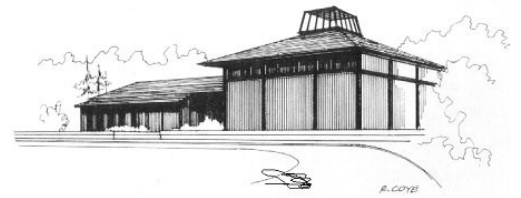


# May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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



December 2024  
Volume 87  
Issue 12

## Let's Get Together!



My husband, Isaac, and I moved to the east coast from Seattle in 2008. We had done some research and were surprised to find a UU church near our new home in PA. We saw that they had an upcoming camping trip planned for the weekend after we would arrive. We contacted them to sign up and went on a camping trip with these wonderful folks without having met them before. We brought our dogs with us which made us an instant hit with the kids! That weekend with a small, intimate group of folks, was a really wonderful way to get started at UUCWV.

There are SO many excellent ways to connect with smaller groups of folks here at MMUUS! Teri, our Office Administrator, has a list of all the different ways you can get involved which include small groups: Sister Circle, Men's Lunch, Soul Matters, Spiritual Enrichment Groups, Vespers and more. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Teri if you have any questions.

I am starting up a new Spiritual Enrichment Group which begins on December 4th and will be held only on Zoom. In this group you can expect to dig deeper into our UU values while meeting folks and growing close and caring relationships. Friends, we have SO MUCH good news to share with the world, and we can do this by spreading the word about who we are and what we do and how we share our lives together.

On December 22nd we will host a "Bring a Friend" worship service, where everyone will be invited to bring a friend to experience what Sunday morning at MMUUS is like! I hope you will be brave and reach out to friends you think could benefit from a compassionate community like ours. Invite them to come along!

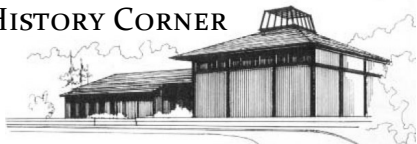
Please consider trying a small group and bringing a friend to church with you on December 22nd, or any time! Let's get together so that we can grow our communities of support to have a wide reach to encompass all who need companionship!

I love you.

Rev. Jo



## HISTORY CORNER



On Sunday May 4, 2003, May Memorial joined with three other UU congregations from Central New York (First Universalist Church of Central Square, the UU Society of Auburn, and First UU of Syracuse) to sponsor

and participate in the area's first ever "unity" service, held at the OnCenter. The event was seen as a unique opportunity to celebrate UUism and share it with the wider community. In our newsletter, it was referred to as a "UU Revival" or "Born again UUism." The joint service was the largest gathering of Unitarians and Universalists to take place in CNY since the fall of 1959, when Syracuse hosted the final merger conference of the two denominations.

The speaker for the special unity service of 2003 was Reverend Dr. Forrest Church, noted scholar and senior minister of All Souls [Unitarian] church in Manhattan. \* May Memorial's own Glenn Kime planned and directed the music for the service, and choir members from all four churches rehearsed and sang together under his direction. Pianist Nancy Pease played the postlude. Our minister, Reverend Scott Tayler, and DRE Sheila Schuh presented a story for all ages. Adult supervision for the nursery and teen staff was provided by May Memorial.

While adults were attending the service, children and youth reenacted the UU merger. Those from historically Unitarian churches and those from historically Universalist churches formed separate circles. They

then "merged" around a chalice, embodying the "double ring" UU symbol shown with this article.

The \$3400 collected in the special morning offering was split between the UU Service Committee's Iraqi Relief Fund and the Onondaga and Oswego County food banks. In addition, non-perishable food items were collected for the food bank shelves.

The official count for the unity service was 500, although some believed the number to be much higher. In any case, being part of a gathering of hundreds of UUs was an exhilarating and inspiring experience! In reflecting on the morning, Rev. Tayler wrote, "I think [the success of this event] invites all of us to imagine what CNY could be like if our UU congregations spoke out about injustice together."

