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

June 21

Summer Solstice Service

Guest Speaker: Susan Daiss

Come celebrate the longest day of the year with guest speaker Susan Daiss.

June 28

Music Sunday

Fred Fiske

Join us this Sunday for a musical treat from May Memorial's own, Fred Fiske.

July 5

Managing Transitions

Mariah Ducey and Alexa Carter

Many of us have questions and concerns during this time of change at MMUUS. Please join us for this special service dedicated to dealing with transition, after which there will be a question and answer period.

July 12

Guest Speaker: Libby Moore



Congratulations to Mary Louise Edwards, who is retiring from Syracuse University. At the May 10th commencement ceremony, she was among the retiring professors to be honored as new Emeriti faculty.



Congratulations to our graduates!

Kyle Brown graduated this year from Syracuse University College of Law with a Juris Doctor. Best wishes, Kyle!

Isabella Dillon, daughter of Mariah Ducey and Mike Dillon, is now a high school graduate! Congratulations, Isabella!

And last but certainly not least, a congratulatory shout-out goes out to our graduating seniors in the Teenz group— Elena Karpoff, JoAnn Parks, Isabella Puente, and Michael Tyler!



Challenging Times for May Memorial!

n Sunday, May 31st, **Peter Colman**, MMUUS President, and the MMUUS Board of Trustees, stood before the congregation to announce a special meeting in accordance with our constitution, that on Sunday, June 14th the congregation was set to gather, and take part in, a vote to dismiss (or accept the resignation of) our minister.

I know this is not something that a Board of Trustees would do without lots of careful consideration and consultation with the UUA. Attendance at the June 14th meeting was critical to gain a better understanding of the situation. I am very pleased that we did not let the rumor mill influence our judgement!

This will be a difficult time for May Memorial. With many unknowns, there may be difficult feelings to process. The Worship Committee will have three special Summer Services for the congregation to begin to process some of these concerns:

- Sunday, July 5th "Managing Transitions" with Mariah Ducey and Alexa Carter
- Sunday, July 26th "Change is Inevitable!" with Alice Chico
- Sunday, August 2nd "Finding Balance" with Pilar Lyons

After each of these services, MMUUS leadership will be available to hear your concerns and answer any questions you may have (to the best of their ability).

Please join us for one or all of these special services.

See you Sunday!

~ Mariah Ducey, President, MMUUS Board of Trustees

"Last words" by Peter Colman (your former president)

finished my second one-year term as your president at the June 14th annual Imeeting and turned the gavel over to your new president, Mariah Ducey, at the June 16th board meeting. I'm thinking about what I will do next, what committee(s) I will join. It will be something new, something I haven't yet done. That narrows it down a great deal.

You too should be thinking of how you will be involved in the life of May Memorial in the next year. It will be a challenging year, but could also be a very exciting year as we prepare for our future. Widespread involvement is what makes our society come alive.

I want to share two Rev. Jean stories. Back when I was on Building and Grounds, we had a decrepit sign out front and no sign by Dewitt Road or our parking lot entrance. I drove all around looking at the traditional style signs found at many churches, and other signs as well. The signs I liked best were at Hillbrook. They had clean styling which I knew would look good with our building. The county was able to give me the name of the Buffalo firm which had supplied the signs.

I had to go to the city to get permits for the signs at the parking lot and at Dewitt Road, and it turned out there had never been a permit for the main sign out front. Worse, to be where they could actually be seen, all three signs needed to be on city property. This meant lots of red tape. I finally got approval. In the paperwork submitted to support the application, I wrote that the signs would be in an earth tone, figuring this might make the difference in obtaining variances.

I did more driving around and got lots of paint chips. After I narrowed it down, one of the signs I had admired was a red sign at an apartment complex on Rte. 92 in Manlius so I included that color, and went to talk to Rev. Jean. I was worried though that we'd be in trouble with the red. Rev. Jean looked at all the colors, and immediately said "Red. I want to be able to tell people to look for the red signs." The red is perfect, goes well with the berries on the mountain ash trees, and helps the signs stand out boldly from all the foliage. Jean, thank you for the gift of red.

