

MMUUS letter

September 15, 2008 Vol. 6

May
Memorial
Unitarian Universalist Society

Join Us at the Opening Day Picnic

Bring a dish to pass, your own place setting, blankets or chairs, something for the grill if you like. Plan to reconnect and share summer stories while enjoying delicious picnic food.

Sunday, September 13 is opening day for our 2009-2010 church year. See you there.

~Alexa Carter
Society President

Changes in the Office

Our office administrator Karen Love will be leaving May Memorial at the end of September. We are genuinely sorry to see her go.

In the 3-4 years Karen has been with us, she has established strong connections with MMUUS folk. We are planning a reception **Sunday, September 20 during coffee hour** to thank Karen, and to wish her well with her career in social work.

A small search committee has been formed to seek a new office administrator – a 30-hour position critical to the life of our Society. The committee is Rev. Jean, Joyce Leonard, and Janet Hiemstra.

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.

September 13

Ingathering Celebration and Water Ritual

Jean L. Wahlstrom and Jennifer Hamlin-Navias

We gather in the sanctuary once again at the start of our regular worship year. If you have water from one of the places you've been this summer, bring it to contribute to the Water Ritual, which celebrates our joining in intergenerational community for the Celebration of Life.

12 Noon-Opening Day Picnic

4:00 VanderSluis Memorial Service

September 20

What Does God Require?

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

As Ramadan ends and the High Holy Days begin, we are aware of the fasting, celebration, and rituals which are woven into the fabric of our neighboring faiths. Yet Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all revere the prophet Micah, who asked, rhetorically, What does the Lord require of you? What good is there, if any, in perpetuating these ages-old ritual observances?

September 27

Connection and Community

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

Our faith and ministry lead us far, far beyond these walls. We are, indeed, all connected. Here within our faith community, however, our shared religious principles place unique demands upon us. At May Memorial, week by week and meeting by meeting, we are called to live into being the relational future we profess.

Celebration of Life Services



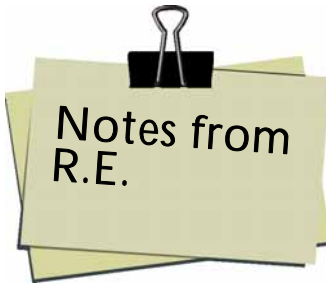


Wheel of Life

At 4:00 pm on September 13th a Memorial Service for **Hildegard VanderSluis** will be held in the Sanctuary, with a reception in the Social Hall immediately following.

Healing thoughts go out to Randy Archambault recovering from a back injury. We hope to see her up and around soon!

Bill Haynes sends a big hello from his new home in St. Louis, MO. Many thanks to him for his great work on the Finance Committee and his many years of commitment and friendship to May Memorial. Glad he'll be keeping touch through the newsletter!



Lots of things have been going on behind the scenes to get RE ready for our First Sunday. I wanted to take a moment and remind everyone of important RE dates for this last half of September.

September 12 9-12 RE committee gathers at May and cleans and organizes the downstairs RE rooms.

September 12 1-4 OWL guide training.

September 13 10:30 a.m. Water ceremony and Ingathering, Picnic to follow Bring a dish to pass, your own place setting, blankets or chairs, something for the grill if you like.

Wednesday September 16 7 pm Guide training for all guides PreK – 6th grade.

September 20 Special Programming in RE
And some of us will be at Unirondack camp for the weekend.

September 23 7 p.m. (at MMUUS) Jennifer Hamlin-Navias will lead a workshop on "Talking to your children about really difficult things." This was offered last June as a response to parents who were concerned as to how to explain the Limited Access Agreement to their children.

September 27 Full RE schedule begins. Here are our class groupings:

Chalice children (Nursery) – infant – 3 y/o
Natural Wonders – Pre K
Wonderful Welcome – grades K-1
Faithful Journeys – grades 2-3
Windows and Mirrors group 1 – grades 4-6
Windows and Mirrors group 2 – grades 4-6
Our Whole Lives – grades 7-8
Teenz group – grades 9-12

September 27 6 p.m. New Orleans service trip Stockholders dinner, at MMUUS.

September 28 7 p.m. - Informational meeting for parents of OWL students.

I am looking forward to reconnecting with all of you.

~Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
Director of Religious Education Ministries

Chautauqua Circle News

Tuesday, Sept. 22. 7:30-9 pm,
Memorial Room

All are welcome to participate in "Chautauqua Circle". We will begin the Fall discussions with a "Potpourri", excerpts and comments about lectures from Chautauqua Institution's Summer weeks on "What Makes Us Moral: An Abrahamic Perspective" and "Imagine" (www.ciweb.org).

