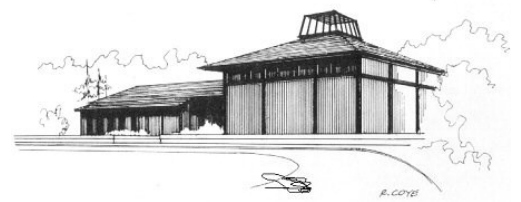


May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

October 2024
Volume 87
Issue 10



Our theme (Soul Matters) for the month of October is Deep Listening.

I wonder if you can recall the last time you practiced deep listening with another person?



This past summer I attended a powerful women's retreat. The retreat was small with 16 participants and 4 facilitators. One of the main themes of the retreat was how important it is to witness and be a witness to others. What is meant by that, is this idea of being deeply present with and deeply listening to those around you. All of us, as humans, are going through many silent struggles and part of the magic of this retreat was that we were all there to witness those struggles and help each other move through them.

There were many moments of emotional release that each of us had at different times and there was always a cloud of witnesses. My biggest emotional release was during meditation one morning when we were asked to picture our inner child. We were told to say to her what we always needed to hear. This is a really soft spot in my soul and at some point, I could not keep my crying quiet. I released this immense sound and many, many tears for that little girl...

Immediately each of the women came over to sit near me, to be beside me, behind me, all around me. One woman sat down right behind me and wrapped her arms around me and just squeezed me. We all sat like that until my sobbing had come to an end. It's important to cry it out. It is possibly the most profound experience I have ever experienced.

The power of witnessing, of deep listening, is something that I hope each of us can work on practicing and experiencing together. It does not always have to be some major emotional breakthrough... it can simply be your best friend witnessing you complain until you can complain no more... the power of being with those we love, of helping them to shoulder their burdens, is one of the most important things we can do for one another.



HISTORY CORNER



Why were the bank records of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) subpoenaed by the FBI in late 1971?

In October of 1971, the Beacon Press (the publication arm of the UUA) published the Pentagon Papers. The Pentagon Papers contained reports of a secret Department of Defense study of the United States' political and military involvement in Vietnam from 1945-1968. The reports showed that Congress and the public had been systematically lied to about Vietnam for many years.

Excerpts from the Pentagon Papers had been published by the New York Times, but Senator Mike Gravel (an antiwar UU and veteran of the Korean conflict) believed it was important to make the complete text available to the American people. In an obscure late night subcommittee session, Sen. Gravel read the entire document into the Congressional Record, putting it into the public domain.* Then he looked for a publisher. After dozens of publishers declined to touch the report, the Beacon Press agreed to take on the project. Both the UUA president and the Beacon Press director felt a responsibility to publish the papers, given the Unitarian Universalist commitment to a free and democratic society. Late 1971 saw the publication of *The Pentagon Papers: The Senator Gravel Edition* (multiple volumes).



President Nixon, who had tried to prevent the publication of the papers, was angry. He verbally attacked Beacon Press and immediately launched an investigation into the financial records of the Unitarian Universalist Association. FBI agents showed up at the Boston office of New England Merchant's Bank with a subpoena for the UUA's financial records, including all contributions made to the denomination from June 1 to October 15, 1971.

In January of 1972, the UUA sought a restraining order to temporarily block the subpoena. UUA president Rev. Robert West warned that the government's inquiry "strikes at the heart of religious freedom" and asked, "What denomination is next?" (NYT, Jan. 12, 1972)

A few months later, the subpoenas were put on hold while constitutional issues were deliberated. In June, the Supreme Court ruled that Beacon Press was not protected by Senator Gravel's legislative immunity; however, that same month, the Watergate break-ins were discovered. The UUA investigation was no longer a priority, as the Nixon administration became absorbed by the Watergate scandal.

Mary Louise Edwards & Kent Lindstrom

MMUUS History Committee (history@mmuus.org)

*Daniel Ellsberg, who originally leaked the classified reports, encouraged Senator Gravel to make the Pentagon Papers public.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY OCTOBER 14TH
IN CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



Save The Date

October 5, 2024 @ 4:00 pm

Family Open Mic Night and Potluck

Join MMUUS family and friends for dinner and entertainment. The evening starts with a potluck dinner. Afterwards, there will be an open mic for one and all.

Open mic will be open to anyone and everyone. Content must be family friendly. There will be a 3 minute limit on all performances.



