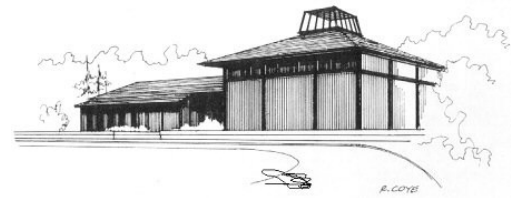


May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society



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

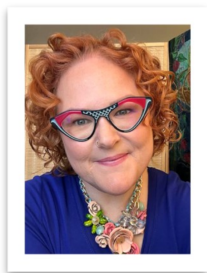
March 2025
Volume 88
Issue 3



The poet J. Drew Lanham (you can find him on FB) recently posted the following piece:

"It is like watching a house burn down with friends and family within. We feel helpless as water sprayed -- no matter how much -- does not save the innocent from being consumed, nor keep smoke inhaled and scarring burns from maiming those somehow surviving the conflagration. The thing is, we saw the arsonists pour the accelerant and light the flame, but too many stood silent or claimed the fire prescribed would cleanse. They, too, in time, will get burned. But for now, we stand by and help to heal the hurt with love and care as soothing salve, where we can. As the fire rages and jumps the line, be advised, prepare for flare-ups. Rake the litter off the lines. Fireproof your heart best you can and live your lives as if joy was essential dousing agent. That joy is the strength to fight the flames. That joy is what they can not take unless we give them the key to come in. You see, the fuel they heap on is despair. The spark is fear. Beware. Joy in whatever amount we can conjure is the only hope. Joy, is the rain we must dance, sing, shout, write and paint for. Joy lit with hope for better will be my backing fire set to slow the inferno down. Joy is the ember within each of us who truly cares kept glowing, ready by the rising sun. Be ready with a breath of hope to set fires of your own. Keep fighting with joy as your rain. Our time will come."

Friends, I know that every new day comes with some new dumpster fire. So let us remember that "joy is the strength to fight the flames". We must resist, and so many of you are actively resisting already! When you feel helpless, when you feel like nothing you do matters, or makes a difference... look for the helpers and become one. You may not be able to change policy or effect the fascist in the white house, but you CAN help unload food at Gethsemane, you CAN help new American's practice their English, you CAN show up at marches, you CAN call your law makers. Just do the next best thing, do what you CAN because it IS making a difference for someone. And remember, we are in this fight together, to share our hope and our joy just when the world looks too bleak because "joy is what they can not take unless we give them the key to come in." And we are not offering any invitations to those who do not come in peace with love in their hearts.



YOU, are loved beyond belief.

Rev. Jo



March



3/2	We Won't Go Back	Rev. Jo VonRue and Worship Associate Ruth Yanai
3/9	Hope is the Thing With Feathers	Poet Carol Mikoda and Worship Associate Sandy Greenberg
3/16	Living Love Through the Practice of Trust	Worship Associates Karen Sgarlata and David Mendelsohn
3/23	Sacred Seeds: Creating and Sharing Bird Seed Mandalas	Rev. Jo VonRue and Director of Religious Education Stacy Sceiford
3/30	Spiritually Queer	Rev. Douglas Taylor and Worship Associate Eliza Bailey



<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





WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

May Memorial maintenance and cleaning task gathering

Saturday March 8 , 2025 from 9 am - 12 noon.

We would love it if many people attended to help clean and organize different areas of the church as well as complete some repairs.

Please let Stephanie Cross (msscoss1234@gmail.com) know if you are planning to attend.



Diversity Action Team

The March book for the Young Adult Book Club is “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas. A couple of extra activities you might want to know about regarding this book. “The Hate U Give” was made into a movie, and you can stream it on Amazon, Apple TV and YouTube if you are interested. Angie Thomas will be speaking in Syracuse on April 8 at 7:30 at the Civic Center as part of the FOCL library lecture series. You can purchase tickets through Ticketmaster or by going to the downtown box office at the War Memorial. The Hate You Give has been banned by some schools and libraries, so if the thought of banning books makes you want to read one, read this one, and join in on the discussion listed in the flyer with Sarah Fleming.

