

View from the Study Window...

On the last Sunday of January, our Social Justice committee invited Ms. Magda Bayoumi to speak from our pulpit. She delivered an illuminating and provocative message about how we (Americans and the USA) are perceived and experienced as actors in Muslim countries. "Why do they hate us?" she asked rhetorically?

Magda Bayoumi tried to explain, from her American Muslim perspective. She cited America's occupation of bases in Saudi Arabia, the lasting effect of sanctions against Iraq after the Gulf War, and our government's ongoing support of Israel in its military, social and political opposition to Palestinian freedom. "They don't hate us because we're free;" she said, "they hate us because we have taken away their freedom."

As I listened, I recalled watching the events of Sept. 11, 2001 unfold on the television screen, and trying to interpret what was happening for my four-year-old nephew. The television showed Palestinians dancing in the streets.

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Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.



February 1 Brigid's Fire

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

With the beginning of February, we enter our most creative season at MMUUS: May Loves the Arts Month. At this midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, let us celebrate the gift of human creativity.

February 8 Picture the Possibilities

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

To achieve a difficult and meaningful goal, we need to make the "possible" a mental reality. We must picture ourselves in our own future, and begin to feel comfortable there.

February 15 The "No Hell" Church

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

Our Universalist forbearers rejected a faith based on punishment and retribution. Many of us still struggle, however, to live every day as in an earthly paradise. How can we celebrate Heaven on Earth, without denying the ongoing presence of war, famine, and other inhumanities? Special music will be provided by the folk duo Mustard's Retreat.

February 22 Veritas

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

What is Truth? What are we prepared to take "on faith"? How do we ascribe meaning to the information we have?



Wheel of Life

Our sympathy goes out to **Joan Weiser** on the loss of her brother James Rogers.

Nan Gartner is recovering from a broken leg, at Menorah Park.

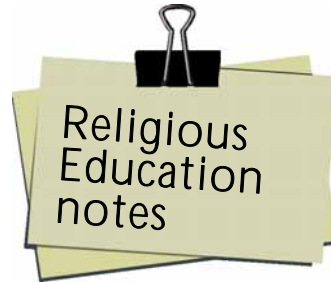
Our sympathy to the **Fiske family** on the loss of Chris' mother Norma Louise Shepard Shultz, 79, of Syracuse, formerly of Skaneateles.

"Many thanks to the Care-Ring, the choir and very many others who have expressed concern during my recent illness. I have appreciated the cards and calls before and after my surgery. I'm happy to report that the doctor says the cancer has been removed, with no need for further treatment. I'm feeling better daily and look forward to seeing everyone at church.
Thanks very much everyone."

~**Joel Hastings**

It was great to have **Judy Thomas** back with us for the Winter Solstice celebration.

Please keep **Alexa Carter** in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to heal from hip surgery.



Religious Education notes

Looking at the congregation's calendar recently you might think that all we do here at May is eat food at community meals and play games. Sharing a common table and being together without too much of an agenda is a good way to begin to create a loving community.

Starting this month in February RE is beginning some projects aimed at building a deeper sense of community and aimed at reaching out beyond our own little piece of this world.

Our First and Second grade group, Peace Pals, will be starting a Peace Pole project. They will be planning and raising money with the goal of having the congregation "plant" a peace pole in a spot on our grounds sometime in May. The hope is that this Peace Pole will remind each of us, and those who visit our building that it would be a good thing if peace prevailed on earth.

Our Seventh and Eighth grade group, the Coming of Age group will be planning for their spring trip to Boston. During this heritage trip they will visit 25 Beacon Street, the headquarters of the UUA, and also visit a number of sites that are important to UUA history. They will also have some fun. And in this time from now until the end of the program year they will be making plans for their Coming of Age Service. Also they begin meeting with their mentors this month.

Our Teenz group, grades 9-12, have made a commitment to travel to New Orleans this summer, July 19 -25, to work on the continuing rebuild of new Orleans. We will be working with the Plymouth Congregational, UCC, youth group to raise money and both groups will travel there together. What a wonderful way for our youth to carry their light to the world.

