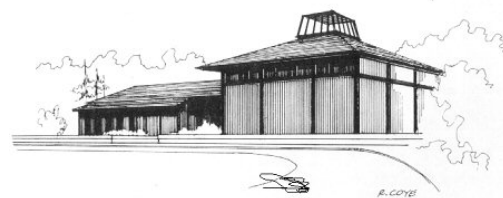


May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

January 2024
Volume 1
Issue 1

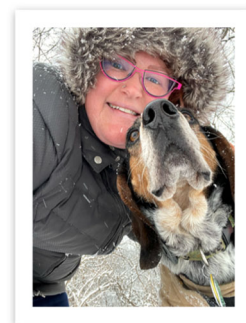


Happy New Year my loves!

While I do love embracing the darkness of the winter season, I do also love when the days start to lengthen. When the sun comes through my sliding door my dog Eleanor is able to bask in the sunspots she finds - often on the couch, but she will sunbathe in any location. The way that midwinter sun warms our bodies and soaks us with light is such a wonderful feeling. I hope you also had the opportunity to rest and enjoy our seasons as they flow by.

In the days after Christmas, my best friend Lauren and I gather up our heated blankets, slippers, pajamas, hot cocoa and books; we read and chat together in that companionable silence you can have with only your closest friends. It does my heart so much good and helps me to recharge. I wonder what you do to recharge, I hope you will send me an email and tell me a story of something you did to recharge this holiday season.

As most of you know, I will be leaving for my sabbatical on March 1st. I will be gone until September, and we will reconnect at our annual Water Communion on September 8th, 2024. While I am away you will get to meet some new ministers and see some familiar minister faces, as well as hear some excellent sermons from some of our lay leaders. I am excited for this opportunity for you to engage with other clergy and hear what they have to say. The Committee on Ministry (LeeAnn McKinney, Kevin Salamone, Dick Pearson, and Eric Petit McClure), along with the board, will help make sure that everything is covered in my absence. If you have a pastoral emergency, there will be a minister on call for these situations. I will be out of communication with you for the entire time I am away and know that you are all in the best hands possible. We will be sending a letter to you in February to give you all the information you need. If you want to speak with me about anything before I leave, please be in touch by February so we can schedule a meeting. I will absolutely be back and look forward to our next years together!



Happy January, here's to a new, and wonderful year together!

Happy
New
Year

Imbolc/Brigid's Day Potluck and Children's Book Exchange
Saturday, January 27, 2024 1:00pm-4:00pm
May Memorial Social Hall

Join us for a Mid-Winter Celebration Potluck and Kid's Book Exchange! Bring a dish to pass, bring a friend, and bring your light to share. Imbolc and Brigid's Day are the official mid-point of winter. We'll celebrate with friendship and feasting! Traditionally the Imbolc celebration serves as a time for the community to come together and see what each person needs to get through the second half of the winter as we head toward the light. We hope this event will serve to nourish us all in both heart and body as we come together to share our light with one another.

Potluck

We will have lots of outlets available on our potluck buffet table, so please feel free to bring your dish in a crockpot or on a warming tray if that's appropriate. There WILL be a place to plug it in. Please label your dish with the ingredients, so those with food allergies or dietary restrictions can make good choices.

Kids and Teens Book Exchange

As we head out of the dark time of the year, it is the perfect time to update our bookshelves! Bring your gently used books to swap with others; bring your well-used books and children's magazines to turn into bookish collage art! This year, our focus is children's books from board books to YA. (If you plan to bring many books, please consider placing them in a box, with the spines/titles visible, for ease of browsing) We will do multiple rounds of book choosing so everyone gets a chance to get new books. Extra books will be turned into a Little Free Library and donated to various organizations in need.

For more information check out the Facebook Event, or email kstarowitz@gmail.com. RSVPs with numbers attending are appreciated via Facebook event or email.



Jan 7	We will join First UU for service today	We will meet at First UU and use their Zoom link, please visit First UU website for the link
Jan 14	Liberating Love and the Common Good	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Eliza Bailey
Jan 21	Liberating Love and the Challenge of Evil	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Ruth Yanai
Jan 28	The Holy Joy of Partnership	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Sandy Greenberg

<https://zoom.us/j/91720743841?pwd=ZFdlbVNsYW1za3RWN29SVldUMDV5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 917 2074 3841

Passcode: 801542

One tap mobile

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• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 917 2074 3841



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.

