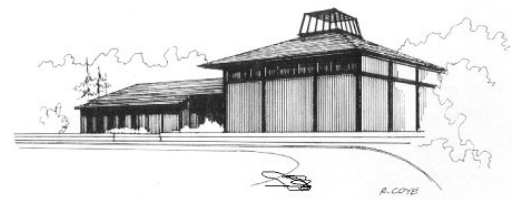


May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

April 2024
Volume 87
Issue 4

2024-2025 Stewardship Campaign RISE UP!



Stewardship Campaign Update

As we approach the end of our campaign, we are hopeful of rising up to our pledge goal of \$240,000.

We hope to be able to support an operating budget for 2024-2025 that includes a well-deserved 3% increase in salary for Reverend Jo.

Our status as of March 25, 2024 is as follows.

Pledged dollars: \$188,317

Matching dollars: \$20,000

Total dollars: \$208,317 (87% of goal)

Number pledges received - 78: 77% of returning pledges were increased!

Thank you for your generous support of our beloved community.

The Finance Committee needs the campaign wrapped up by April 1.

If you have not yet pledged, please do so by April 1 so that we can make financial plans for the upcoming year.

Send your pledge to Treasurer Jane Fagerland at jane_f@scglobal.net.

A proposed 2024-2025 budget will be discussed and proposed at the April 9 Finance Committee meeting and presented to the Board of Trustees on April 16.

The Board-recommended 2024-2025 budget will be discussed at a **Congregational Hearing on May 19** and voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on **June 9, 2024**.

In the spirit of embracing all spiritual journeys and encouraging service to build a more loving and just world,

The 2024-2025 Stewardship Committee and Board of Trustees



Beloveds,



I hope that this letter finds you well, and taking some time to rest. I am writing to give you details about my upcoming ministry sabbatical so that we can put your mind and

heart at ease in my absence. I will be away from you and from the church beginning February 26th. On August 19th I will move into study leave as I prepare for the new church year; at that time I will be available for emergencies until my return to the pulpit on September 8th.

Sabbatical is a time for my professional and personal rest and renewal, a part of that means being completely away from my work. Therefore, during this time, I will be completely out of communication with all members of the congregation. In my absence, our Board of Trustees, in conversation with Stacy, Glenn, and Teri, will lead this society with joy and love. If something should arise in my absence that they need help with, they will seek help from our UUA Central East Region Primary contact person, Alia Shinbrough. If you have a pastoral emergency, you should contact the church office and Teri will direct you to one of three Ministers who will be on call for pastoral emergencies. These ministers are Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias (retired from FUUS, our former MRE), Rev Douglas Taylor (Minister in Binghamton, son of Rev. Liz Strong), and Rev. Karen Brammer (UU Utica).

The board of trustees have been informed as to what circumstances would warrant their contacting me while away. While I may be informed of certain things, I may or may not respond to any of them, trusting in the leadership of this congregation. This congregation has come such a long way since we have been in partnership together, and I have every confidence that you can all handle what comes your way in my absence.

Sabbatical is a wonderful opportunity for you to experience many other ministers and worship perspectives while I am gone! While I am away, you will continue to see Glenn and Stacy on Sunday mornings supporting our Worship Associates, guest preachers and artists lead wonderful and engaging worship services. My final Sunday with you will be February 25th and my first Sunday back will be September 8th. This will also be our Water Communion homecoming service and I hope to see many of you at both of those services.

My loves, you may not fully understand how much I love you. I am going to miss you all very much while I am away. I am so excited to return rested and renewed so that together we can rise up and grow into the next best version of ourselves so that we might spread the incredible message of Unitarian Universalism.

I love you, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Rev. Jo VonRue



Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

April Artist



The Annual Syracuse Camera Club Exhibition will be hanging in our Social Hall throughout the month of April, 2024. Established in 1886, the Syracuse Camera Club is one of the oldest photography organizations in the United States. We, at May Memorial, are privileged to host this annual show. Be sure to stop in to see the captivating portraits, beautiful landscapes and wonderful wildlife studies and, if you are interested in photography, the camera club welcomes new members of all ages.

