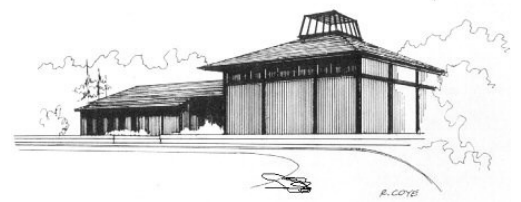


May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

May 2024
Volume 87
Issue 5

News from the MMUUS Board of Trustees

Stewardship Campaign, May 19 Budget Hearing and June 9 Annual Congregational Meeting



As we near the end of the 2023/2024 church year here are a few important dates:

Sunday May 19: Finance Committee presents it's 2024/2025 proposed budget, this will be on Zoom and in person at noon. This is an informational hearing only, there is no voting.

Sunday June 9: Annual Meeting! This will be in person and on Zoom at noon. Voting online and in person will be available. Watch the June newsletter for the Zoom link.

As of **April 14**, the Stewardship Campaign received 99 pledges for a total of \$232,773 (including \$20,000 in matched funds). This total is slightly less than our goal of \$240,000, but demonstrates vibrant support of our beloved community, twenty-two (22) pledges were increased by more than 10%, compared with last year pledges, twenty-two pledges were increased by 4-10% and 9 new pledges were received. We are poised for a push for growth when Reverend Jo returns in September!

Based on our pledged financial support and other sources of income, the Finance Committee has prepared an Operating Fund Budget for next fiscal year (July 1 2024- June 30, 2025), which has been approved by the board of Trustees. Consistent with our Bylaws, an informational hearing on the 2024-2025 budget will be held at *12 noon after worship on Sunday May 19*. All are welcome to come and learn and comment on the budget. If you want a copy of the proposed budget, contact Teri Coon, our office administrator.

The Annual Congregational Meeting, at which a vote on the budget will be held, will happen after worship on *June 9*. Because of the Bylaws changes approved at the Congregational Meeting on April 14, qualified members who attend the meeting via Zoom will be able to vote. Also on the agenda will be a vote on further changes to the Bylaws related to the Program Council. The Program Council changes will be available for your review in May. Stayed tuned!

Peter McClure
MMUUS Board President





Beloveds,



I hope that this letter finds you well, and taking some time to rest. I am writing to give you details about my 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 VanRue

Video update from Rev. Jo is available on our website!



<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

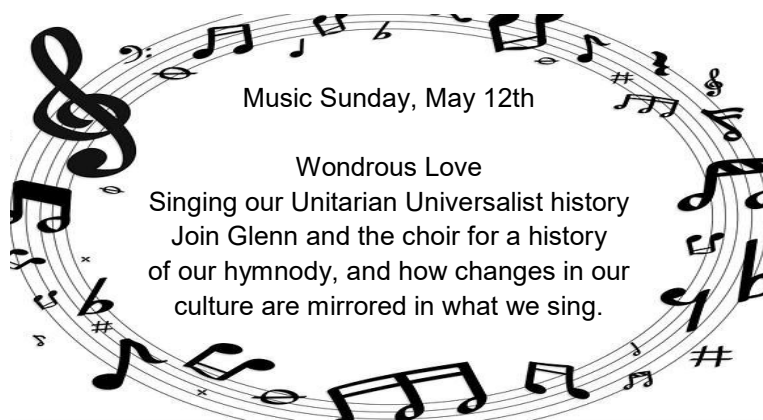
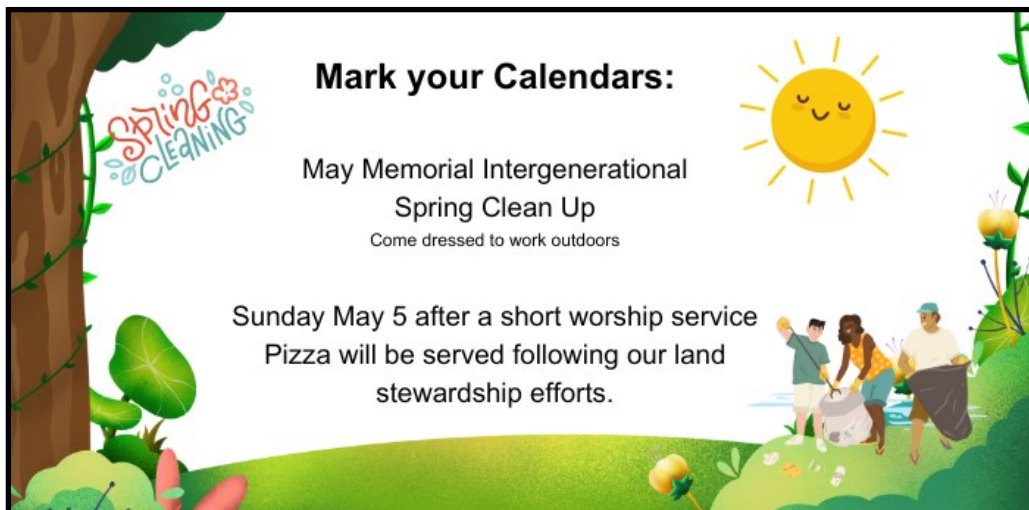
Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 917 2074 3841