These are big plans with a lot of work to be done. But we have many hands and I am confident that they will come to fruition and that our youth will grow in their faith. You may see a few extra fundraisers along the way. And you may see a lot of active hopeful engaged youth working to make their vision of a better world a bit more of a reality.

It is a blessing;
It is a blessing to be;
It is a blessing to be together.

~Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
DRE



Marvelous History Corner

Our Holtkamp Organ

As the May Memorial congregation began exploring a new building in the late 1950's, there was a parallel conversation about a suitable organ for the new structure. The organ in the James Street Church was built in 1911 by the Hutchings Organ Company of Boston. By 1959 the instrument was stylistically dated, and in poor repair, although it has been rumored that the condition might have been exaggerated in the hopes for a new installation.

The Organ Committee, with Dr. Howland Auchincloss as chair, soon decided that rebuilding the old organ would not be the best choice, both artistically and financially. Instead, they found four builders for a new instrument, with the Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio, at the top of the list.

Walter Holtkamp, Sr., had built organs for Syracuse University with the concert instrument in Crouse College finished in 1950. This organ was built for Professor Arthur Poister, and is one of Holtkamp's most impressive and most famous creations. May Memorial hired Dr. Poister as a consultant, and with the influence of then Director of Music Frank Macomber, a Syracuse University professor, it's easy to see the influence the Crouse organ had on May Memorial's choice.

One major setback was the death of Walter Holtkamp, Sr. in 1962, several hours after a phone conversation with the May Memorial committee. (No connection between his death and the Music Committee!) The firm became controlled by his son, Walter "Chick" Holtkamp, Jr. After checking the health of the company, and the expertise of Chick Holtkamp, May decided to stay with their first choice. (Chick Holtkamp has since retired, and the company is being run by his son.)

Cost was also an issue but after a generous gift by the late Sarah Auchincloss, the church signed a contract for the larger of the two designs, for a total of \$31,380.00. The organ has 27 ranks, or sets, of pipes, and was delivered in April, 1965. Current replacement cost is approximately \$700,000.00, almost twice the original cost of the entire building.

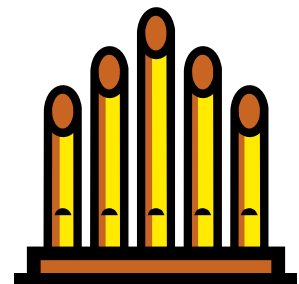
Chick Holtkamp worked closely with architect Dean Pietro Belluschi, especially in regard to the woods he used, and overall look. The organ does seem to grow out of the room in a unified way that is rarely seen in organ installations.

Cont...

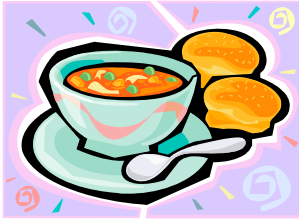
The people that have presided over the instrument as Music Director are only four. Frank Macomber came from the James Street Church. He was followed by Rob Kerner, co-founder of the Kerner/Merchant Organ Company that still maintains the organ. Rob left to become Curator of Organs for the Eastman School of Music. Dr Allison Evans Henry then served for five years, leaving for the First Presbyterian Church of Syracuse. I accepted the position in 1992, after being the musician for First Universalist on Waring Road in the 1980's. A very quick 17 years it has been!

Our Holtkamp has been a source of great delight to me over my tenure. Come hear it once again in recital on Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 pm, as I celebrate my 50th birthday with a concert of some of my favorite works. Everyone is invited!

~Glenn Kime
Music Director



Continued in next column...



First Sunday Lunches

Many thanks to the groups who have provided lunch for us on the first Sundays of the month. Sister Circle started us off in October followed by Spanophiles in November. RE did a terrific job in December and the Wednesday Night Men's Group turned in a record breaking performance in January.

The choir is on for February in honor of 'May Memorial Loves the Arts' and Green Sanctuary is preparing for April in conjunction with Earth Day.

The rest of the church year is open and awaiting volunteers. The groups who have already prepared and served a lunch have had great fun in the process and many members of the congregation have taken advantage of the delicious offerings. Please consider having your existing group reserve a month or create a group just for this purpose. All proceeds go to the general fund and the earnings have been a great help with this year's budget.