First Sunday Lunch

Hosted by: Worship Associates, Nominating Committee, Buildings & Grounds Committee
Sunday October 6th after service



Sunday October 20th at 12:15pm
In the Teenz Room



Monday October 21st at 1:00pm
In the Social Hall

FREE Family Friendly Event

OCTOBER 26th 3pm

May Memorial is hosting their annual community Trunk or Treat and we can't wait to see you! Kids can go from trunk to trunk to collect candy at each fun stop and show off their SPOOKTACULAR costumes! All are welcome! We can't wait to see you! There will be allergy-friendly non candy options and drinks available for families while supplies last!!!

We will be collecting SOCKS for our SOCKTOBER donation drive at this event!!

Donations NOT required to participate





6	I'm Coming Out!	Rev. Jo VonRue Worship Associate Sandy Greenberg
13	The Other Side of the Pond: Reflections on Indigenous People's Day	Worship Associate Karen Sgarlata
20	All Bodies are Sacred: Disability Justice	Rev. Jo VonRue
27	Memory Tree	Rev. Jo VonRue Youth Worship Associate Wren Cunningham

<https://zoom.us/j/91328201757?pwd=gKDU2sIVTRxcLUP44zwpOXPZq9rb8L.1>

Meeting ID: 913 2820 1757

Passcode: 098900

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,91328201757# US (New York)

+16469313860,,91328201757# US

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US



Looking For Worship Associates!

Rev. Jo is looking for a few more folks to serve as Worship Associates.

The role can be as easy or complex as you would like it to be.

Folks would need to be available to help at Sunday worship once every other month.

Please contact Rev. Jo to inquire: ministerjrev@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!



New York State Convention of Universalists
ANNUAL MEETING
October 25 and 26, 2024
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Amherst, NY

The Art of Helping- and Being Helped

Reinvigorating ourselves and our congregations as we work toward justice, compassion, and equity.

Keynote speaker
Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto
“The Precious Light We Carry”



Photo: Leila Wice

Connect and Collaborate!
Workshops on Spirituality, Advocacy,
Resources, and Membership



Registration information to follow, August 2024
Visit nyscu.org for more details

AND save the date for NYSCU’s Bicentennial meeting: October 24 & 25, 2025 at the UU Church of Canton, NY!



NEW YORK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST JUSTICE

Justice Convocation

Inspiring
Worship

Network
Over Meals

Issue
Workshops

Join Us In Person or on Zoom!

Join New York UU Justice for our first-ever in-person Justice Convocation. We will worship together, network and connect, learn about making change in New York State, and engage with our partner organizations to help our congregations create justice together.

Our Issue Areas

Climate Justice
Medical Aid In Dying
Criminal Justice Reform
Housing

Child Care &
Transportation
from Amtrak
provided

Saturday, November 16 2024

10am-4pm

Albany UU

Sliding Scale Registration \$1-100

To Register

<https://bit.ly/NYUUIConvocation>



For More Information: nyuuj.org



*made possible by a generous grant from the
New York State Convention of Universalists*



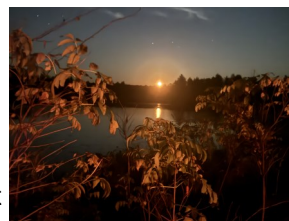
Reminiscing about our 2024 Unirondack Weekend (Sept 20-22, 2024)
 ~from Stephanie Cross

We had 54 folks (with ages spanning nine decades!) in community at Unirondack last weekend. People from the Kingston, Ontario, Canada and Syracuse UU congregations housed, played and ate together from Friday late afternoon until Sunday mid-afternoon.

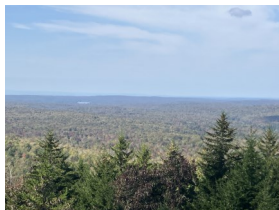


After people arrived and settled into their living spaces, a light dinner and a Friday campfire acted as the overture for a great weekend. Picture a campfire circle, great blazing fire, brilliant moon on the horizon, sightings of the space station, satellites, stars and planets across the dark night sky, s'mores, talking, sharing and singing -- you might capture the feel of the evening. It was a gorgeous night to be on the lake!

Saturday's breakfast of pancakes provided fuel for hikes to the Stillwater fire tower, Mosier Falls, swimming, boating, improvisation fun, lazing about and chatting with new and old friends. After Saturday dinner, the evening entertainment started with a variety of talents from youth and adults followed by another bonfire with (more) s'mores, singing, storytelling and a few jokes thrown in as well. We had wonderful musicians leading us in song and joyful noise. Another sweet memory!



Sunday's breakfast helped us get in gear for a nature bingo game, time in the art shop, swimming and boating, followed by lunch, some more outdoor fun and packing up to go back to our regular lives. It was a delightful weekend with perfect weather.