Mary Louise Edwards & Kent Lindstrom

History Committee [history@mmuus.org](mailto:history@mmuus.org)

\*Reverend Forrest Church graduated from Harvard Divinity School and also earned a Ph.D. in Early Church History from Harvard. In 1995 Mayor Giuliani appointed him Chairman of the Council on the Environment of New York City. Rev. Church wrote or edited many books. His last, *Love & Death*, was written after he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

# NEW!

### New Spiritual Enrichment Group


Are you looking for an opportunity to meet new folks and deepen your connections with them? Rev. Jo is starting up a new Spiritual Enrichment Group, this group is for anyone who is interested in joining, but we must have 5 people to start. This group will meet on the First Wednesday of Each month from 6-7:30pm via zoom only beginning in December. Please contact Teri in the office to sign up for this new group!



**SYRACUSE GAY & LESBIAN CHORUS**  
**DREAMS ON A SNOWY NIGHT**  
**PRESENTS...**

Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus  
SGLC  
An all-inclusive chorus  
singing with PRIDE since 1991  
www.syrglc.org

**DECEMBER 13TH ~ 7PM**  
**DECEMBER 14TH ~ 2PM**  
**MAY MEMORIAL UUS**  
**3800 E GENESEE ST**  
**TICKETS AT WWW.SYRGLC.ORG**



6:20pm Fri/1pm Sat: Sy 62 Fayetteville; Bus stop E Genesee st & Manor Dr.

# December

12/1	We will meet in the Social Hall	Worship Associate Sandy Greenberg
12/8	Hanging of the Greens No Zoom/ In person only	Rev. Jo VonRue
12/15	All Bodies Belong: Disability Justice	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Eliza Bailey
12/22	Finding Joy! Bring a Friend Sunday	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Karen Sgarlata
12/29	TBA	Worship Associate Tosca Bruno-van Vijfeijken

<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](mailto:ministerjrev@gmail.com)

# December at MMUUS



## Sunday Dec 8

Sunday Worship Service 10:30am  
Hanging of the Greens  
First Sunday Lunch

## Friday Dec 20

Winter Solstice 7pm

## Tuesday Dec 24

No Rehearsal Pageant 6pm  
In the Ink of Night 8pm

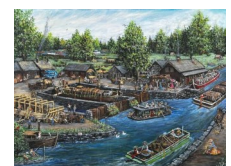


## December

# MMUUS ART GALLERY

Our December artist is **Elizabeth Dardis**, from Kirkville, NY.

Enjoy rich colors, intense detail and the profound use of imagery as Elizabeth reveals stories and local culture with every stroke. Her latest series of over two dozen paintings offers a peek into natural landscapes and local culture by depicting detailed images of towns and people. Each painting captures a moment in time. Be sure to view her work in the Social Hall during the month of December



### Gallery Hours

Sun 9am - 1pm  
Monday 9am - 2pm  
Thursday 9am - 2pm



"...one of Central New York's  
hidden treasures"  
—Chris Houser, nytimes.com

**The Folkus**  
Project of Central New York



THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents THE PARKINGTON SISTERS on Friday, December 6 @ 8pm. When Ariel, Sarah, and Rose Parkington of the Parkington Sisters pick up their instruments to strike up a song, the air begins to buzz. The chemistry between the three sisters is so present you feel like you can touch it, and as soon as they strike the first tone, it overwhelms the listener like a tidal wave crashing down. Over the past five years, they have shared the stage with artists ranging from Mavis Staples and Bruce Springsteen to Dispatch and the Dropkick Murphys, performing in venues including Radio City Music Hall and NPR's Mountain Stage. "Their music, an eclectic blend of acoustic, alternative, ethnic, classic, contemporary folk takes flight, floats across the airwaves, and settles in the soul, begging to be heard again and again." (The Barnstable Patriot) For tickets and information visit [www.folkus.org](http://www.folkus.org).

**TALENTS &  
TREASURES**

### Save the Date April 26, 2025 for the Talents and Treasures Auction

Our annual FUNdraising auction has a new date and a new name. Please save the week-end of April 25 and 26th to participate in the May Memorial Talents and Treasures Auction. We have expanded the auction to two days so that we can gather and stage items on Friday and hold the auction on the evening of April 26th. For those new to May Memorial this is our biggest FUNdraiser and we hope that everyone can find a way to participate.

The Holiday season is a great time to start thinking about the auction. If you receive a holiday gift that is not right for you, think of re-gifting it to our April auction. If you see a great price on 2 for one gift cards you could gift one and save one for the auction. If you are a crafter and are making gifts for the family, maybe you have time to knit an extra hat and mitten set to give to the auction.

