

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

January 2023
Volume 86
Issue 1

Opportunities for Connection!



The board has made it their goal and priority this year to offer opportunities to build community! Part of that goal has been having some informal conversations with members about what your sense of belonging might feel like in our MMUUS community and what might help you feel more connected, or a greater sense of belonging. We have gotten a lot of great feedback and will implement as many of these suggestions as we can. Our first community building event was our hanging of the greens at the beginning of December where we all came together to deck the halls of MMUUS for the holiday season. It was a wonderful and joyous occasion for all involved!

The next thing you will see that is different is that we are turning the Memorial Room into an extended coffee hour space for those who need a space with a bit less energy, but also want to connect with folks. There will be a sign on the door about keeping the Memorial room a quiet, sanctuary like space for at least 30min following worship. We will have some conversation questions available should you want something to spark connection!

For the rest of the fiscal year we will have at least one all ages community building event each month, please mark them on your calendars!

January 21st Julie and Kevin will bring back our Bingo game!

February 18th (1-4pm) I will host a family feud game at May Memorial, this is an all ages event and we will create mixed teams and have a grand time laughing and competing for the grand prize!

March 25th (1-8pm) we will have an all-ages board game day. We are asking if you come to please bring (along with a game if you have any) some kind of delicious dip to share for snacking!!

April 15th (6-9pm) we will have an all ages Trivia night! Come with all of your awesome and weird knowledge. We will create mixed teams and have a great time together!

May 1st we will do something to celebrate the First of May with FUUS!!

May 20th will be our annual church auction! This year we are hoping to have a live auction as well as a silent one, it will be a night of great fun and giving to our congregation!

June 11th We will wrap up our church year with our annual flower communion and annual meeting!

Spending time together doing fun things is what makes family stronger. Not only will these events help us get to know each other better, they will help us to feel as if we are in true relationship and covenant with one another which is important for when we need to have hard conversations. So let's work really hard this year to build our relationships, to have fun, to laugh and find joy in being together, this, my loves, is what church is all about.



Worship Service Information

Sunday Jan 1	Worship at First UU		Zoom ONLY
Sunday Jan 8	Music Sunday	Director of Music Glenn Kime, Rev. Jo VonRue and MMUUS Choir	In person and on zoom
Sunday Jan 15	The American Dream	Rev. Jo VonRue	In person and on zoom
Sunday Jan 22	Finding Our Center	Rev. Jo VonRue	In person and on zoom
Sunday Jan 29	Ms. Fare of Families for Lead Freedom Now		In person and on zoom



Sunday January 1 we will be guests of First UU on their zoom only:

<https://zoom.us/j/91909344572>

Meeting ID: 919 0934 4572

Passcode: chalice

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,91909344572# US
(New York)

+16469313860,,91909344572# US

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 919 0934 4572



Join us Sunday at 10:30am For our Worship Service

[https://zoom.us/j/95127684023?](https://zoom.us/j/95127684023?pwd=aERpeGNVUWZiZjIMQUtZcDVJMENYQT09)

[pwd=aERpeGNVUWZiZjIMQUtZcDVJMENYQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95127684023?pwd=aERpeGNVUWZiZjIMQUtZcDVJMENYQT09)

Meeting ID: 951 2768 4023

Passcode: 607275

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,95127684023# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

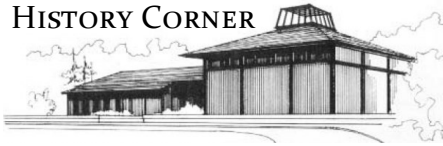


Sign up for usher/greeter slots for upcoming services here:

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



HISTORY CORNER



A Brief Note on May Memorial's Ministerial Internship History

In the archives, we recently we came across an order of service for November 1, 1981, in which the congregation was invited to attend an adult potluck reception hosted by MMUS, First Universalist and Hendricks Chapel. The purpose of the reception was to welcome the new UU Chaplain Intern at Syracuse University.

Newer members may not know that through the years May Memorial has worked with many student ministers. Here is a little piece about that history.

In May of 1971 the trustees of May Memorial established a campus intern program in cooperation with the First Universalist Society of Syracuse. The two congregations would provide living expenses for a UU ministerial student who would work as a chaplain at Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University (May No One Be a Stranger, 1988, p. 50).

In 1984, the university chaplain program was changed to become a full-time parish program, with a ministerial student appointed to work as an intern at Hendricks Chapel and at either May Memorial or First Universalist, in alternating years. The two local congregations supported the program financially with a subsidy from the New York State Universalist Convention.

Reportedly, this was the first intern ministry program of its kind in the denomination. The student ministers were encouraged to assist in the churches while also taking courses at Syracuse University (May No One Be a Stranger, p. 54).

In May Memorial's Historical Tree of Life (2015), former archivist Rog Hiemstra mentioned a number of interns associated with May Memorial from the late 1970s until 1990 and gave a brief update on the ministerial career of each (pp. 103-104). In the 1980s I was a member of the ministerial intern liaison committee. It was a pleasure to serve on that committee because, as an SU professor, I appreciated the cooperation it signified between Hendricks Chapel and the Unitarian-Universalist community in Syracuse.