<https://zoom.us/j/96509877539?pwd=ZmZPQllaTlhkSFNETW5yQmszMXdYZz09>

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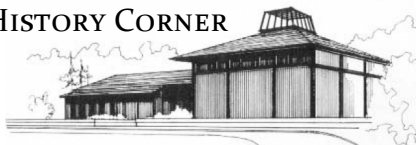
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HISTORY CORNER



The Story of our Steinway Grand Piano



According to our 1988 history, *May No One Be a Stranger*, in 1884 the women of the church purchased a Steinway grand piano as a gift for Elizabeth Calthrop, the wife of our third minister, Reverend Samuel Calthrop (1868-1911). At some point, the piano was moved into the church, where it graced the sanctuary and became an integral part of the services.

When May Memorial moved into our present building in the fall of 1964, the grand piano was used every week, as the organ had not yet been built. In fact, the large piano was set up in the choir loft, where it stayed for the year. Once the organ was in place in 1965, the piano was moved to the front of the sanctuary. It continued to be heavily used for services, rehearsals, and concerts.

In 1983, a couple from Vermont, descendants of the Calthrops, contacted May Memorial to say that they would be taking back the Steinway grand piano that the family had loaned to the church.* At its next meeting, the Board created a special drive to raise \$10,000 to replace the Steinway.

Music director Rob Kerner headed the search for a “new” piano. The goal was to find an instrument that would be at least equal in quality to the Calthrop’s Steinway. Members of the congregation were invited to participate by providing leads, organizing fund-raising events, or making personal contributions. Music committee member Anne Shelly organized numerous piano fund benefit concerts presented by musicians who donated their time and talent.

The beautiful Steinway grand piano was removed from May Memorial on June 11, 1984. The piano fund was not yet large enough for the purchase of a grand piano. So, a small upright was acquired for temporary use. Piano fund benefit concerts continued for the next four years.

On March 12, 1986, May Memorial purchased a Steinway grand piano from a resident of DeWitt for \$12,000. The following Saturday, nine volunteers from May moved the piano from the Dewitt home into our sanctuary. A month later, the lead piano technician from the Eastman School of Music came to Syracuse and spent over 10 hours “voicing and regulating” the piano. According to Anne Shelly’s 1985-86 report, Peter Colman saw the advertisement that led to the purchase, Rob Kerner assessed the quality of the piano, and the board acted quickly to approve it. Individual members and friends pledged over \$4,000 in three days to show their support.

Fund-raising efforts continued until the end of the 1987-88 church year, when the piano fund was in the black. Thanks to the benefit concerts, individual contributions, and other special activities, all costs related to the purchase, move, and renovation of the Steinway were covered by the piano fund. For the first time in the church’s history, May Memorial had its own Steinway grand piano!

In a recent conversation with Music Director Glenn Kime, we learned that May Memorial’s Steinway, a Model B, was made in 1929. It is slightly smaller than the Calthrop’s piano. Considering that our Steinway it is nearly 95 years old, it is functioning well, but it will need some serious repair and refurbishing before too long.

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee (history@mmuus.org)

*Because the beautiful grand piano had been a fixture in the sanctuary for many years, both at James Street and at our present building, people at May Memorial thought it belonged to them, but a thorough search of documents found no record of the piano being gifted to the church.



The Folkus Project presents **CNY Songbirds - Dear Linda: A Love Letter to Linda Ronstadt** on Friday, January 5 @ 8pm. When the CNY Songbirds blend their

voices, their “tighter than three coats of paint” harmonies create magic! The Songbirds have been entertaining enthusiastic Central New York audiences for years, breathing new life into classics by Steely Dan, CSN&Y, Linda Ronstadt, and more. The band includes many names familiar to the local music scene: Kristopher Heels (guitar), Maureen Henesey (vocals), Tom Hillenbrand (guitar), Brett Hobin (bass), Joanna Jewett (vocals), Liz Strodel (drums) and B Kelly Wilcox (keyboard). Their outstanding musicianship and sophisticated interpretations always leave audiences cheering for more. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org