Thanks,
The Fundraising Committee
Alexa Carter
Nan Gartner
Randy Archambault
Joan Weiser

RE NEEDS YOU

There are plenty of opportunities to help out in RE. We need children to sign up to carry the RE chalice downstairs. We also need children 3rd grade and older to sign up to light the sanctuary chalice. And it would be wonderful if parents or people big enough to run the dishwasher could sign up to wash the RE dishes after RE. All of these sign up sheets are downstairs on the RE bulletin board.

Spiritual Enrichment Groups

Groups will be meeting twice a month on Monday evenings, Thursday evenings, and Wednesday afternoons. Facilitators are contacting participants to set up initial meetings. Groups welcome new members. For more information, see the "Spiritual Enrichment Groups" brochure, available in the foyer, or speak to Rev. Jean or a SEG facilitator.



goingreen

Meatless Monday?

Having a meatless meal one day a week is recommended by

- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- McDonald's
- The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC)
- a and c

(Answer below *Food Counts*)

Food Counts (From *Menu for the Future* p. 27)

Number of items sold in 2003 in a typical U.S. supermarket: 30,000
Number of multinational food and beverage companies that produced half these items: 10

Ratio of the average U.S. import of Mexican lettuce each year to the average Mexican import of U.S. lettuce: 1 to 1

Number of years between 2000 and 2007 in which world grain consumption exceeded production: 7 out of 8
Fraction of U.S. grain harvest turned into fuel ethanol in 2007: 1/5

Percentage of the world's land surface used by livestock: 30
Percentage of world's arable land used to raise feed for livestock: 33
Percentage of world's natural fishing grounds already overfished in 2003: 70%

Percent of all antibiotics in the U.S. regularly added to the feed of healthy livestock and poultry in 2007: 70%

ANSWER to Meatless Monday: d

Dr Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the IPPC said that people should have one meat-free day a week if they want to make a personal and effective sacrifice that would help tackle climate change, then go on to reduce their meat consumption even further.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated that meat production accounts for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions. These are generated during the production of animal feeds, for example, while ruminants, particularly cows, emit methane, which is 23 times more effective as a global warming agent than carbon dioxide. The agency has also warned that meat consumption is set to double by the middle of the century.

'In terms of immediacy of action and the feasibility of bringing about reductions in a short period of time, it clearly is the most attractive opportunity,' said Pachauri. (From *The Guardian*, Sept. 7. 2008)

Continued in next column...

goingreen cont...

And why Johns Hopkins? Diets high in saturated fat, found mainly in meat and high-fat dairy products, increase the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. What's more, a high-fat diet may increase the risk of certain types of cancer. These "lifestyle diseases" are killing Americans and in 80-90% of cases, deaths are preventable.

~ Submitted by Janet Allen
green@mmuus.org



Lost and Found

Missing a Lady's Boliva Vintage watch with expansion band. This is a precious item for the person who lost it. If found, please notify the office.

Many winter items, such as hats and gloves are collecting in the office and coat room. Please check if you are missing items!

May Memorial Artists!

We have added another event to our May Memorial Loves the Arts Celebration.....an art sale, with proceeds to benefit MMUUS. If you had planned on participating in the annual congregational show during the month of February, you might also consider the possibility of selling your artwork and donating the proceeds (or in the case of a large piece of work, 25% to May Memorial).

Here's how it works:

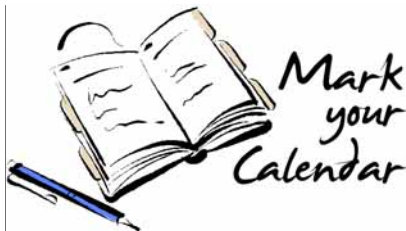
- Drop off your artwork in the Social Hall on **Saturday January 31, before 11:00am** (same time as the hanging for the congregational show) and let us know which pieces are for the sale. Pieces which are for sale are designated with a special tag. If they are framed they will be hung with the congregational show. Unframed prints, paintings or photos will be safely stored until the sale. Artists who would like to sell three dimensional work such as sculpture or pottery (things we can't hang on the wall for the congregational show), are invited to bring their artwork on February 14, for the sale.