Resisting Fascism

A three-session class for adults
by Rev. Jo VonRue - May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Sunday 3.23 12:15-2pm
Sunday 4.27 12:15-2pm

Inspired by Rev. Cecilia Kingman’s 2023 Berry Street Essay “My Little Pony Was Right: Fascisms Without and Within”, and the popular work of Dr. Jason Stanley and Dr. Timothy Snyder, both of Yale University, this class seeks to help adult students make connections between the rise of fascism and the institution of the church, and develop practical strategies for living a life that resists the habits of mind that allow fascism to take root in society.

It is not necessary to attend all 3 sessions.
Please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Registration Required: office@mmuus.org



*Community,
Conversations,
Connections
with Rev. Jo*

HISTORY CORNER



Financial Support of Our Church

As May Memorial's 2025-26 stewardship campaign comes to an end, we decided to revisit a 2020 newsletter article about how funds to support our church were raised in earlier times. It may be surprising to learn that in the 19th century, selling or renting pews was a common way of raising money to fund the operation of the church.

When the Church of the Messiah (our second building) was constructed in 1843, part of the \$5000 cost came from the sale of pews. Fifteen years later, that church, which had just been enlarged, was almost totally destroyed by a hurricane. The \$10,000 cost of rebuilding it was raised mainly from an auction of pews, with each successful bidder receiving a "deed of ownership." According to *May No One Be a Stranger* (1988), pews in the back row were the cheapest. Pews in the front were more expensive, and the most expensive were those in the middle-center section of the church.

In 1869, the tradition of paying for pews was discontinued by our forebears, and funds to support the church came from voluntary pledges. Ten years later, however, when the church had trouble meeting its expenses, the sale of pews resumed for a time. Pew auctions were later replaced by yearly pew rentals, a practice that was officially abandoned in 1919.

Since that time, funds to support May Memorial have been raised primarily by an annual stewardship campaign, canvas, or pledge drive, with members pledging at levels consistent with their ability to contribute to the operation and upkeep of the church, including the salaries of the minister and other members of the staff.

The picture accompanying this article shows May Memorial's "pew directory."

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee, history@mmuus.org



Family Bingo & Potluck Party

Saturday, March 15, 2025 5-7pm

Chase those winter blues away as you join us for our annual Bingo Potluck Party!
Great fun for all ages....and EVERYONE is a winner!

What to bring:

- * a dish to pass (beverages provided),
- * your own place settings (so we can be good stewards of the earth)
- * a prize to donate to the prize table from each person playing
- * Cost \$1 (to be donated to our Change for Charity fund)

Questions? Contact Julie Daniel: jdanielyoga@gmail.com ; call/text: 315-729-8179

Plans are well underway for our 2025 Talents, Treasures and Adventures Silent Auction



Everyone please mark your calendars and plan on joining us on Saturday April 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 for the Final bidding as well as light refreshments and music.

You can Help us make this the best auction yet!

Please consider making a donation.

Here are some ideas/items already promised:

Adventures (offered to MMUUS members only)

- Drive a group of four to the Thousand Islands for a boat ride and lunch
- Take a small group for a Waterfalls Tour around Syracuse
- Provide a Picnic Lunch and hike at Green Lakes
- Invite a group to lounge by your pool and provide a early evening BBQ
- Invite 6 people to your home for a meal and conversation

Ask a local business to provide Gift Certificates/Tickets/Passes

(offered to MMUUS members and friends)

- Restaurants
- Coffee Shops
- Box Seats
- Museum Passes
- Zoo passes

DONATIONS TO THE AUCTION will be accepted through April 7

This year's online Catalog will be available for bids April 14th – April 25th

NEW 2025

Our first CHILDREN's AUCTION, which is being held just prior to the silent auction. The children of MM will share their outgrown toys, games, books etc. allowing others to purchase at a bargain. The children will then collectively decide on a charity and will donate their proceeds to the charity of their choosing. The Children's auction will be held on Saturday April 26 4:30 – 5:15

We would like open portions of the auction to friends outside of May Memorial.