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

Health and Art come together with a powerful message!

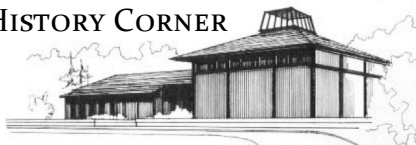
May Memorial Church is excited to partner with Nottingham High School Art class to display unique pieces of art.

Upstate Cancer Center partnered with Nottingham High School, Health and Art classes to educate students about cancer prevention via the program, beneath the surFACE. This program is a cancer prevention, awareness and education outreach program focusing on HPV related cancers, especially head and neck cancer. The program focuses on educating students on the importance of avoiding tobacco and excessive alcohol use and receiving the HPV vaccine to reduce the risk of head and neck and the 5 other HPV related cancers.

As part of the cancer prevention lesson plan, art students create works of art using radiation masks that are worn by head and neck cancer patients during radiation treatment, serving as stark reminders of their challenging time. However, through the artistic vision of students, these masks are transformed and offer a powerful message of support and solidarity to head and neck cancer patients.

During the month of May, the masks that the students have transformed will be on display at May Memorial Church, and this will be kicked off with an Art Show, May 1st, 5-6:30PM in the Social Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

HISTORY CORNER



Remembering Akira Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu



Akira "Ike" Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu died on March 28, 2024, just five days after his 96th birthday and just weeks after his wife Joan's passing. A memorial service for Joan was held at May Memorial on February 24, with family members traveling from all over the country to attend. As no memorial service is planned for Ike at this time, we decided to devote this newsletter column to him.

Akira Sanbonmatsu was born in Holtville, California in 1928, the youngest child of a couple who had immigrated from Japan in 1916. The family owned a farm and a produce business that shipped fruits and vegetables from California's Imperial Valley to the Midwest and Far East. When Ike was three years old, his father died, and his mother took over as head of the household and the family business.

After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, the United States entered WWII. In February 1942, President Roosevelt issued an executive order that required the removal and "relocation" of all Japanese from the West Coast. Akira Sanbonmatsu and his family were sent to Camp Poston, in the Arizona desert, where they stayed from 1942-1945.

Ike did not talk openly about his time at the internment camp for many years, but in 1983, with encouragement from Reverend Nick Cardell, he spoke out for the first time. He and Joan presented a Sunday service at May Memorial. Joan led the service and Ike gave the sermon. In his sermon, titled, "A Desert Harvested," Ike shared memories of his years at Poston and their lasting effects on his life.

Ike remembered that when his family received the date for their evacuation from California, his mother made a speech to them. She said it was reasonable for her to be evacuated since she was an "enemy alien," but it was "unjust and unconstitutional" for the government to send her sons (American citizens by birth) to the camps.*

Ike recalled that as president of his junior high school student body, he continued to lead the assembly meetings in the pledge of allegiance to the American flag until his family's internment. His first lesson in civics, however, was that justice isn't for all in the US, and his first political response was silent rebellion. In his sermon he stated that a lesson he learned well from his family's "concentration camp" experience was that being silent may make one permanently silent. He ended the sermon with, "We can never be silent again."