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee
history@mмуus.org



Going Green and Seeking Social Justice

On January 29th, our service at May Memorial will feature Ms. Oceanna Fair of the grass roots initiative, Families for Lead Freedom Now as a guest speaker. With family members who have lead poisoning, Ms. Fair has first-hand knowledge of the ramifications of this condition. The houses (mostly rental properties), water, and soil in Syracuse contain high levels of lead due to paint, lead pipes and the dust of lead paint from the I-81 corridor going through Syracuse. Since close to 50% of May Memorial's members live in Syracuse, this is an issue that effects so many. Up until 2019, children in Syracuse up to six years of age were tested for lead as part of the WIC (Womens, Infants, Children) program. This has not been reinstated. The Vision of the Families for Lead Freedom Now is: To end childhood lead poisoning caused by our housing, soil, and waters. And, to obtain the necessary resource to make families stronger, healthier, and happier. Come and hear Ms. Fair to learn the story of this organization and how we can learn from this example of environmental justice.



Welcome 2023! The First Sunday Lunch for 2023 will not be held on the first Sunday but on JANUARY 8th. The Board, the Committee on Ministry and the Nominating Committee invite you to a New Year's Brunch following the annual Music Service. Our menu includes vegetarian and meat-lovers' egg casseroles, breakfast sliders, piping hot potatoes, a variety of breakfast goodies such as muffins, doughnuts and coffee cake, yogurt, fruit salad and granola and hot off the griddle pancakes with maple syrup. There will be vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options available. Come join your May Memorial friends and make some new friends at this yummy brunch fundraiser. Suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per adult and \$2 per child.

let's do
lunch

Sunday, January 8

Midwinter Music Service



Our life seems just a little different this year, so join us in January for a service of, well, a little of this, and a little of that. All wonderful music, in these, I hate to say it: "interesting times." Glenn

January's Artist – David C. Baxter

The paintings of David C. Baxter will grace the walls of our Social Hall during the month of January.

David states, as an artist, I see beauty in opposites.

The new spring that brings beauty to the ravages of winter; the golden-red leaves as they fall from the tree for the first and last time; the autumn hues of rust covering a hinge whose metal is deteriorating; or the pristine beauty of the snow that is ravaging the tree desperately trying to bear its weight.

Also, opposites like smooth glass as opposed to a highly textured clay vase; the fragileness of an egg against the hardness of steel; the stillness in the air when viewing an incoming storm front; or the old barn that is falling down in a field of tall grass where wild flowers are growing through the openings created by the demise of the barn.

The beauty that coexists within the opposites and the powerful symmetry between them are my focus and what I try to capture with my artwork. I believe that there can be no beauty without some form of destructive opposite. It is a perceived emotion that I can't resist.

To capture these opposites, light and color saturation are the main components I incorporate into my paintings. I prefer mostly to use the soft pastel medium as it is pure pigment, undiluted by the vehicle most other pigments need in order to be applied. The combinations and values of colors are endless. As each layer is applied, the palette constantly changes. The hues are manipulated and combined as the layering process continues. I believe the depth of the colors mirrors the depth of the emotions within the piece, making the base layer as essential as the top layer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

from Your Board

We hope your Holiday Season has been joyful, reflective & safe.

Your Board's New Year's Resolution is to continue Building a Greater Sense of Community at May Memorial.

We're asking your help to suggest things/events that will help build this sense of community. We'll see that some of these get implemented.

We are eager to have conversations with members who are actively participating in church events to get a better idea about how they experience a sense of belonging and community. We are looking for what is working well, what's not, and what could be added.

We're also making a concentrated effort to reach out to those of you who have been less involved. We would like to know if you are content with your level of engagement or are there things we can do to help you feel more a part of your church community.

If you have an idea for an event, please reach out to us either in person or via trustee@mmuus.org , put it on one of our "Goal" posts on social media, or leave a sticky note on the Board Goals bulletin board (in the hallway outside Rev. Jo's office).

We look forward to hearing from each of you as we work together to Build a Greater Sense of Community in 2023!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Eliza Bailey, Cynthia Carter, Molly Letsch, Don Milmore,
Mardie Ninno, Matracia Powell, & Sarah Pralle*



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.

<http://eepurl.com/g0JbIr>



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.



Vespers

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 8pm for a short 30 minute time of connection and reflection. We will listen to a short reading, a piece of music that expands on the topic, and we connect with one another through check-ins and conversation. You can find a zoom link each week on our website!

<https://zoom.us/j/97595560626?pwd=Sk5EL1lKd2xPNTJoUHUvYWQ0NjRGQT09>

Meeting ID: 975 9556 0626

Passcode: 210723

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,97595560626# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Join Us for Our Social Justice Vigils
First Tuesday of the month at noon!



Please join us on the first Tuesday of the month at noon in front of the church.

Bring your own signs or borrow ours!

Please remember to wear your mask and observe physical distancing.



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May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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Office Hours:

Sunday: 7am-12pm

Mon - Thurs: 8am-4pm

Days off are Friday and Saturday

- **Calendar Items:**

All zoom meetings must be scheduled through the Office Administrator.

- **Deadlines to remember:**

E-Blast and Order of Service need to be to me by *5pm on Wednesday*.

- **Newsletter:**

Deadline 20th of preceding month, please adhere to this deadline to allow for the newsletter to be sent out in a timely fashion.

Please keep word count to 300-400 to allow room for everyone to have a voice in the newsletter