The Adventure's category will only be offered internally to MM people since some of those items invite people into our homes. The gift certificates and treasures, however, might be of interest to people we know outside of MM. We ask members to consider sharing the auction website with your friends so we might sell some items outside of MM. This is another way to help support the auction.



Unirondack Scholarship for youth

Scholarships for May Memorial youth attending Unirondack during the summer weeklong sessions are available. Please contact Stephanie Cross (mscopy1234@gmail.com) to learn how to apply.

May Memorial & Kingston, Ontario UU congregation 2025 Unirondack weekend

The 2025 September weekend at Unirondack is scheduled for Friday, Sept 19th (4 pm) to Sunday, Sept 21st mid-afternoon. Unirondack, a UU Camp & Conference Center, is in the western Adirondacks, near Lowville, NY. To see the Unirondack facilities/environment, the website is: www.unirondack.org

Since 2008, we have hosted this intergenerational Unirondack weekend as a source of early fall community building for our UU congregations. The weekend is often an introduction to the camp for youth and families who later go on to be campers and staff at the weeklong youth or family camps. We hope you consider coming along for the weekend! Cost for the 2024 entire weekend (food, lodging, activities) was \$100-\$110/pp depending on age; this year's costs are not known yet, but we expect it will be about the same price. Financial assistance for MM families is often available; please contact Stephanie Cross (mscopy1234@gmail.com) about this.

From member Judy Jerome:

I have just signed up for Unirondack Family Camp for my daughter, Rachel, and granddaughters, Lola and Nora. This will be our fourth Family Camp year. Many of us at May Memorial already know how wonderful Unirondack is but Family Camp is a unique week long experience. It is a great opportunity for families and friends to spend time together in the Adirondacks. It's a place to explore, learn, and make new friends. Because of its intergenerational focus, it provides a unique opportunity for people of all ages to play together and share stories. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. **Judy Jerome** <https://www.unirondack.org/family-camp>



Jann Bonney
Sharon Bottle Souva
Vanessa Johnson

Visit us:
 Sunday 9am - 1pm
 Monday 9am - 2pm
 Thursday 9am - 2pm

During the month of March, we will exhibit the work of three fabric artists: Jann Bonney, Sharon Bottle Souva and Vanessa Johnson. Although they each work with fabric, their materials, techniques and expressions vary greatly, ranging from traditional quilts to storytelling wall hangings. Please enjoy this diverse collection of quilted works of art.

UPCOMING Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday	3/2	Congregational Meeting	Noon	Sanctuary
Tuesday	3/4	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	3/6	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	3/7	Folkus	8pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	3/8	Work Day	9am	Whole Church
Sunday	3/9	Soul Matters	12:15pm	Teenz
Monday	3/10	Twisted Sisters	7pm	Teenz
Tuesday	3/11	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	3/12	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	3/15	Family Bingo Night	5pm	Social Hall
Tuesday	3/18	Writers Group	10am	Teenz
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	3/20	Book Enders	1:30pm	Memorial Room
		Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Chori Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Friday	3/21	Folkus	8pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	3/23	Resisting Fascism	12:15pm	Social Hall
Tuesday	3/25	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	3/27	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
		Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Monday	3/31	Date With Death Club	1pm	Social Hall

March's After-Worship Lunch, co-hosted by the Date with Death Club and New Members, will be held on March 9. The meal will feature a choice of savory soups, scrumptious salad, fresh bakery bread a dazzling array of desserts, and other tasty treats.



Please join us for this lively social event and fruitful fundraiser. And better yet, bring a friend! The suggested donation is: Adult \$0-\$10, Child \$0-\$6, Family \$0-\$20.

Spring Forward One Hour

Sunday March 9th



Congregational Meeting!