Gallery Hours:

Sunday: 8am-2pm
Monday: 8am-2pm
Thursday: 8am-2pm



The Folkus
Project of Central New York

SOLD OUT

THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents RUTHIE FOSTER



on Friday, April 5 @ 8pm. With a naturally expressive voice that has drawn comparisons to greats like Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald, Texas-based singer and songwriter Ruthie Foster has a wide pal-

ette of American song forms--gospel and blues to jazz, folk, and soul--and her live performances are powerfully transfiguring. Foster's career includes multiple awards, four Grammy nominations, and 12 studio albums. Her most recent album, *Healing Time*, released in 2022, is "a beautiful reflection of the essence of living itself." An engaging live performer, Foster tours regularly, wowing audiences with her powerful voice and stylistic range. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.

THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents
ANNIE & THE HEDONISTS



on Friday, April 19 @ 8pm. Jazz, blues, country, folk, bluegrass...it's all here! Comprised of Annie Rosen (lead vocals), Jonny Rosen (guitar and vocals), Peter

Davis (clarinet, tenor guitar, piano, and vocals) and Don Young (upright bass and vocals), Annie & the Hedonists interpret the songs of the great female blues artists of the 1920s-40s: Bessie Smith, Sippie Wallace, Memphis Minnie, Billie Holiday, Rosetta Tharpe, Blue Lu Barker, Ella Fitzgerald and more. Other styles include western swing, bluesy country, and roots Americana. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.

hello
APRIL



4/7

The Line In The Sand

Rev. Laine Mairead-Campbell

Worship Associate JoJo Higgins



4/14

Sam May Sunday

Mary Louise Edwards
and Kent Lindstrom

Worship Associate Ruth Yanai



4/21

Earth Day

Kevin Salamone

Worship Associate Tosca Bruno-van
Vijfeijken



4/28

Rough Side of the Mountain

Rev. Verdis Levar Robinson

Worship Associate David Mendelsohn

2023
2024
Zoom Link

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

Meeting ID: 917 2074 3841

Passcode: 801542

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,91720743841# US (New York)

+16469313860,,91720743841# US

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 917 2074 3841

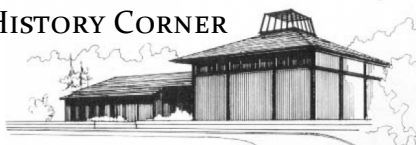
Congregational Hearing

Sunday April 14th noon
In person and on Zoom

This hearing covers changes to the ByLaws, including the ability to vote while attending future meetings on Zoom. You must be present in the building at May Memorial to vote during this meeting.

You may request a pdf or print copy of the ByLaws changes and the Zoom link by contacting the office:
office@mmuus.org

HISTORY CORNER



History “Tidbits”



For the past several years, the history committee has been accumulating a list of “tidbits” about the church’s remarkable history. We started doing this in 2018 in anticipation of Reverend Samuel Joseph May’s induction into the National Abolition Hall of Fame. Since then, we have added questions about other ministers, our buildings, church leaders, etc.

Some have been posted on the bulletin board. Which of these can you answer?

Q. In what year did the Unitarian Congregation of Syracuse adopt the name “May Memorial?”

A. When the new building at 472 James Street was dedicated in 1885, the Unitarian Congregation of Syracuse decided to call the church May Memorial in memory of their beloved former minister Rev. Samuel Joseph May, who had died in 1871.

Q. What well-known suffragist spoke at the 1898 event celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rev. Samuel Joseph May’s birth?

A. Susan B. Anthony spoke about Rev. May’s important role in supporting suffrage for women.

Q. What beautiful artifact from the James Street church now belongs to the Everson Museum?

A. A Tiffany stained glass window called the “New Jerusalem.” It was the only stained glass window saved from our previous church.

Q. When did May Memorial become a welcoming congregation?

A. May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society became a Welcoming Congregation on April 7, 1998.

Q. In what year was our present building dedicated?

*A. Although the congregation started meeting in the new church in the fall of 1964, out of necessity, it wasn’t formally dedicated until **Oct. 10, 1965**, after the pews were installed and the organ was built. **This means that in Oct. 2025 we will be celebrating 60 years in this building!***

Mary Louise Edwards & Kent Lindstrom

MMUUS History Committee history@mmuus.org

Mark your Calendars:

May Memorial Intergenerational
Spring Clean Up

Come dressed to work outdoors

Sunday May 5 after a short worship service
Pizza will be served following our land
stewardship efforts.