I have much appreciation for the people who stepped up to take on leadership during the weekend; tasks included doing extra dish duty, art shop support, running workshops and leading outings. Additionally, many people helped with meals, supported youth and elders and made the weekend go smoothly. Thank you!

I hope you can make it next year... Keep your eyes out for the dates of the September 2025 Unirondack weekend in newsletters and eblasts.

Notes:

*This year's weekend was organized by May Memorial folks, Stephanie Cross and Kyle Brown and Kingston UU's Andrea Guerin and Emmanuel Bourgin. It was a pleasure working together to plan this wonderful weekend!

*We think this was May Memorial's 18th year renting Unirondack for a fall weekend after a break of several years which some of our senior members remember.





Diversity Action Team

Hosted by The Interfaith Racial Equity Network



*From Film Director **Dan Partland** and producer **Rob Reiner!!!***

God & Country examines the implications of Christian Nationalism and how it distorts not only our constitutional republic, but Christianity itself. Featuring prominent Christian thought leaders, *God & Country* asks this question: **What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, mixing power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism?**

Monday, October 7, 2024, 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.

University United Methodist Church*
1085 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210
FREE TO ALL! Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

**University United Methodist Church is located at the corner of E. Genesee St. & University Avenue.
There is off-street parking available for events, just off University Avenue.
Access to the lot is between E. Fayette Street or Ashworth Pl., just east of University Avenue.
Access to the facility is centered on the west side of University Avenue.*

In addition to the film screening, Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lawson, Pastor Emeritus at the United Church of Christ in Bayberry, will be present to sign his new book, *Fully Free: Rejecting Racism, Renouncing Christian Nationalism, and Renewing American Christianity*. Books will be available for \$28 including tax, payable only by cash or check made out to the author. Or you can use your phone camera to scan this QR code to purchase online:





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

The Folkus
Project of Central New York



THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents CHERYL WHEELER with Special Guest KENNY WHITE on **Friday, October 4 @ 8pm**. Cheryl Wheeler has to be seen to be appreciated. She is known for her well-crafted songs, stellar vocals, and witty on-stage patter. She will tell a story that has you rolling in the aisles, then sing a song that leaves you wiping tears from your eyes. She will talk about a serious current event, then sing a song that will have you howling with laughter. Kenny White comes to the world of the touring singer-songwriter following a long and successful musical journey. An accomplished pianist, who also performs on guitar, Kenny has now also become known for his clever lyrics. Kenny will play the first part of the show solo, and accompany Cheryl for an extended second set. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.



THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents SCOTT COOK & PAMELA MAE on **Friday, October 18 @ 8pm**. In 2007, Albertan songwriter Scott Cook quit his job teaching kindergarten in Taiwan and moved into a minivan. He's made his living as a troubadour ever since, touring almost across Canada, the US, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere, and releasing seven albums of plainspoken, keenly observant verse along the way. Since 2022 he and his sweetheart Pamela Mae (on upright bass, banjo and vocals) have been touring together, broadcasting solar-powered livestreams from the back of their campervan Roadetta, and recording a new album called Troubadourly Yours. Fresh from the open road, these are sturdy, straight-talking songs that see the good in you. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.

October Artist

Around Town in the Time of Covid: Beautiful Baldwinsville

Sharon Turner Cook will be our featured artist during the month of October. She created this show, Around Town in the Time of Covid: Beautiful Baldwinsville, while facing the isolation of the Covid pandemic and grieving the loss of her beloved youngest daughter. Sharon majored in Art and Education in college, and has been drawing and painting her whole life but, before the pandemic, she hadn't worked in oils in years. Alone and grieving, she felt the need to go back to that medium and, working from her photograph of the Village of Baldwinsville at twilight, she began painting. This first painting inspired her to produce a series of paintings of Baldwinsville based on the places she saw on her walks, or drives taken to get out of the house during the shut-down. During this period of isolation and grief Sharon created beauty.

Let's face the fact of our human mortality together
 with less fear and more curiosity,
 with less euphemism and more reality,
 with less conformity and more creativity.



Maybe you are experiencing more death anxiety
 than you are comfortable with...

Maybe you want to learn more about end of life
 because you want to explore mortality more...

DwDC explores mortality in community. It is an opportunity
 to learn, share, and deepen your own understanding of what
 death means to you and how you want to approach death --
 particularly your own.

