



August 1, 2009 Vol. 72 No. 14

May Memorial
Unitarian Universalist Society

Sunday Worship at 10:30



August 2

The Hidden Teachings of Yeshua, with Terry McMasters
Social Justice

First century Galilean Jewish wisdom teacher Yeshua (Jesus) promoted peace, social justice, transformation of the Psychological self, and alignment with The One Being (God, Cosmos, Sacred Unity). Hear the strangely beautiful Aramic words and new translations of known principal teachings of this Eastern Master.

August 9

What Joe's Learning During The Summer Vacation
with Joe Cleveland

This summer Joe's taking two classes: "The Arts & the Sensual in Renewing Worship" and "Engaging the History and Legacy of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement." Joe will share what he's learning, and as always there will be lots of music!

August 16

Spiritual Enrichment Group of May Memorial
with Alexa Carter

Spiritual Enrichment Groups have been meeting throughout the past church year. Come and learn about what goes on in these small and intimate gatherings. You may very well decide to join a group during the 2009-10 church year.

August 23

Potpourri Service

Again this year by popular demand: Share your favorite inspirational Musical Piece, an Opening, Quotation, Reading, Poem, Short Story, Thoughtful Words or a Closing and we will build a worship service together.

August 30

Balance

Jody Brown and Andrea Wandersee

A service around the topic of "Balance." Andrea, being a Libra, has a particular interest in the topic. Come hear their ideas on how to fit balance into your life.

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Wheel of Life

Our Sympathy and caring thoughts go out to **Leah and Josh Cronlund** on the passing of Leah's Mom, Pat Rowley, recently in California.

Continued thoughts of healing go out to **Hildegarde VanderSluis** as she continues her battle with her long term illness.

Remember those who travel and our shut-ins during the summer months, keep the "Bonds of Community" going wherever you are.

Please help Peggy Ryfun, Carol Bickart, and Rev. Jean to keep up with the Joys, Sorrows, Life Passages and Concerns of our congregation. Email carering@mmuus.org.

What is SEG?

The August 16 summer service will be dedicated to an explanation of SEGs, **Spiritual Enrichment Groups**. Have you been thinking about joining one? Come and learn what they are all about.

~Alexa Carter



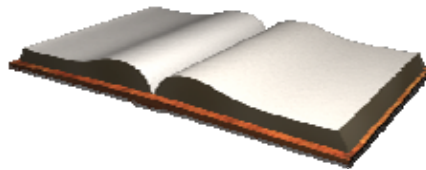
Volunteers Needed

Potpourri Sunday-August 23

Wouldn't you like to share your thoughts and skills with us for our 2nd annual Potpourri Summer Service? Last year we had a very informal service called Potpourri Sunday. It was so successful that we promised to continue it this year. From that service, we learned that we want to structure it a bit more than the "Happening" it was last year.

So, please contact Doris Sage or Jody Brown by August the August 9th service and share what you would like to contribute to an inspirational service. It could be a short piece of music, a reading or quotation, Opening Words, a poem, story, your thoughts of special meaning or Closing Words. Please estimate the length of your contribution so we can develop a balanced Order of Service and everyone can be included.

~Doris Sage and Jody Brown



MMUS Directory Update

The May Memorial Directory, listing active members and friends, will be updated for publication in September. If you didn't already submit changes (address, phone number, email address, last name) on your Stewardship Pledge Form, please do so **by September 1** to janethiemstra@gmail.com

~Janet Hiemstra–Membership Committee



Marvelous History Corner

Responding to Crises

I recently returned from Knoxville, TN, where I taught in the University of Tennessee's summer session. While there I attended the Tennessee Valley UU church, site of the two murders and wounding of others by a crazed shooter one year ago. I'm not sure what I expected to see; I guess visible reminders of the tragedy, memorials, and flowers, but it all seemed quite ordinary, a busy church with many things going on that reminded me of MMUUS. Sure, there probably were and are many related reminders that our friends at Tennessee Valley deal with all the time, but it got me thinking about how our own church has dealt with past crises or tragedies.