Holly Near In Concert:
Celebrating 50 Years of Music & Activism



Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 7:00 PM
Plymouth Congregational Church
232 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse

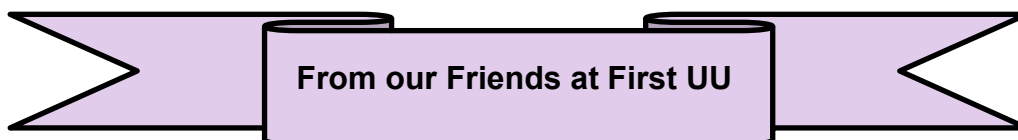
Holly Near has been singing for a more equitable world for well over 50 creative years. She is an insightful storyteller through her music, committed to keeping the work rooted in contemporary activism. Respected around the world for her music and activism, Holly released her 31st album in 2018.

One of the most powerful, consistent, and outspoken singers of our time, her concerts elevate spirits and inspire activism. A skilled performer, Holly is an outspoken ambassador for peace who brings to the stage a unique integration of world consciousness, spiritual discovery, and theatricality.

Holly's joy and passion continue to inspire people to join in her celebration of the human spirit. Equally compelling at her shows and through recordings, Holly's music fully engages listeners in the world around them—speaking to anyone who believes in peace, justice, and feminism; a wonderful spectrum of humanity.

Holly will be joined by Tammy Hall on piano and Jan Martinelli on bass, and the concert will be interpreted for the deaf.

Presented by Syracuse Community Choir
Tickets & more information at <https://syracusecommunitychoir.org/>
Questions: (315) 428-8151



On April 20, 2024 from 1-3 pm the Pagan group will be meeting. Masks are required. Families are welcome. We will be discussing directions we would like to take this group and our next ritual for Beltane.
Held at First Unitarian Universalist 109 Waring Road



**Building Beloved
Community
Beyond the Binary**

Saturday, April 27th, 2024
9:00am-5:00pm
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse
109 Waring Road, Syracuse, NY
And virtually!

Sponsored by
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse
the Center for the Study of Religion

*A place to find community with transgender, nonbinary folk and our allies
A conference for us to gather, learn and grow.*



Saturday April 27th
9am—5pm
First Unitarian Universalist Society
109 Waring Road

Registration for the Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary conference on April 27th is LIVE!
<https://firstuusyr.my.canva.site/bcbb>

UPCOMING
Events

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Monday | 2nd | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| Wednesday | 3rd | Vespers | 8pm | Zoom |
| Thursday | 4th | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| | | Depression Support Group | 4:30pm | Memorial Room |
| | | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| | | Choir Rehearsal | 7:30pm | Sanctuary |
| Friday | 5th | FOLKUS | 8pm | |
| Sunday | 7th | First Sunday Lunch | 11:45pm | Social Hall |
| Monday | 8th | Twisted Sisters | 7pm | Teenz |
| Tuesday | 9th | Writers Group | 10am | Teenz |
| | | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| Wednesday | 10th | Art Opening | 5:30pm | Social Hall |
| Thursday | 11th | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| | | Depression Support Group | 4:30pm | Memorial Room |
| | | Spiritual Enrichment Group | 6pm | Teenz |
| Sunday | 14th | Congregational Meeting | 12pm | Sanctuary |
| Tuesday | 16th | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| Thursday | 18th | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| | | Depression Support Group | 4:30pm | Memorial Room |
| | | Choir Rehearsal | 7:30pm | Sanctuary |
| Friday | 19th | FOLKUS | 8pm | |
| Sunday | 21st | Soul Matters | 12:15pm | Teenz |
| Tuesday | 23rd | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| Thursday | 25th | Bookenders | 1:30pm | Memorial Room |
| | | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |
| | | Depression Support Group | 4:30pm | Memorial Room |
| | | Spiritual Enrichment Group | 6pm | Teenz |
| | | Choir Rehearsal | 7:30pm | Sanctuary |
| Tuesday | 30th | Tai Chi | 3pm | Social Hall |

Goods and Services Auction on May 18 at 5:30 pm!

