

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



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

June 2024
Volume 87
Issue 6



Please plan to attend the MMUUS Annual Meeting.
Our community flourishes with in-person attendance at community events.
We will highlight significant events of our year together, share thoughts on next year, and announce awards.
We will vote on the 2024-2025 Budgets for the Operating and Capital Funds.
Childcare will be provided.

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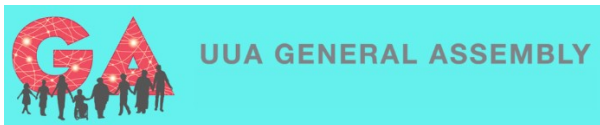
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Sunday June 23rd at 10:30am in MMUUS Social
Hall and on Zoom

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

The Office of the President, Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, is pleased to announce that Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, MO will lead the Sunday Service at General Assembly 2024.

A lifelong Unitarian Universalist from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon is the minister of the UU Church of Columbia, Missouri, where she is currently suing the state of Missouri for their unconstitutional abortion ban alongside 13 other multi-faith clergy co-plaintiffs. Molly is passionate about red-state UU ministry, community organizing, and mutual aid. In addition to her ministry and organizing work, Molly is a published essayist and poet completing a Doctor of Ministry in Creative Writing and Public Theology. Alongside her wonderful spouse, she is the delighted parent of two very fierce young children and one very chill old dog.



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Final 2 Services of the 2023-2024 Church Year

Sunday June 2 Coming of Age Service

In Coming of Age, junior high youth explore the influences in their lives that have shaped them, the worldview and values they hold today, and their vision for the future. At the end of the COA year youth are invited to create a credo, a statement or artistic representation of their beliefs. This Sunday the youth will share their credos during worship and celebrate this important milestone in their faith development.

Worship Leaders: Jay and Larissa Brenner

COA Class: Skylar Brenner, Josh Brown, Rhoda Cateforis, Sofia Cronlund, Aine Davenport, Ash Duby, and Annie K-B McLaughlin

Sunday June 9 Flower Communion

Bring a flower/take a flower!

This service is led by Director of Religious Education Stacy Sceiford with the MMUUS children serving as Worship Associate!

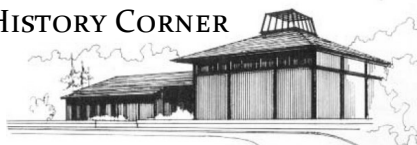


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HISTORY CORNER



More About Our East Genesee Street Home

As we have been told, our building, nearly 60 years old now, will need major upgrades in the coming years. For example, it doesn't come close to meeting the current standards for energy efficiency. Given the climate in Syracuse, a wooden structure like ours probably wasn't the wisest choice, but energy prices were not a concern in the 1960s. In addition, the James Street building, home to May Memorial since 1885, was a traditional-looking church, with dark wood paneling and stained-glass windows. The members decided they wanted a place of worship that was more fitting for the free-thinking Unitarians of the 1960s.

The architect selected to design the new church was Dean Pietro Belluschi from MIT, one of the pre-eminent architects in the country. As "design consultant," he worked with the local architectural firm of Pederson, Hueber, and Hares. After many committee and congregational meetings, the congregation provided Belluschi with extensive information about their wishes for the new building. These included "the use of natural materials and simplicity of design," with "a feeling of space, inviting spiritual reaching and growth." They wanted architecture "marked by beauty, dignity, serenity, strength, stimulation, and challenge" (*May No One Be A Stranger*, 1988, pp. 40-41).

The minister, Rev. John Fuller, also provided the architects with a statement of what he considered to be important in designing and creating a new Unitarian church building. For example, he wanted the architects to work with the congregation to make it a "joint creative process." He also hoped that the architects would utilize the talents within the congregation, to the extent feasible, so that the new building would have some of the congregation's creative work within it.*