The Folkus Project presents **Gunning & Cormier** on Friday, January 19 @ 8pm. Two of Canada’s greatest roots singer-songwriters Dave Gunning and J.P. Cormier finally did what

everybody’s wanted for years, releasing *Two*, their first album together in 2017, followed by *Leather and Dust* in 2023. With many Canadian Folk Music Awards, East Coast Music Awards, Music Nova Scotia Awards, and Juno Award nominations between them, they showcase an astounding spectrum of talent and musical vision. Two songwriters, interpreters, guitar players, and singers at their peak... great friends, frequent collaborators, co-writers and touring partners--there couldn’t be a better time to discover Gunning & Cormier. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org

JANUARY Artist

The opening for the January Art Show, "Silly, Serious, Syracuse", featuring the work of Syracuse based artist **Dan Shanahan** will be held on Friday, January 12, 2024, from 5-7 pm.

Dan is inspired to make pictures that blend reality and whimsy, with either fantasy, dreaminess, or maybe exaggeration. He likes to draw elaborate scenes for fun and, unfortunately, no money. He does not like to draw anything that’s too simple, like a single child sitting in a chair without any toys or plants scattered about. He really dreads being asked to draw a portrait of a smiling child’s face, but he might do it for pay. That’s when he is alone in his studio.

Dan leaves his studio seasonally to do plein air paintings in Syracuse. In that situation, he prefers to paint where there are people. They always enjoy the sight of someone doing nothing of any great importance when they leave work at 5, keeping me motivated with complements like, "nice painting!" or, "beautiful!" no matter how little has been painted or how badly it is coming out. Dan favors scenes with multiple buildings, with details like cornices, pediments, or multiple pointy church tops. He will paint a single building if it has enough of these details. On days when he has a new brush and a steady hand, he will include street signs, posters, and stripes on people’s shirts.

Dan has a degree in Mechanical Engineering. In high school, he thought about becoming an artist, but was concerned that the field was too competitive, and he would never make a living at it. So far this has proven to be true. He has made a few thousand dollars in the decade since he sold his 1st piece of artwork, but he has most certainly spent more money on brushes, paints, pastels, paper, and frames for this show.

Dan uses watercolor, ink, markers, and, less often, Photoshop or pastels.

Dan’s artwork can be seen at:

shanahan3000.com
facebook.com/daniel.shanahan.127
instagram.com/shanahan3000

Gallery Hours:

Sunday: 8am-1pm
 Monday: 8am—1pm
 Thursday: 8am—1pm

"This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re grants Program, a re grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by CNY Arts."

UPCOMING *Events*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday	1/2	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	1/4	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	1/5	FOLKUS	8pm	Sanctuary
Monday	1/8	Twisted Sisters	7pm	Teenz
Tuesday	1/9	Writers Group	10am	Teenz
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	1/11	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	1/12	Artist Reception	5pm	Social Hall
Sunday	1/14	First Sunday Lunch	11:45am	Social Hall
		Soul Matters	12:15pm	Teenz
Tuesday	1/16	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	1/18	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	1/19	FOKUS	8pm	Sanctuary
Tuesday	1/22	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	1/25	Bookenders	1:30pm	Memorial Room
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	1/27	Imbolc Celebration	1pm	Social Hall
Tuesday	1/30	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall

The next **First Sunday Lunch** will be held on **January 14**. The Thursday evening Spiritual Enrichment Group and SisterCircle will offer a New Year’s Brunch that will include a variety of delicious egg casseroles, French Toast casseroles, blueberry pancakes, fruit salad, breakfast potatoes, yogurt and granola and more. There will be options for those who are vegetarians, vegans and those who follow a gluten free diet. The cost of the Brunch is on a sliding scale from \$0-\$10 per adult, \$0-\$6 per child and a maximum of \$20 per family. Make sure to put this on your calendar and be sure to join us for yummy food and community as we raise funds for May Memorial.

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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



New Office Hours:

Sunday: 8am-1pm

Mon - Thurs: 8am-1pm (other times by appointment only)

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