After graduating from high school, Akira, like his older brothers, served in the Army. Following his military service, he worked to improve conditions for electricians, factory workers, and workers in the produce industry. Later on, he attended college and graduate school and became a professor. Ike was a life-long activist. He was involved in the Civil Rights and Peace Movements and also helped establish the United University Professors throughout New York State.

Mary Louise Edwards & Kent H. Lindstrom

history@mmuus.org

*People born in Japan were not permitted to become citizens until the Asian Exclusion Act was ended in 1952.



The folks at **Gethsemane Church** are so appreciative to friends & members of May Memorial who have so generously donated to their program. We have collectively given much food, clothing, house wares and linens to help the immigrants, refugees and struggling poor. We have also been able to fill an additional 5 bags each week for their Personal Hygiene program.

This week we need: body lotion (20 oz), shampoo (30-40 oz), boxes of tissues, feminine hygiene pads (sm packages of 16 or so), dish detergent (14 oz) and clothes detergent (42oz) . NOT needed at this time: toilet paper, deodorant and soap

Remember you can also donate by simply writing a check to May Memorial and writing "Gethsemane Donation" on the memo line. You can also donate online from the MMUUS website and you can even donate using your phone and the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app (instructions on mmuus.org). Or you can contact Julie Daniel and pay by Venmo (she will shop for you!)

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED: baking goods (flour, sugar) spices, herbs, vinegar, salt, pepper, cake mixes, frosting, boxes of black tea

CLOTHING: new or gently used for men, women, children. Girls clothing is especially needed at this time.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: towels, sheets, blankets, small appliances, dishes, silverware, etc.

DIAPERS: size 5 and 6

Please continue to donate food and personal care items in the big baskets in the corner of our foyer. These vital donations go to the Interreligious Food Consortium & Plymouth Church.

Questions: contact Julie Daniel: jdanielyoga@gmail.com or call/text: (315-729-8179) or Mardie Ninno: mpnno@gmail.com (315-558-4555)

First UU Plant Sale Fundraiser



This year's plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 with set up the evening before. For the past few years this has been our most successful fundraiser both in terms of cooperation (and fun) and profit. We are looking for gardeners to provide plants; divisions, or cuttings from your own garden or house plants or purchased plants.

If you have some to share please let us know!

We hope you'll also come to the sale, Saturday May 18, from 9:30-1:30.

Please email or call Felice Killian-Benigno at feliksakb@gmail.com 315-436-6308 (text or call/message) if you have questions or would like to give your time or plants. Thank you all.



We Rise Above the Streets Recovery Outreach, Inc.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to talk with **Al-Amin Muhammad** after the Sam May Day service on April 14. Here's more information for anyone who would like to contribute:

To volunteer, call 315-491-7164 and leave a message. They will call you back.

- **Sandwich Saturdays** – the biggest weekly event, every Saturday from 10:00 AM-1:00PM. On **Tuesday**, **Thursday**, and **Friday** volunteers sort and prepare donated items for Saturday.
- **Cookout for the homeless** - Saturday May 25, 11 AM - 2PM, 252-254 W. Onondaga Street
- **Donations** can be left at 220 W. Manlius Street, East Syracuse (every day but Sunday).
- **Clothing** - new or gently used, all types and sizes, preferably for the current season, socks.
- **Food** - bread, Turkey lunch meat, individual bags of chips, granola bars, cookies, individual drinks (soda, water, juice boxes), individually wrapped cheese slices.
- **Hygiene products** - for men and women
- **Financial donations** - by check or through Venmo or PayPal.

From the Church Office



Please let the office know if you have any changes that need to be reflected in the directory and church database

Updates to the directory are vitally important so we may effectively communicate with you.

Teri, in the admin office, is looking for someone who would like to learn how to run summer Sunday services. I will be taking a weekend off in August and will need someone who is willing to learn how to set up and operate the Zoom room for service
Contact me in the office if you are interested.



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/CvrpTSW>



THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents TOM CHAPIN & THE CHAPIN SISTERS on Friday, May 3 @ 8pm. Tom Chapin has maintained two long and productive parallel careers, as a respected contemporary folk artist and as a pioneer in the field of children's music. His concerts feature strong, intelligent songwriting with clear, engaging vocals and the intricate, melodic guitar work that has become his trademark. Chapin's career spans five decades, 26 albums and three Grammy Awards. Lily and Abigail Chapin are singing, songwriting sisters known for pristine harmonies and haunting melodies. In the long rich history of family groups in American roots music, the Chapin Family has a special place. When this family of performers comes together, magic happens. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.