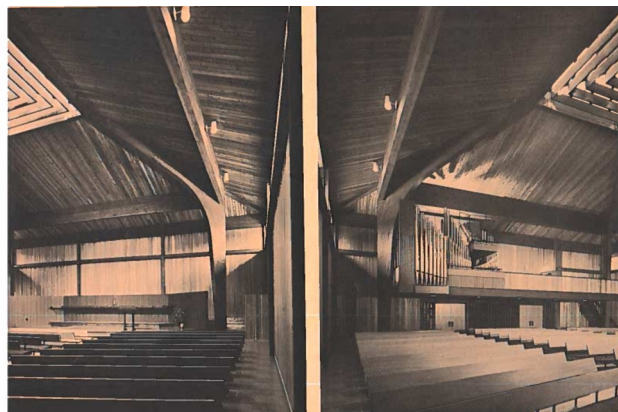
The congregation moved into the new building in October of 1964, even though it was not yet finished, and the formal dedication didn't take place until a year later. In his first sermon, Rev. Fuller spoke about the move in the context of liberal religion and the urge to "fashion our own world, our own insights, our own manifestations of truth and beauty and goodness." In his June, 1965, minister's report, Rev. Fuller called the new building "a most fitting symbol for free religion today."

An article titled "Belluschi Designs for the Unitarians" was published in the December 1965 edition of *Architectural Record*. It contains beautiful black and white photos of the pristine interior of our building.

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee Chair history@mmuus.org

*The wall hanging on the creek side of the sanctuary, made by art professor Don Waterman, is an etching of the decorative furnace grate at the old church. The movable wood and wrought iron lectern designed to take the place of a pulpit was created by artist Dorothy Riester, founder of the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park in Cazenovia.



We are a Welcoming Congregation, and we can add to that status with the addition of a welcome sign added to our "redwood sign" in front of the building. If someone with some woodworking skills would be willing to make such a sign to reflect our congregation, please contact the Diversity Action Team, dat@mmuus.org



Pride Month events:

Saturday June 1, 11am, Progress Flag Raising City Hall

Saturday June 22, 11am, Parade and Festival Progress Park Inner Harbor Syracuse



Tai Chi:

Tuesday and Thursday at 3pm in our Social Hall

Soul Matters:

Friday June 7 at 6pm in the Teenz Room

Friday June 28th at 6pm in the Teenz Room

Spiritual Enrichment Group:

Thursday June 13th and Thursday June 27th at 6pm Teenz Room

Depression Support Group:

Thursdays at 4:30pm in the Memorial Room



Twisted Sisters:

Monday June 10 at 7pm—Teenz



Sunday June 16th join us in our Social Hall or on Zoom at 10:30am for our annual Hymn Sing led by our own Fred Fiske!



Retrospective exhibition of paintings by Tim Wobus (May 7, 1984- January 26, 2022)

The paintings of Timothy Richard Wobus (Tim) will be on exhibit in the Social Hall during the month of June. Tim, a former member of MMUUS and the beloved son of Linda Wobus, began painting in High School. Working in both watercolors and acrylic, It was through art that Tim found his voice. The exhibit will include his first framed painting and the last framed painting he completed in his all too short life. Be sure to take some time to enjoy the many vibrant paintings that will grace our walls in June.

Gallery Hours:

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



The Pagan group, now known as the CNY Open Pagan Circle or CNY OPS, is hosting a Summer Solstice Ritual on 6/15/24 from 2-4pm. Please bring your non-alcoholic drink of choice. Masks are required.

Held at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 109 Waring Rd, Syracuse NY.

Summer worship services

This summer we will be sharing services with First UU.

Please see the chart below.

If you end up here on a day we are at First please note they are only 5 minutes away



Date	Church	Location
June 16	May Memorial	In our Social Hall
June 23	General Assembly Watch Party MMUUS	In our Social Hall
June 30	May Memorial	In our Social Hall
July 7	First UU	109 Waring Road
July 14	May Memorial	In our Social Hall
July 21	First UU	109 Waring Road
July 28	May Memorial	In our Social Hall
August 4	First UU	109 Waring Road
August 11	May Memorial	In our Social Hall
August 18	First UU	109 Waring Road
August 25	May Memorial	In our Social Hall
September 1	First UU	109 Waring Road

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Vespers

June 5 at 8pm

July 3 at 8pm

August 8pm

From the Church Office



Teri, in the admin office, will be taking some time off to spend with her family.

The MMUUS office will be closed from Monday June 17-Saturday June 22.

There will be no eblast that week.



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.

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>



Minister
 Director of Religious Education
 Director of Music
 Board President
 Book Keeper
 Finance
 Church Office

Rev. Jo VonRue ministerjrev@gmail.com
 Stacy Sceiford stacymaydre@gmail.com
 Glenn Kime gkimeorganist@gmail.com
 Peter McClure peterrogermccclure@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 mccross1234@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

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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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