- During our **Cabaret on February 14, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**, which includes music, dance and lots of great food, we will also hold our art sale, and hopefully make a little money for MMUUS!

~ Joan Applebaum
jawhs89@twcny.rr.com

~Jane Rice
jrice@edrpc.com

~Alexa Carter
garlex@aol.com



Merger, Memories and Materials to Share

Many members of our congregation were living and worshipping in Syracuse fifty years ago at the time of the historic merger between the Unitarians and the Universalists. The final negotiations to join these two groups took place in the Hotel Syracuse on October 31, 1959. The final legal work and announcement is observed as 1961, but the real hammering out of the wording took place right in our own back yard on the 1959 date.

The St. Lawrence District is sponsoring a terrific conference to commemorate the event on **Saturday, October 31, 2009** at the Hotel. We will be meeting on the exact spot where are forbearers took their brave first steps into UUism. We will be joined by the most learned people from both denominations. Liz Strong, David Bumbaugh, Dick Gilbert and David Parke will all join us to share their unique perspectives and lead us through the momentous events of the past and into a discussion of our highest hopes for the future of the denomination. This conference is a 'must' for all UUs. We are especially lucky to live so close to the historic spot. Mark your calendars now.

Planners of the conference are interested in talking with people who have first hand knowledge of this event. We would like to prepare a display of pictures and other documents that would bring the era back to life. If you have either memories or materials of this historic time and are willing to share them, please contact Alexa Carter garlex@aol.com 315-593-7974.

2009 BOOK AND CD SALE- Only 4 Months Away

As you make room in your shelves for new books and media items you received during the Holidays, remember to save such items you are cleaning out for our **2009 Book and CD Sale**, a major fundraiser for MMUUS. The sale is scheduled for **April 30 - May 3**.

When you're cleaning out, please save the following:

- Books (hard cover and paperback for adults and children)
- CDs (music for adults and children and for children's educational programs)
- DVDs, Videos, and Books-on-Tape (adult and children)
- Computer games (adult and children)

When packing items, please put them in smaller boxes or sacks so we can easily handle them. We cannot accept your donations until mid-April 2009, so you hopefully have a corner to store them.

Because they don't sell, we DO NOT want textbooks, encyclopedias, computer books and/or software, or audiocassettes.

~Janet Hiemstra, Chair
Book and CD Sale Committee

Be a part of Unirondack this summer—as a camper or a staff member!

Interested in being a camper?

Spending time at Unirondack over the summer is an experience like no other. Our highly skilled and talented staff turn our beautiful niche in the Adirondack Mountains into the home of a loving and affirming community where young people can collectively practice Unitarian Universalist values. We offer week-long sessions that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of the age group attending. Our staff and volunteer resource people offer workshops and activities throughout the day that blend education, creativity, skill-building and silliness.

Surrounded by woods, a lake of unsurpassed beauty, an athletic field that stretches the length of the camp, and rustic adirondack style buildings, campers can't help but be inspired to connect with the web of life and the physical, mental and spiritual challenges that camp offers. The Unirondack leadership is dedicated to offering a unique outdoor experience that often leaves campers feeling it was the best time of their lives.

Making close friends and actively being part of the community that they build, young people who attend for the first time as Emerson (grades 4-6) or Barton (grades 4-9) campers often become life-long "Unirondackers" attending high-school sessions when they get older, family camp and work weekends. Unirondack is a popular place and we often have waiting lists so please register early. Registration forms and more details can be found at www.unirondack.org

Do you want to work at camp?

Unirondack is very special place to work and help shape the lives of young people. Our staff are often surprised at the intensity and richness of their experience at camp, how much they personally learn and grow as we work together to deepen our understanding of the needs of campers and to develop programs that are well planned and substantial.

If you are eager to work in a close-knit community whose mission is to broaden and deepen the lives of young people, Unirondack might be the place for you. Most staff must be at least 18 years old to be counselors and at least 16 to be on kitchen or maintenance crew. Being a certified lifeguard or having a specialized skill that can contribute to a positive experience for campers is always a plus. In addition to counselor and crew positions we are also looking for people interested in being our Waterfront Director, Cook and Art Shop Director.