Chautauqua Circle is an open discussion group facilitated by May Memorialites, who attended Chautauqua Institution lectures during parts of its 2009 Summer Season. Contact Geri Aird at geri@aird.us. All are welcome to participate in the second Chautauqua Circle Fall "Potpourri".

On Tuesday, October 20, 7:30-9 in the Memorial Room, we'll add excerpts and comments from "Ethics of Capitalism" and "Cuba: Enigma and Neighbor" weeks to the discussion. September lectures being discussed are from weeks on "What Makes Us Moral: An Abrahamic Perspective" and "Imagine" (www.ciweb.org).

Chautauqua Circle is an open discussion group facilitated by May Memorialites, who attended Chautauqua Institution lectures during parts of its 2009 Summer Season. Contact Geri Aird at geri@aird.us for copies of CDs from Chautauqua's Great Lecture Library. (Free three minute samples available at www.thegreatlecturelibrary.com.)

Notes from the Safe Congregation Committee

Greetings members and friends. The Safe Congregation Committee would like to provide you with an update on the Safe Congregation Policy for May Memorial.

The policy itself has been in development for over two years. It is a very comprehensive document containing several elements of what "safe" means to May Memorial. Elements such as:

Religious Education and Congregation Safety Procedures that describe adult volunteer screening, supervision guidelines, transportation guidelines, sleep over guidelines, and fire and emergency evacuation procedures.
Inappropriate Behavior associated with disruptive activity or behavior unsuitable for conduct in our faith community.
Emergency Preparedness and Response that describes how we will handle natural disasters, and congregation safety related to procedures for physical threat and violence similar to what the Tennessee UU church and so many other religious denominations have regrettably experienced, and
Procedures and guidelines for preventing and handling sexual or physical abuse or harassment, and procedures involving sex offenders, a topic that May Memorial experienced first hand in Spring 2009.

The policy is being developed using policy templates from other congregations, as well as guidance materials noted and referenced on the UUA website. The hard part of the process is customizing the policy to the nuances of one's church.

The committee has recently expanded to include Andrea Wandersee, who with her work experience, will help us with a communications component. Other committee members include Peter Coleman, Therese Hogle, Paul Darmody-Latham, Taylor Longo, Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, Rob Neimeier, and Rev. Jean Wahlstrom. All the committee members bring important attributes and aspects to the development of this policy.

We anticipate finalizing the draft policy during the fall for presentation to the Board at their November meeting. Following the Board's review, the policy will be presented to the congregation for review and approval.
We welcome your insightful thoughts during this very important process.

~Yours in Peace,
The Safe Congregation Committee



On **Sunday, October 18th** May Memorial will participate in the downtown Crop Walk. A lunch will be served at May for all participants before the march.

This important fund raiser, organized by Church World Service, is focused on helping to alleviate world hunger. It is a wonderful family event. Fund raising envelopes will be available in the social hall in September. We had a good turn out last year; let's have a GREAT turn out this year.

~Social Justice Committee

Art Gallery News

Our guest artist this month in the Gallery is Taloa Perry from Cazenovia, a well known local watercolorist.



~Bev Adams

Interested in Helping with Welcome Wreath?

If you like coming up with ways to make May Memorial more welcoming to visitors, perhaps you'd like to help decorate the Welcome Wreath some month.

Some supplies (ribbons, flowers, other attachments) are already on hand and just need to be assembled, and suggestions for new presentations would be wonderful.

Contact Kristin Cleveland (idellaloo@yahoo.com or 491-8121) for information on how to help with the wreath.

An Evening with Tom Chulak

Following a potluck supper at May Memorial on Friday, September 25 at 6 P.M., our district executive, Tom Chulak, will share insights from his recent trip to the African continent. He has recently returned from a personal pilgrimage through Jerusalem, Cairo and the Nile, Tanzania, South Africa and Morocco. This is an opportunity to vicariously experience this once in a lifetime journey.

Please RSVP Alexa Carter garlex@aol.com if you plan to attend. But plan to attend spontaneously if you find you have the evening open unexpectedly. All are welcome.

50th Birthday Celebration

Brochures are available in the foyer to register for the big birthday bash to be held at the Hotel Syracuse on October 31, 2009. Check out the great lineup of speakers and send in your registration. Contact Alexa Carter with questions garlex@aol.com

Upcoming Convention

The New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) will be holding its annual meeting at the First Universalist Church of Rochester, New York on **October 17, 2009**. May Memorial has received two grants from this organization to use for work with our history committee. Dick Gilbert will be the keynote speaker. Information postcards can be found in the pamphlet rack.

~Alexa Carter

District Assembly to be Held in Syracuse this Spring

May Memorial will serve as host church on April 23-24 for the St. Lawrence District Assembly. We will need many hands to prepare for this event. Working at the District Assembly is a great way to meet fellow UUs and learn about the doings of the district. If you would like to get involved in some large or small way in this event, please contact Alexa Carter garlex@aol.com.