As we have done in the past two years, we will be releasing an online catalog the Monday prior -- May 13 -- so even if you can't get to the event, you can support this fundraiser and reap the benefits of dozens of "Buy it Now" treasures -- Good Eats, Experiences and Adventures, Enlightenment, Creative Expressions, and Serendipitous Treasures!

This is not only a major fundraiser for May Memorial, but, it is also a fun event, and the organizers are working on making it an even more family friendly event than ever! If you have ideas on how to accomplish this, let Jennifer Newman at mamaslash@twcny.rr.com, Cynthia Carter at ccarringtoncarter@verizon.net or Dawn Mendelsohn at dpmendels@gmail.com know.

Goods and Services



Check out the weekly eblasts for timely details on how to participate, get in touch with any of us for details, and, if you're ready to send a description and/or photo of a donation, along with the details about estimated value and minimum bid amount, please send to Teri at office@mmuus.org AND Cynthia at ccarringtoncarter@verizon.net. And let any of the organizers know if you want to help out with any facet of this event!

Vespers

April 3 at 8pm:

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

Meeting ID: 965 0987 7539

Passcode: 513494

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,96509877539# US (New York)

+16469313860,,96509877539# US

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US



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Director of Music

Board President

Book Keeper

Finance

Church Office

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Unirondack weekend Sept 20-22, 2024

This year's May Memorial UU and UU congregation in Kingston, Ontario, Canada Unirondack weekend will be from Friday, Sept 20, 4 pm through Sunday Sept 22, 2 pm. Other congregations from Central New York are invited to participate as well.

Unirondack is a UU Camp and Conference Center, about a 2.5 hour drive from Syracuse in the western Adirondacks, near Lowville, NY. To see the Unirondack facilities/environment, the website is: www.unirondack.org

Since 2008, this intergenerational Unirondack weekend has been a source of early fall community building for our UU congregations. This 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. Usually, we have room for guests of MM folks, so check in if you want to ask a friend to accompany you to the weekend.

There are cabins and heated sleeping spaces with indoor bathroom facilities. People need to bring their own bedding, towels, and pillows as well as their personal items. People hike, bike, read, play games, go boating, swim, talk, nap, arts, crafts, sport games or just sit by the lake soaking in the beauty. Group activities are encouraged and are led by the weekend participants. Please leave your pets and electronic games at home.

The 2024 cost is expected to be: \$110/PP for those over 12 years old; Children 4-12 years \$100; Children 3 and under are free. Some financial assistance is available to help pay the costs for MM families.

This cost is inclusive of 2 nights (F, S) lodging and use of the Unirondack facilities, Friday night welcome light meal, 3 meals Saturday and Sunday breakfast & lunch. Meals are prepared/cleaned-up by participants and are shared in a dining hall. Special dietary needs are carefully managed in food planning and prep; refrigeration is available for individual needs. Snacks and transportation are not included in this rate. Carpooling has been arranged by individuals in the past.

A 50% deposit is required to hold your space; the balance needs to be paid 2 weeks in advance of the weekend (Sept 6) Full initial payment is totally appreciated! If you need to cancel, usually you will receive a full refund. Reservations can be made by sending your names/ ages of children to Stephanie Cross at msscoss1234@gmail.com. Deposit checks should be made to "Stephanie Cross", given to her at MMUUS or mailed to 3844 Pompey Center Road, Manlius, NY 13104. Venmo payments can be sent to: Stephanie-Cross-75

Please include your contact information, names of people attending and ages of the children attending with your payment.

This is a great weekend - we hope you will join us!

Stephanie Cross, Coordinator, May Memorial UU Society, Syracuse

From Judy Jerome: I will be attending the Women's Weekend at Unirondack this year, May 31-June 2. The weekend is open to all women and those who identify as women. I have attended every year (9 years now) and wouldn't miss it for the world. Does anyone want to carpool or go with me? Please contact me at judy_jerome@hotmail.com <https://www.unirondack.org/womens-weekend-1>

Also, if you love Unirondack and would welcome a wonderful family experience there, consider attending Family Camp, August 19-24. This will be the third year that Lola, Nora, Rachel and I will be attending. We cherish every minute of it. <https://www.unirondack.org/family-camp>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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-2pm (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