Another Rev. Jean story—Board meetings generally begin with "Opening Words". Sometimes this is planned ahead, but not always. Last August, I didn't plan ahead, so at the meeting, without warning, I simply asked Rev. Jean whether she would provide opening words. She agreed and rustled through some papers. Then she read, "We have had one of our grandchildren with us this week so I have been an entertainer along with everything else. It turns out that the canal museum in Chittenango is enough different from the one in Syracuse that people who go to one should definitely go to the other. I really liked the one in Chittenango. It also turns out that I am still a real killer Monopoly player, and my disk golf skills are if anything better for not having done this at all this year. Anyway that is how come I'm a little late with the agenda." I was tickled to hear this – it was from an email I had sent her a few days.

(continued above right)

("Last Words" continued)

earlier with the proposed August agenda.

In my professional life as an attorney I was a sole practitioner. Being involved here at May, and particularly serving first as B&G chair, and next as President, I have learned respect for teamwork and group decision making. Thanks, to all of you, and particularly thanks to the two boards I have led.

> ~ Peter Colman, President, MMUUS Board of Trustees (2013-15)



Memorial Garden Committal for Dan Sage

Those who knew and loved **Dan Sage** are welcome to attend his commitment ceremony in the Memorial Garden this Sunday, June 21st, after the morning's service.



Summer 2015 Worship Service Schedule

June 21st Summer Solstice with

Susan Daiss

June 28th Hymn Sing

with Fred Fiske

July 5th Managing Transitions*

July 12th Libby Moore

July 19th Ann Tiffany (Syracuse

Peace Council)

July 26th Change is Inevitable*

August 2nd Concinnity Singing

Group

August 9th Robert Strickland from

the Zen Center

August 16th Finding Balance*

August 23rd Writers Group

August 30th Muslim Journeys with

Allison Stokes

Sept. 6th Pat Rector from the

Workers' Center of

CNY

*After these worship services, there will be an informal gathering to hear any concerns and answer questions about potential changes at MMUUS.



Benefit Evening for KANATSIOHAREKE

Traditional Mohawk Community

Friday, June 19, 7-10 pm May Memorial Unitarian Society 3800 E. Genesee St., Syracuse

Thanksgiving Address and Talk by Tom Porter

Music by Hennes Porter, Joanne Bakeman and



\$10 - \$100 sliding scale donation, no one turned away

Refreshments ♦ Silent Auction ♦ 50/50 raffle



and May Memorial Green Sanctuary/ Social Justice Committee

Founded in 1982, Kanatsiohareke has played a major role in revitalizing traditional Mohawk and Haudenosaunee culture. It has also been a source of learning for non-native people.

Their facilities need major repairs.

For more information, 315-472-5478 or andy.mager@gmail.com • freida.j@verizon.net



Arts on Genesee

A new version of the Fine Arts and Craft show is coming to MMUUS.

Though our long standing November show has provided much revenue for our society over the years and was a great community builder, it was also extremely labor intensive and limited in size by our need for an indoor venue. In June of 2016, we will be trying a different approach.

"Arts on Genesee" will be an outdoor show to be held on our grounds June 18 - 19, 2016. A very enthusiastic committee is already hard at work recruiting vendors for the inaugural event. A beautiful vendor recruitment postcard has been designed by **Brian Betz** and there is an application on line for anyone ready to reserve a spot.

Committee members are hard at work visiting festivals and craft shows all over Central New York to get the word out about Arts on Genesee. Attracting interested artists is the first big step in the process of getting our new fund raiser going. If you know of artists who might be available next June, if you are an artist yourself or if you plan to be visiting a festival in the coming months, you might be able to help by getting post cards into the hands of potential vendors. Please contact any member of the committee to see about how you might help with these early tasks. Mardie Ninno, Joan Applebaum, Stephanie Sherman Cross, Julie Daniel, Barbara Weingart and Alexa **Carter** are ready to talk with anyone interested in getting involved.

Stay tuned for more developments. The will be articles in the newsletter as details of the show are determined. Mark the dates on your own calendar right now. June 2016 will be here before we know it!