"Many hands make light work" and there are many ways you can help make the Talents and Treasures auction a fun and successful event. If you have questions or suggestions or want to help please contact Cynthia Carter, Stephanie Cross or Dawn Mendelsohn



♥ Celebration of Life service for George Kirkpatrick will be Sunday January 19th at 2pm at May Memorial UU.

♥ It is with sympathy that we share the news that our beloved Bob Burdick died peacefully on Monday afternoon surrounded by loved ones. A memorial service will be held in the new year.

**Healthy  
Relations  
TEAM**

**The Healthy Relations Team (HRT)** manages the conflict resolution process at MMUUS and may take on other challenges on an ad-hoc basis. Comprised of members Sara Petit-McClure, Donna Rhode and Jojo Higgins, the HRT strives to resolve conflicts which arise between MMUUS members, staff and Board Members in hopes of resolving the causes of conflict so that those involved can once again live in harmony within our MMUUS community. The HRT can be reached at [hrt.mmuus@gmail.com](mailto:hrt.mmuus@gmail.com).

The HRT exists at May Memorial because conflict is inevitable in any community of people engaged in creating meaning in their lives. Left unresolved, conflict may threaten the fabric of a church community and disrupt the functioning of a congregation. Managed well, however, conflict can contribute to the growth of the individual and the community.

For more information, feel free to email us at [hrt.mmuus@gmail.com](mailto:hrt.mmuus@gmail.com) or contact one of the HRT members.

**The Giving Tree**



This holiday season we will once again be contributing gifts to migrant Hispanics in our community who have been receiving support from SIRDN (Syracuse Immigrant & Refugee Defense Network). This year there will be a tree in the foyer with tags that direct you to our online sign up. This list will consist of gift certificates for adults (\$50-\$60) and toys/clothes for children. Items should be returned (unwrapped) to the church by Sunday, December 15th so they can be delivered to the folks before Christmas. This year we will be supporting 12 households (26 adults and 26 children).

Please contact Julie Daniel (call/text: 3150729-8179 or email: [jdanielyoga@gmail.com](mailto:jdanielyoga@gmail.com)) if you have questions of need support in purchasing any items. Your donations are very much needed and so appreciated! Thanks for your support in keeping our Giving Tree tradition alive and well!



**Holiday Office Hours**

- Wed Dec 25 - Closed
- Thurs Dec 26 - Closed
- Mon Dec 30 - Closed
- Tues Dec 31- Closed
- Wed Jan 1 - Closed
- Thurs Jan 2 - Closed
- Sun Jan 5 - Closed

Office closed every Friday and Saturday



### Tai Chi



Tuesday's and Thursday's  
3pm in the Social Hall  
Free and all are welcome!

## UPCOMING Events



Monday December 9th at 1:00pm  
In the Social Hall

### Depressive Disorders Support Group

Thursday  
4:30pm

Open only to those diagnosed with some form of  
depression or bipolar depression



Sunday December 15th at 12:15pm  
In the Teenz Room



**Twisted Sisters** meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00pm in the Teenz Room. This is a casual, no-pressure, no agenda, no commitment women's social group. We'd love to have you join us for conversation and sisterhood as we support each other in navigating through this life. Bring a beverage for yourself or to share. Bring a snack if you feel like it. The remaining date in 2024 is December 9th. Mark your calendar!

The UU Book Group that usually meets the second Monday of the month will meet December 2 because of the Date with Death on the 9th. The Group meets at 2PM in the Parlor at First UU. All are welcome to attend and share their readings.

"All men at May are invited to the monthly Mens Lunch. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 12 noon at Munjed's restaurant on Westcott Street. Contact Anton Ninno to RSVP."  
[antonninno@yahoo.com](mailto:antonninno@yahoo.com)



# Welcome

### Are you Interested in joining MMUUS as a Member?

If you have been attending worship here at MMUUS for a little while and feel a connection and pull to become a member, please contact Rev. Jo at [ministerjrev@gmail.com](mailto:ministerjrev@gmail.com). We will have a new member ceremony on Sunday January 12th as part of worship, but you need to meet with Rev. Jo first, so please be sure to contact her!



# 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

Director of Religious Education

Director of Music

Board President

Book Keeper

Finance

Church Office

Rev. Jo VonRue

Stacy Sceiford

Glenn Kime

Peter McClure

Leslie Dendy

Jennifer Newman

Teri Coon

[ministerjev@gmail.com](mailto:ministerjev@gmail.com)

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May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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office@mmuus.org



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**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