Perhaps the most talked about crisis was the Jerry Rescue in October, 1851. Jerry McHenry, a former slave was "an athletic mulatto, who had resided in Syracuse for a number of years . . . as a cooper," (Sam May, *Some recollections of our antislavery conflict*, Boston: Fields, Osgood, & Co., 1869, p. 375) was arrested under the infamous and despicable Fugitive Slave Law. This must have been most disconcerting to our church ancestors, and because Sam May was right in the middle of an ultimate rescue of Jerry from jail and the illegal transporting of him to Canada, it no doubt put some church members in a quandary about Rev. May's actions. However, parishioners continued to shower him with love, concern for his health, and tolerance for his continued work on behalf of abolition. Of course, as we all know they named the church after Sam upon his death in 1868.

Our church experienced a very real tragedy in the winter of 1852 when it was destroyed "by a hurricane which struck the spire; threw it directly upon the ridge pole, crushed down the whole roof, burst out the side and end walls, . . . [demolishing] the entire building excepting the front and the foundation" (*May No One Be A Stranger*, <http://history.mmuus.org/stranger.html>, p. 10) After recovering from realizing their church had been destroyed in a few moments, members quickly organized themselves, began holding church services in City Hall, and initiated the process of not only rebuilding the church but also the house next door that had been destroyed by our falling debris. Our church was rebuilt and rededicated in the spring of 1853.

There are several other instances in our history when church members have responded to wars, community tragedies, community problems, and even world conflicts with quiet courage and determination. However, here is one more in recent times that describes how the current "we" dealt with trauma as did our ancestors. In 1998, Dan and Doris Sage as well as long time minister, Nick Cardell, spent several months incarcerated as prisoners of conscience for their active demonstrations against the atrocious School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia (Chronology of SOA Prisoners of Conscience, <http://www.soaw.org/article.php?id=339>).

Continued in next column...

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As a church we addressed these heroic acts of courage by showering Dan, Doris, and Nick with love, correspondence, and even Unitarian Universalist "prayers" during their sentences. After their return this recognition continued and they were honored along with two colleagues by receiving the 1998 Samuel Joseph May Citations for Community Action Award Recipients. Our response reminders are not always immediately visual either, but they are heartfelt and indicative of what we are as a community.

~Rog Hiemstra, Chair,
History Committee

Homeless and Hungry Volunteers Needed

May Memorial will be serving the next meal for the Homeless & Hungry on Saturday, Aug 1 at the Samaritan Center in downtown Syracuse. If you are interested in volunteering please contact: Julie Daniel at 622-3423 or email: jdaniel4@twcny.rr.com. We will arrive around 10:30am and generally are finished by 3pm. If you can not come to help, please consider making a donation. Write your check to MMUUS and put "Homeless and Hungry" on the memo line. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important service in our community.

~Julie Daniel

Missing!

While I was on vacation, someone inadvertently picked up my copy of the directory from my office. It is two directories stapled together, and says "OFFICE COPY" on the front. As it has several notations and special numbers in I would love to see it safely returned.

~Karen Love
Office Coordinator

Bulletin Boards

All bulletin boards will be re-papered over the summer in anticipation of September activities, Pictures and articles will be saved in the office. If you have any questions please call or leave a message for Karen at 446-8920 over the summer months.



goingreen

Give Up Stuff for a Month?

A few years ago a group in San Francisco committed to not purchasing any consumer goods for a year. This began with two people who had debated with their San Francisco friends about the impact of the U.S. consumer lifestyle on the planet and on their own quality of life. They decided to do something about it: The 10 friends challenged each other to see if they could all go through the whole of 2006 without buying anything new.

The group pledged that for the entire year, they would purchase secondhand or borrow everything they needed, except for food and essentials like toiletries and medicine.

Did it have any effect? "It's completely changed the way we look at things," one of them says. "Most things don't seem necessary anymore."

Dealing with consumerism is one of the twelve actions in our Green Sanctuary plan. Specifically we said: "A major barrier to reaching a sustainable life style is the excessive consumerism that permeates our society, consumerism that is viewed as being necessary to keep the economy growing."

While I don't think I engage in excessive consumerism I'll be the first to admit that I would find it hard to not purchase any consumer goods for a whole year. But, what about a month? Would it be hard to buy nothing other than food and essentials like toiletries and medicine for one month? What would I learn from doing that? Would I buy like crazy in the month before? Or in the month after?