Congregational Meeting to Revise Bylaws March 2, 12:00

The Board of Trustees invites all members to attend a meeting to review and vote upon Bylaws changes that we are proposing. It will be important to have a quorum of voting members; we will do our best to limit the meeting to one hour. Copies of the proposed Bylaws and an explanation of changes are available on the Members Only section of our web site and also in print in Teri's office. We plan to vote on each article individually to ensure that we are making steady progress through the meeting. Affected articles are V, VI, IX and X.

We have solicited input during this process and hope that we will have resolved any major concerns before this meeting. We encourage all interested parties to review the "explanation" document and ask questions or air concerns to Board members in advance of the meeting.

- Peter McClure, Rob Neimeier, David Mendelsohn



The Folkus
Project of Central New York

Robbie Fulks on Friday, March 7 @ 8pm.

The Clements Brothers on Friday, March 21 @ 8pm.

Please visit the FOLKUS PROJECT website for details and tickets (folkus.org)



CareRing News

Celebration of Life for Lida Black will be Saturday April 5 at 10:30am



- Amanda Perrine has been promoted at work!
- David Crider has also been recommended for Tenure and Promotion at his job as well!

From the Church Office



CONTACT US

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Director of Religious Education

Director of Music

Board President

Book Keeper

Finance

Church Office

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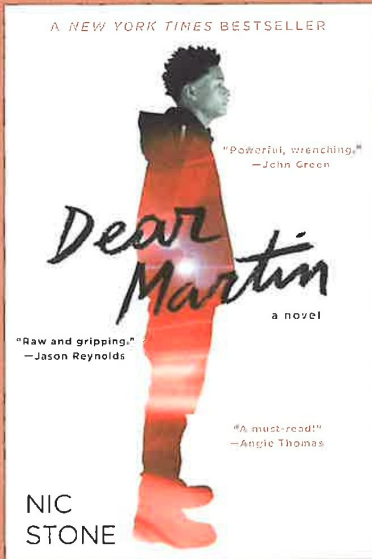
office@mmuus.org

May Memorial's Diversity Action Team presents:

Young Adult Book Club!

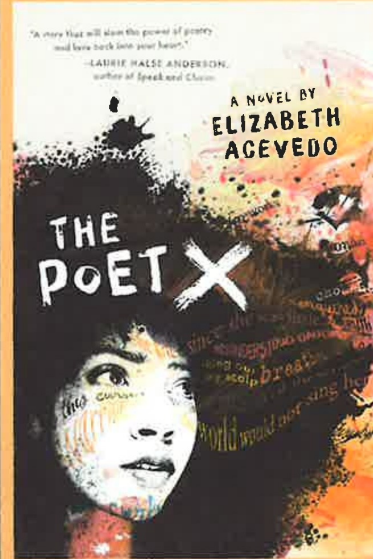
Join us as we read these important texts and engage in a dialog together about issues of difference and inclusion. We look forward to you joining us!

**Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom for adults;
Sundays at noon after service for youth**



Thurs 11/7, 7pm
for adults - on
zoom

Sun 11/10, noon
for youth - in
person



Thurs 1/9, 7pm
for adults - on
zoom

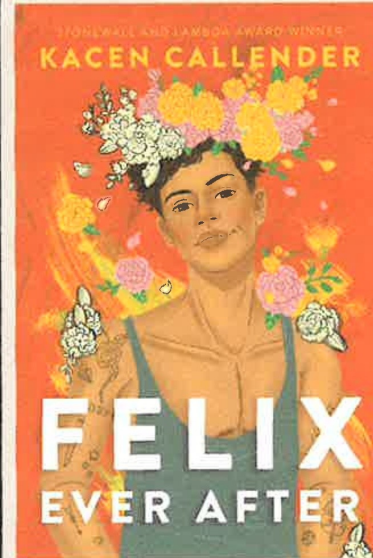
Sun 1/12, noon
for youth - in
person



read
either
one!

Thurs 3/6, 7pm
for adults - on
zoom

Sun 3/9, noon
for youth - in
person



Thurs 5/1, 7pm
for adults - on
zoom

Sun 5/4, noon
for youth - in
person

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:

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315-446-8920