THE FOLKUS PROJECT presents FAMILY MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL with TOM CHAPIN and ADIRONDACK TWO STEP @ CAMP TALOOLI on Saturday, May 4 @ 8pm. Enjoy a family day of music, dance and fun at Camp Talooli! Camp opens at 10am.

10am-12pm - Enjoy the beautiful lakeside setting of Camp Talooli. Hike, canoe, picnic, and enjoy the great outdoors. Bring your own lunch or purchase lunch at Camp.

12-1:30pm - Family/community dance with Adirondack Two Step. Includes squares, contras, and round dances for all ages, starting with basic instruction for beginners.

1:30-3pm - Relax, hike, canoe, picnic.

3-5pm - Family concert with Tom Chapin

5-6pm - Campfire and sing-along with s'mores

Music and dance events will take place indoors at Camp Talooli's Nokomis Lodge.

For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.



THE FOLKUS PROJECT PRESENTS ROBINSON & ROHE on Friday, May 17 @ 8pm. American songwriters Liam Robinson (banjo, accordion, vocals) and Jean Rohe (guitar, vocals) were brought together over 15 years ago by their mutual love of afternoon song-swaps, American folk ballads, and wordplay. Since then, they've written a distinctive body of original repertoire that draws on the roots music they hold dear, and engages their versatile musical and literary sensibilities as arrangers, improvisers, poets, and producers. Robinson & Rohe deliver a powerful live show replete with effortless harmony singing, soulful grooves, playful humor, and razor-sharp lyrics. For tickets and more information go to folkus.org.

May Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Thursday	2nd	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
	2nd	Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
	2nd	Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	5th	Land Stewardship Clean up Day	After service	Whole Church
Tuesday	7th	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	9th	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
	9th	Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
	9th	Spiritual Enrichment Group	6:30pm	Teenz
	9th	Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	12th	Soul Matters	12:15pm	Teenz
Monday	13th	Twisted Sisters	7pm	Teenz
Tuesday	14th	Writers Group	10am	Teenz
	14th	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	16th	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
	16th	Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
	16th	Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Saturday	18th	Goods and Services Auction	5:30pm	Social Hall
Sunday	19th	Budget Hearing	12noon	Sanctuary/Zoom
Tuesday	21st	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	23rd	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
	23rd	Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
	23rd	Spiritual Enrichment Group	6:30pm	Teenz
	23rd	Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Tuesday	28th	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
Thursday	30th	Tai Chi	3pm	Social Hall
	30th	Depression Support Group	4:30pm	Memorial Room
	30th	Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm	Sanctuary



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.

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

May 1 at 8pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/96509877539?pwd=ZmZPQllhTlhkSFNETW5yQmszMXdYZz09>

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
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 Glenn Kime gkimeorganist@gmail.com
 Peter McClure peterrogermclure@gmail.com
 Leslie Dendy lesliedendy@yahoo.com
 Jane Fagerland jane_f@sbcglobal.net
 Teri Coon office@mmuus.org



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 mscopy1234@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

Adult Adventure Trips at Unirondack!

Unirondack is excited to announce a whole new slate of new trips for adults! Unirondack is a summer camp and conference center founded by Unitarian Universalists that has been serving UU youth and adults in the Adirondacks for more than 70 years. This year we are offering a whole new selection of adventure programs for adults! These programs offer full guided service throughout the Adirondacks including food and cooking, logistics planning, and the major equipment as well. For more information, you can email Sam.B@unirondack.org, or check out our website at www.unirondack.org/trip-camps

Unirondack's Spring 2024 Adult Trip Calendar:
 May 6 - 12: Wilderness Art Trip // Creatives Retreat
 May 16 - 22: Adirondack 90-Miler (FULL!)
 May 16 - 21: Intro to Backpacking
 May 24 - 29: Introduction to Canoeing
 May 16 - 21: Leadership Paddling
 July 7 - 12: Intro to Backpacking II

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