Interested applicants should visit our website (www.unirondack.org) and explore our summer employment page. On our website applicants can download an application form, fill it out and email/mail it back to the Directors at director@unirondack.org or at our off-season address:

Unirondack
P.O. Box 795
Nyack, NY 10960

February Folkus Update

Concerts start at 8:00 pm.
Doors open at 7:30 pm.



Feb 6

Lost Time

Smooth vocal harmonies and intricate bluegrass instrumentals from one of Central New York's best homegrown bands.

\$12

Feb 20

Dana "Short Order" Cooke and His Band Joe

SAMMY nominated local singer/songwriter whose quirky, ironic, and unusual songs are always distinctive.

\$10

MMUUSletter Mid-Month Update

Beginning in February, *MMUUSletter* will have a mid-month update. The update will contain announcements of upcoming events – including changes or additions submitted after the monthly newsletter was compiled. It will also include descriptions of the month's remaining Sunday worship topics and speakers. The mid-month update will *not* include the longer monthly columns; *View from the Study Window*, *Notes from R.E.*, *President's Letter*, *Marvelous History Corner*, *GoingGreen*, and *the Quest for Social Justice* will continue to appear monthly, in the full, regular newsletter.

The **deadline for the regular monthly newsletter** will continue to be the **15th of the month** preceding. The **deadline for the mid-month update** will be the **5th of the month**.

You can help the MMUUS Office and your committee by honoring these deadlines and re-submitting items which need to go in a subsequent edition. Thank you.

~Karen Love and Rev. Jean

Do You Have Questions about Unitarian Universalism?

UU 101 is a one-hour class offered throughout the year by the Membership Committee. It is designed to give newcomers and prospective new members a brief overview of Unitarian Universalism, to provide information about May Memorial, and to answer questions. Pre-registration is not required and childcare is available. The next class will be on **Sunday, Feb. 8, from noon to 1 p.m.** in the Memorial Room. Stop by the Welcoming Table for further information or e-mail: membership@mmuus.org.



What in the World Discussion Group

"What in the World" discussion group will meet at **10 am, February 17**, in the Memorial Room. We will be talking about two articles from the Winter 2008 issue of the UUWorld magazine: "Imagination and the Wild", pg. 20-21, and "Assembly of a Lesser God", pg. 21-24. Copies of both February and March readings are available in the foyer, outside the Pastor's office. Everyone is welcome.

Adult Education Update



Chautauqua Circle

Excerpts from the January 12 Joyce Carol Oates "literary" evening discussion led by Sue Savion, will be online at mmuus.org/Forums/Discussion. On the home page of mmuus.org, there is a site to register and log in.

For those who are not online, please stop by the Green Sanctuary table for information about Sue Savion's presentation on author, Joyce Carol Oates. There will also be a copy or two of Alan Burdick's *Out of Eden* for borrowing. Alan's book was reviewed June 25, 2008, during a Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle lunch. Thanks to Bob and Mary Burdick for the donations of their son's book to MMUUS.

Here is an excerpt from the Chautauqua Institution website, www.ciweb.org.

"Chautauqua has a historic commitment to lifelong learning. We present educational summer programs of national consequence and target them to widespread audiences... As a resource, Chautauqua feeds the minds, hearts and spirits of those who attend the summer season and reaches out to increasing numbers outside the season and beyond our local community."

Information about the recently-acquired "UU Denominational House at Chautauqua" is at www.uufchautauqua.org. There is also information about the house on the St. Lawrence District section of the MMUUS hall bulletin board.

Building Your Own Theology

Amanda Winkler is the BYOT coordinator. If you are interested in the course, please email Amanda at: awinkler@syr.edu. If enough people sign up, we will find a facilitator to begin another group.

Spanophiles

This is a conversational Spanish group We meet the first and third Sundays of each month in the Teen Room after the service at 12:15 pm for about an hour. If you need more information contact Judy Antoine at: jantoine@twcny.rr.com.