Final Auditions held for "Be the Change"

ne more audition session will be offered for casting of the "Be the Change" production. Here is your chance to bring to life some of our most revered UU heroes, Martin Luther King Jr., Rumi, Buckminster Fuller, and Maya Angelou among others. Sunday, June 28th, is the date, the MMUUS Memorial Room is the location, and 12:15 pm - 3:00 pm is the time. The production is slated for October 17th, with some rehearsals taking place during the summer months, and some in September and October. Sunday, June 28 also features strawberry shortcake after the morning service, so come early to enjoy a summer treat. Contact John Seavers at iseavers@hotmail.com or **Keith Bertrand** at <u>ilymner@yahoo.com</u> with questions.



Members of the Congregation: RE needs you!

Members of the congregation are needed to guide the youth in the **Religious Education Program.**

We need guides for children in preschool to 5th grade. We love having folks who are not parents (of current children) to be there to support and guide these wonderful children on the UU path. There are 3 terms fall, winter and spring—each 6-8 weeks long. Subs are available, if you have to miss a week. Each group has 2 guides and a support person in the hall to assist as needed. The curriculum is provided! Contact Stacy Sceiford, our DRE, if you are interested in signing up or getting more information.



Fall Leadership Day

Saturday, October 3rd 10:00 am - 4:00 pm First UU Society of Syracuse, NY

Draw the Circle Wide

In the spirit of 1965's Selma march and hundreds of UUs who answered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's call to walk along with him, Fall Leadership Day will focus on how to help congregations faithfully engage with today's civil rights conversations and the #BlackLivesMatter movement.



2015 CNY Pride Festival Saturday, June 20th

- Flag-Raising—City Hall— 11:00 am
- Parade begins 11:30 am
- Festival Everson Museum Plaza - 12:00 pm

Show both your LGBT/Ally & Syracuse University pride by marching with the LGBT Resource Center in this year's CNY Pride parade! We will be meeting at 10:30 am near City Hall to gather for the flag-raising ceremony and march, or you can stop by our table at the Pride festival following the march. More information about the Pride Parade/ festival is available online at www.cnypride.org.

The first fifty people to RSVP for the parade will receive a free commemorative Syracuse University/CNY Pride T-shirt. Please RSVP to lgbt@syr.edu by Friday, June 19th.

Writers Among Us

Check out the new edition of the UU Writers' Bulletin Board in the hallway to the Social Hall.



Notes from the Office Administrator

he first week of July is the start of the summer schedule for the office. As ■ of Thursday, July 2nd, the office will only be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. This schedule will remain in place until mid-August.

If you have a submission for the August 1st or September 1st newsletters, please have it to Brian Betz by the 15th of the previous month. There will not be a mid-month newsletter for July or August.

If you are the service coordinator for the Sunday Service and you would like Brian to create your order of service, please have all information (i.e. hymns, music, volunteers, etc.) to him by the Wednesday before your service. If you are going to be creating your own order of service, please let Brian know the Monday before your service.

> ~ Brian Betz, Office Administrator, MMUUS

Community News

Community Violence and Youth Task Force

he interfaith coalition Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) has formed a new "Community Violence and Youth" Task Force. Emmanuel Flowers co-chairs the project, working out of the Brady Faith Center (404 South Avenue).

The group is comprised of concerned people of faith, looking at how to change the culture of the Syracuse community, to reduce the violence that is increasing impacting the young people of our community. Representatives of several other groups working in this area have shared their experience with this Task Force, and the group is now looking for ways to be effectively involved, connecting various groups and building a coalition to press for change, both in individual attitudes, and in the structures of our life together that feed that violence.

If you would like to hear about future meetings, contact ACTS member Earl Arnold at earlbarnold@gmail.com.