**DwDC is not a bereavement or grief support group.
 While it may be healing of the human condition,
 the nature of the DwDC is not specifically therapeutic.**

DATE WITH DEATH CLUB

Our first session is Monday October 21st at 1pm-3:30pm
 May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
 3800 East Genesee St

Additional dates:

11.4, 11.18, 12.9, 12.23, 1.13, 1.27, 2.10, 2.24,
 3.17, 3.31, 4.14, 4.28, 5.12, 5.19

Details and Signup Form



Curriculum developed by
 Karen G. Johnston, MSW, MDiv

To register contact Teri at office@mmuus.org
 or call [315.446.8920](tel:315.446.8920)



**There are many ways to get involved:
Ushering, Coffee Hour, Welcome Table, Buildings and Grounds; just to name a few
Check with Teri in the office for details!**

Sign up for Ushering

Sign up to **Usher for** the upcoming church year via the sign up link below or or you can contact Denise Speicher (denisespeicher@gmail.com) who is the coordinator again this year.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4CA8AC28A4F94-50557732-20242025> (Usher/Greeter Link)

Sign up for Coffee Hour!



The sign-up for Coffee Hour Host is below or you can contact the office (office@mmuus.org)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4CA8AC28A4F94-50992412-20242025>

Sign Up for the Welcome Table



The sign-up for the Welcome Table is below or you can contact the office (office@mmuus.org)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4CA8AC28A4F94-50993214-20242025>



Join our Sunday morning Tech Team!

We are always looking for new folks to learn how to run our tech for Sunday services.

Contact Teri in the office office@mmuus.org if you are interested!

Sign up to help with Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee takes care of large and small building maintenance tasks. Let Stephanie Cross (mcross1234@gmail.com) know if you are someone who could help with various tasks and/or has expertise /skill in working with electrical, construction, plumbing, etc. areas. Your commitment to the group could be as much as you can give. We will have periodic workdays to concentrate our efforts to get much done.



<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday	10/1	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	10/3	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	10/4	FOLKUS	8pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	10/5	Open Mic Potluck	4pm	Social Hall
Sunday	10/6	Worship Service	10:30pm	Sanctuary
		First Sunday Lunch	After Service	Social Hall
Tuesday	10/8	Writers Group	10am	Teenz
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	10/10	Tai Chi	3pm	Memorial Room
		Spiritual Enrichment Group	4:30pm	Teenz
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	10/13	Worship Service	10:30am	Sanctuary
Monday	10/14	Twisted Sisters	7pm	Teenz
Tuesday	10/15	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	10/17	Bookenders	1:30pm	Memorial Room
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	10/18	FOLKUS	8pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	10/20	Worship Service	10:30pm	Sanctuary
		Soul Matters	12:15pm	Teenz
Monday	10/21	Date With Death Club	1pm	Social Hall
Tuesday	10/22	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	10/24	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Spiritual Enrichment Group	6pm	Teenz
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	10/26	Celebration of Life for Mary Burdick	11am	Sanctuary
		Trunk or Treat	3pm	MMUUS Parking Lot
Sunday	10/27	Worship Service	10:30pm	Sanctuary
Tuesday	10/29	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall

From the Church Office



Admin office hours:

Mon-Thurs drop in hours: 9am—2pm

Sunday: 7am—1pm

Additional hours available by appointment, contact the office to get on the schedule.

The office is closed on Friday and Saturday and on government holidays, please refer to the eblast and the Monday Office Update for closings.



Do you join services by calling in?

If so, please let Teri in the office know, so if there are changes, you can be notified.

It doesn't happen often but when it does we want you to be informed of changes.

Do you get our weekly E-Blast?

If not please take a moment to sign up.

This is where you will get updates on any changes or special events that don't quite make it for the newsletter.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/CvrbTSW>



Please let the office know if you have any changes that need to be reflected in the directory.

Updates to the directory are vitally important so we may effectively communicate with you.



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Minister | Rev. Jo VonRue | ministerjev@gmail.com |
| Director of Religious Education | Stacy Sceiford | stacymaydre@gmail.com |
| Director of Music | Glenn Kime | gkimeorganist@gmail.com |
| Board President | Peter McClure | peterrogermcclure@gmail.com |
| Book Keeper | Leslie Dendy | lesliedendy@yahoo.com |
| Finance | Jennifer Newman | mamaslash@twcny.rr.com |
| Church Office | Teri Coon | office@mmuus.org |

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214
315.446.8920
office@mmuus.org



Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs: 9am-2pm (other times by appointment only)

Days off are Friday and Saturday

Contact us:

office@mmuus.org

315-446-8920