T'ai Chi Chih

See Ann Pia (699-6421) if you are interested in exploring this wonderful group.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

This 5 session women's group can be run again, if there is interest. Please call Jody @ 476-0447 or email her at jfb523@gmail.com, for more details.

~Jody Brown

Calendar cont...

Sunday, February 15

10:30 am Service		Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room
12:00 pm	Green Sanctuary Committee	Sanctuary

Monday, February 16

7:00 pm	Green Sanctuary	Teen room
7:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds Committee	Memorial

Tuesday, February 17

10:00 am	What in the World discussion	Memorial
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Wednesday, February 18

6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship	Social Hall
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Thursday, February 19

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:30 pm	Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, February 20

8:00 pm	Folkus Concert	Sanctuary
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Saturday, February 21

7:00 pm	Twisted Sisters	Social Hall
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Sunday, February 22

10:30 am Service		Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room

Monday, February 23

7:00 pm	Green Sanctuary	Teen room
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Tuesday, February 24

6:00 pm	Writer's Group	Teen room
7:00 pm	Board of Trustees	Sanctuary

Thursday, February 26

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:30 pm	Choir	Sanctuary

Saturday, February 28

6:30 pm	Family Movie Night	Gym
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The View cont...

I explained to Nick, "They are dancing because they are happy that this bad thing has happened to us." I tried to explain that "they don't know us" (Nick and I), but "they don't like us" (Americans). It was a hard distinction for a four-year-old to grasp.

"How can they not like us if they don't know us?", Nick asked. I treated that question, as I heard Magda Bayoumi's, as rhetorical. "Yes, how can they?" It's not right. It shouldn't be. But it is.

Our pulpit is extended to its minister and guests to speak their truth – the observations, facts, and knowledge they have. But more: we also expect to hear from the May Memorial pulpit the meaning our speakers derive from what they know. Ms. Bayoumi shared not only the truth of her life and of others' lives, but the meaning she has found. She was not unbiased, nor did we ask her to be. Many of us there share her interpretation, or were swayed by it. Some of us there oppose her position, and were not swayed. I value all that she had to say; I learned much. I share much of her interpretation of our country's intervention in the Middle East. I recognize her strong bias.

Since the days of Sam May – perhaps even further back – May Memorial has both wanted and railed against passionate preaching for the cause of freedom. Freedoms. For all. Let us always welcome such preaching, whether or not we agree with it. Let us always treat our guests in the pulpit and the pew with respect, courtesy, and gratitude. This our Covenant binds us to do. This we pledge to one another.

~ Blessings, Jean

May Memorial

Unitarian Universalist Society

May Memorial is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

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MMUUS Office Hours

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www.mmuus.org

MMUUSletter is a publication of events and information at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. To be included on our mailing list, please contact our office.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 5 pm, the 15th. To submit an article, please leave it in the newsletter box on the office door or email to newsletter@mmuus.org.

Note: Articles may be edited for length and/or content. If the deadline is missed, please submit your article for reconsideration at the next deadline.

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214

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TIME VALUE

Calendar

Sunday, February 1

10:30 am Service		Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room
Noon	First Sunday Luncheon	Social Hall
12:00 pm	Religious Ed. Committee	COA room
12:15	Spanophiles	Teen room

Monday, February 2

7:00 pm	Green Sanctuary "Menu for the Future"	Teen room
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Tuesday, February 3

10:00 am	Writer's Group	Teen room
3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:00 pm	Social Justice Committee	Teen room

Thursday, February 5

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:30 pm	Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, February 6

8:00 pm	Folkus Concert	Sanctuary
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Sunday, February 8

10:30 am Service		Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room
12:00 pm	UU 101	Memorial
4:00 pm	Syracuse Community Choir	Sanctuary

Monday, February 9

7:00 pm	Green Sanctuary	Teen room
7:00 pm	Mission and Vision	Memorial

Tuesday, February 10

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
5:30 pm	Membership Committee	Teen room
6:30 pm	Worship Committee	Memorial

Thursday, February 12

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:30 pm	Choir	Sanctuary

Saturday, February 14

Valentine's Day Extravaganza	Social Hall
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