View from the Study Window

ver the eight years of my tenure here at May Memorial, I have done 3-4 memorial services for MMUUS members per year. Most have been for parents of "baby boomers" - families drawn to Syracuse by lucrative Engineering jobs and SU appointments. They swelled the James Street church to overflowing, making the move to this meeting house both necessary and possible. Yet, very few of those children, no matter where their adult lives have taken them, have remained active in Unitarian Universalism. Nationally, retaining our UU youth has been a known problem for decades. It is arresting, however, to see and feel the demographic shift first-hand, as we have.

Verah Johnson's memorial service on June 14th reminded me that we began the 2014-15 year with the loss of three other beloved members. **Sam Feld** (age 95), **Mary Barduhn** (96), and **Jim Napierski** all died as last summer turned to fall. Jim and Sam both sat in the front center row on Sunday mornings, and it grieved me to be reminded of their absence. Fifty years ago this spring, **Verah Johnson** was elected the first woman president of this congregation. She seemed indomitable. These four – Sam, Jim, Mary and Verah filled me with joy and thanksgiving every time we were together. Their deaths have left a hole in the congregation and in our hearts.

Since 2007, finances have taken a big hit, impacted by the poor economy (national, regional, and local); by the loss of deeply committed, generous elders; by a steady decline in fundraising, and other factors. Yet May Memorial has weathered this storm in excellent shape – balancing annual budgets and investing over half a million dollars in capital improvements. Understandably, after years of **Joyce Leonard's** superb leadership as Treasurer, the Board has had difficulty turning its attention to this critical area of governance.

As I come to the end of my eight years at May Memorial, I want to thank the two groups of people with whom I have worked most closely. First, the congregation presidents of these years – *Fred Fiske, Joyce Leonard, Alexa Carter, Harsey Leonard, and Peter Colman*. Second, and most especially, the superb staff with whom I have been privileged to serve – *Glenn Kime, Leslie Dendy, Brian Betz and Stacy Sceiford*. I will miss them greatly!

Others of you too numerous to list here will stay in my heart, my thoughts and prayers, for the rest of my life. Thank you so much for welcoming me into your lives.

I think the greatest gift and honor you give me is the assurance that you are ready, willing, and able to carry on for a time without professional ministry. From the work we have shared and the strength you have developed, I know that May Memorial's ministry is in good hands ... your many and very capable hands.

~ Blessings Always, Jean

Contacting Rev. Jean

Rev. Jean is moving in July to central Connecticut. Her address will be:

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom 244 Weigold Road Tolland, Connecticut 06084

<u>iwahlstrom@mmuus.org</u> will redirect to her personal email address for now. **Please use** <u>minister@mmuus.org</u> **for May Memorial business.**

No summer cleanings in the downstairs rooms

As of Sunday, June 14th, there will be no summer cleanings of the downstairs rooms (i.e.



Creekside, COA, etc.) until Sunday, September 6th. If you use any of the downstairs rooms, it is your responsibility to clean up after you are done using it.

> ~ Brian Betz, Office Administrator, MMUUS



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

The Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom **MINISTER**

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Email:

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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.

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

TIME VALUE

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Sanctuary

Calendar

Sunday, June 28th

10:30 am

Monday, June 15th 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG) Memorial Room
Tuesday, June 16th 1:30 pm—2:00 pm 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Nottingham Worship Service T'ai Chi Chih Board of Trustees	The Nottingham Social Hall Memorial Room
Wednesday, June 17th 3:00 pm 6:30 pm	T'ai Chi Chih Men's Fellowship Potluck/Discus	Social Hall ssion Social Hall
Thursday, June 18 th 3:00 pm	T'ai Chi Chih (Last class of sumn	ner) Social Hall
Saturday, June 20 th 4:00 pm	Clare Wilson Gallery Reception	Social Hall
Sunday, June 21st 10:30 am 12:15 pm	Summer Solstice Service Spanophiles	Sanctuary COA
Monday, June 22nd 6:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG) Memorial Room
Tuesday, June 23rd 5:30 pm	Twisted Sisters Women's Group	Memorial Room
Thursday, June 25th 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	Bookenders Spiritual Enrichment Group (SEG)	Memorial Room Memorial Room
Saturday, June 27th 7:00 pm	Send Off for Rev. Jean	Social Hall

Music Sunday Service