Sister Circle Open to 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.

News from the Adult Education Committee

The Adult Education Committee has many offerings for the 2009-2010 year. Please look for our brochure which lists it all in more detail. Following is a brief synopsis of the things you can look for from us this year.

Spanophiles, a conversational Spanish group, meets the first and third Sundays of each month in the Teen Room after the service for about an hour. Judy Antoine (jantoine@twcny.rr.com) is the contact person.

Bookenders, a daytime book group, meets once a month on the fourth Thursday in the Teen Room at 1:30 pm. The upcoming readings are:
Sept. 24 - *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*
Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Oct. 29 - *Three Cups of Tea*
Greg Mortenson

Dec. 3 - *Forever or North River*
Pete Hamill
(victoria@twcny.rr.com) is the contact person.

Meditation with Doug Igelsrud (digelsrud@twcny.rr.com) meets Sunday mornings from 9:40-10:10. Contact Doug for more information.

"What in the World" Discussions meet the third Tuesdays of the month at 10AM. Alice Aylesworth (alicea@blufrog.net) is the contact person for this group, which focuses on articles from our UUA publication, *The UU World*.

New Men's Fellowship Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6PM in the Social Hall. All men are welcome to attend. Contact Pete Shambo (peteshambo@gmail.com) for more information.

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Calendar Continued from back page...

Wednesday, September 23

7:00pm RE Parent Meeting Social Hall

Thursday, September 24

3:00pm Tai Chi Creekside
3-5:00pm Bev Adams-Rehearsal Sanctuary
7:30 pm Choir Sanctuary

Friday, September 25

6:00pm St. Lawrence Cluster Potluck Social Hall

Saturday, September 26

7:00pm Adult Education Movie
"The Barbarian Invasion" Memorial

Sunday, September 27

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

Monday, September 28

7-9:00pm SEG Memorial

Tuesday, September 29

3:00pm Tai Chi Creekside

Chautauqua Circle is an open discussion group facilitated by Geri Aird (geri@aird.us) who has attended the Chautauqua Institute lectures during the Summer 2009 season. Watch your newsletter for dates and times.

Building Your Own Theology uses the Richard Gilbert series of books to explore your spirituality. If you are interested in this offering, please sign up on our Bulletin Board. When there are enough people interested, Amanda Winkler (awinkler@syr.edu) will facilitate putting together a group.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven is a joint offering of both the Adult Education Committee and the CNY chapter of CUUPS. This will be offered in the winter. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board if you are interested. Jody Brown (jfb523@gmail.com) is the contact person.

T'ai Chi Chih meets weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3PM with Ann Pia (695-6421). Contact Ann for more information.

UU Vegetarians celebrate this life choice over a vegetarian potluck meal and discussions. Watch our newsletter for dates and times. Julie Daniel (jdaniel4@twcny.rr.com) is the contact person.

Twisted Sisters will be putting out a survey to the congregation to find the best time to meet. Please contact Andrea Wandersee (andrewandersee@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Evensong for Families will start in February and meet the second and fourth Sundays from noon to 2:30 for eight sessions. Joan Weiser (weiserjc@gmail.com) is the contact person.

~Jody Brown
Adult Education Committee

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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9-1 Monday-Friday

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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 at 315.446.8920 or office@mmuus.org, or visit our website at www.mmuus.org.

The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for the mid-month update 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.

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

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Calendar

Sunday, September 13

10:30am	Sunday Service-Water Ceremony	Sanctuary
Noon	Picnic	
4:00 pm	VanderSluis Memorial Service	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Finance Committee	Room 8

Tuesday, September 15

No Tai Chi		
7:00pm	Board of Trustees	Social Hall

Wednesday, September 16

2:00pm	SEG	Memorial Room
6:30pm	Men's Fellowship	Social Hall
7:00pm	RE Guide Training	Sanctuary

Thursday, September 17

No Tai Chi		
3-5:00pm	Bev Adams-Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, September 18

8:00pm	Folkus	Social Hall
Unirondack Camping Trip- off site		

Saturday, September 19

Unirondack Camping Trip-off site		
7:00pm	Twisted Sisters	Social Hall

Sunday, September 20

10:30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Teenz	Teen Room
12:15	Spanophiles	Teen Room
12:15	Green Sanctuary Committee	Sanctuary
3-5:00pm	"The Climate Project"	Sanctuary

Monday, September 21

7-9pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee	Teen Room
7-9:00pm	SEG	Memorial

Tuesday, September 22

3:00pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7-9:00pm	Chautauqua Circle	Memorial