I'd like to try because that is the only way to answer those questions. But it would be no fun doing this alone. Or just my wife and myself. How about a group of May Memorial households doing this together? I have my eye on the month of November. If nothing else Thanksgiving could be a time of being thankful that the month is nearly over.

We would need to get together in early October to set the ground rules and talk about our expectations. Then go through the month of November trying not to purchase any consumer goods, maybe getting together informally in the social hall each Sunday to compare notes. Finally, in early December get together around a good meal to talk about our experiences and whether we think this activity will have any lasting effect. And, who knows, some people may choose to continue for another month.

If you think your household might be interested in participating in something like this e-mail me at john.allen1@verizon.net. It would be a fun, interesting, and educational way to participate in a Green Sanctuary activity.

~John Allen, Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee

Committee Members Needed

Several of our most important committees are seeking new members for the coming church year. Membership on a committee is a wonderful way to get to know a few members of May Memorial very well while enhancing the health of our community.

Please contact Nancy Pease npease@twcny.rr.com for more information.

Fundraising – This group plans and engineers events throughout the year to earn money for the general fund.

Hospitality - With a group where food and drink is as important as it is at May Memorial, the hospitality committee must be well staffed and run.

Public Relations – Getting important messages out to the greater community as well as to our own membership is the main job of this committee. Comfort with the computer is a big help here.

Stewardship - It is time for this committee to be a year round entity. Starting early in the year to develop and execute a plan will insure a smooth and successful canvass.

Worship Team – Work with a group to plan the weekly worship service. Learn more about UU traditions



Proposed Mission Statement

At June's annual meeting the proposed Mission Statement was defeated. The Mission-Vision Team and other members of the congregation have been in contact and would like to offer the following statement to be voted upon in the fall:

We are committed to being an inclusive, respectful, caring community of faith that reaches out in welcome while coming together for mutual inspiration, empowerment and life long learning.

Please contact Alexa Carter garlex@aol.com to comment on the mission statement.

Sister Circle Invites New Members

Sister Circle, a long standing women's group at May Memorial, is welcoming new members this September. The group meets every Wednesday night from 7-9 P.M. and explores matters of personal growth and community building.

Please contact Beverly Clark Clarkmmbb@aol.com 637-3996 for more information.

Memorial Room Use

Thanks to the efforts of Harsey Leonard over a long period of time this winter and spring, the new plasma television in the Memorial Room is ready for use. Bruce Macbeth created the lovely hanging lights which match the design of the amplifier which hangs in our sanctuary and he will soon be installing soft lighting around the perimeter of the room.

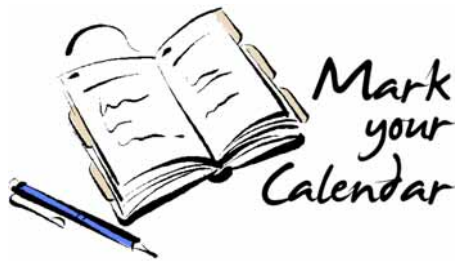
Thanks to the work of these two members, we will find the Memorial Room a much more comfortable space for our meetings and events. Please thank them when you see them at May.

If you would like instruction in using the TV, please consult Harsey. Harsey.leonard@verizon.net

What in the World Discussion Group

"The promised land is under your feet" and "Lessons from an elephant sage" are the articles for discussion at **10:00 am on August 18**. It is found on page 22-23 in the Summer issue of the UUWorld magazine, and copies are available in the foyer rack across from the minister's office.

Meet in the Memorial Room for a stimulating morning.



An Evening of Food and Adventure

Join other UUs from the district on **Friday, September 25** for an evening of delicious potluck foods and a travelogue from our district executive, Tom Chulak. We will gather in the social hall for dinner at 6:00 P.M. and Tom will begin his talk at 7:00 P.M. Come for both parts of the evening or either half. Tom's trip included Jerusalem, Cairo, Tanzania, South Africa and Morocco. Come to pick up tips for planning your own personal pilgrimage and visit with friends from around the district. RSVP to Alexa Carter at garlex@aol.com

Happy Birthday to UU

Saturday, October 31, 2009 marks exactly 50 years since the Unitarians and the Universalists agreed to join. We will mark the event with a party at the Hotel Syracuse, the exact site where the decision was made. Scholars from both traditions will be on hand to share their thoughts about our first fifty years and express their hopes and plans for the next fifty. Brochures are in the pamphlet rack, and if you register before August 32, you can take advantage of a special low rate made possible by a grant from NYSCU, the New York State Convention of Universalists. We are fortunate to be residents of the area, but visitors will be needing housing. If you would like to offer a room in your home for home hospitality, please contact Donna Rohde donnarohde@yahoo.com 315-247-8890.

Calendar Your Events Now!

Believe it or not many groups have already planned for 2010. Are you on the calendar? Please do not assume that a room is readily available for a meeting or activity. May Memorial is growing and new groups are forming all the time. Please feel free to check the large calendar on the wall in the office for events and then follow one of the following procedures to sign up for a room. It's first come first serve, so you may not want to wait until September.

1. Call the office to request a meeting room and time.
2. Send an email to office@mmuus.org to request a meeting room and time.
3. fill out a room request, found in the office door pocket.

Karen will contact you and confirm your reservation and place it on the calendar.

Calendar Continued from back page...

Sunday, August 23

10:30 am Service Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 25

3:00 pm Tai Chi Creekside

Thursday, August 27

3:00 pm Tai Chi Creekside

7:00 pm Program Council Memorial Room

Sunday, August 30

10:30 am Service Sanctuary



The Quest for Social Justice

Forty six years ago this summer NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers stepped out of his home in Jackson, Mississippi and was gunned down by Byron de la Beckwith, an avowed white supremacist. Eleven weeks later two hundred thousand "freedom marchers" descended on Washington, DC to witness history made with Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. It would take thirty more years for justice to be served for the family of Medgar Evers. That same summer Nat King Cole would forever change the lexicon of seasons as he "Rolled out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." New York State voters have been witness to their own "crazy days of summer" this year as the craziness played out in Albany where two freshmen Democrats held the Senate hostage for over twenty days, stalling floor votes on many pieces of important legislation that could improve the lot of many minority New Yorkers.

Legislation that is currently on hold includes:

Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples (A.7732, S.4401)

Farm Workers Fair Labor Practices Act (A.1867/S.2247)

Reproductive Health Act (S.05808)

Dignity for All Students Act (A.3661B/S.1987A)

Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (A.05710/S.2406)

Public Defense Act of 2009 (A.9793)

The Healthy Teens Act (A.01806A/S.3836)

As we move beyond the lazy, hazy, crazy days into the infamous "dog days" let us not forget those legislators, public servants all, laboring on our behalf when next we encounter them; better yet let's all raise our voices in hopes that perhaps we too could realize our own dream of a functional, ethical, and responsive legislature.

~Harsey Leonard, Chairman
MMUUS Social Justice Committee

Wherever you are this summer, remember to collect and save a wee bit of water for our Ingathering Water Ceremony in September.



May Memorial

Unitarian Universalist Society

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

Visit our website at www.mmuus.org

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MMUUS Office Hours
9-1 Monday–Friday

Office Telephone
315.446.8920

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 the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for the mid-month is the 5th of the month.

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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Calendar

Sunday, August 2		
10:30 am	Service	Sanctuary
12:15	Spanophiles	Teen Room
Monday, August 3		
6:30 pm	SEG (Antoine)	Memorial Room
Tuesday, August 4		
3:00 pm	No Tai Chi	
Thursday, August 6		
3:00 pm	No Tai Chi	
Sunday, August 0		
10:30 am	Service	Sanctuary
Tuesday, August 11		
3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
Thursday, August 13		
3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
Saturday, August 15		
7:00 pm	Twisted Sister	Pavilion (SH if raining)
Sunday, August 16		
10:30 am	Service	Sanctuary
Noon	Spanophiles	Teen Room
Noon	Green Sanctuary Committee	Sanctuary
Monday, August 17		
6:30 pm	SEG (Antoine)	Memorial Room
Tuesday, August 18		
10:00 am	What in the World Discussion	Memorial
3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
Thursday, August 20		
3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
Saturday, August 22		
All Day	Board of Trustees Retreat	Off Site
