

View from the Study Window...

How has May Memorial changed in the past few years? For one thing, we have found an articulation of what we are about and where we are headed as a Society:

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 lifelong learning.

We were already committed to being a welcoming and inclusive community. The Membership committee has led us in "ramping up" this welcome. Our committee is thorough and committed in greeting and following up with visitors, in helping to integrate newcomers, in celebrating and introducing new members. Next time you pass the Welcome table in the foyer or social hall, give these dedicated volunteers a sincere "Thank you".

We were already committed to being a caring and respectful community. UUs and May Memorial have always worked for the rights of marginalized or oppressed people. Our justice work

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Celebration of Life Services

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.



February 7

Beauty and Fine Art

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

We have evolved with a tendency to notice, admire, and seek out beauty. Too often, the slightest brush with commerce and the media co-opts our attention. True appreciation is increasingly a counter-cultural activity.

First Sunday Luncheon hosted by the Choir.

February 14

Standing on the Side of Love

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

"Let us love one another, because love is from God... Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." Our UU faith calls us, albeit in differing ways, to meet fear and hatred with the power of love.

Sunday Serenade

February 21

Good, Better, Perfect

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

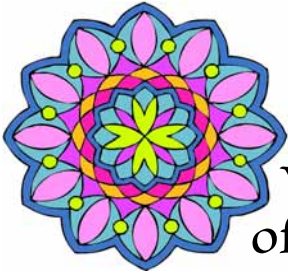
While we may accept in principle that we do not need to be perfect, it can be hard to content ourselves with "good enough". For parents, social activists, leaders, laborers and persons of leisure, the path to maturity leads through believing that who we are and what we do is perfectly good enough.

February 28

The Oneness of Everything.?!,

Lynn Gardner and Wendy Bartel

What is included in oneness? Everything. Everything, really? Everything! What might it mean to live our lives this way? Our guests Lynn Gardner and Wendy Bartel are Unitarian Universalist co-ministers currently living and working in the Bay Area in California.



Wheel of Life

We hold **Howland Auchincloss** in our thoughts and prayers, as he was hospitalized January 25 - 28.

We continue to hold **Kenel and Judy Antoine** in our hearts as we witness the earthquake devastation in the country of Kenel's birth. The UUA and UUSC have established a relief fund which you can locate online through either uua.org or uusc.org. The mail address is UUSC, P.O. Box 844001, Boston, MA 02284-4001. Make checks out to "**UUA/UUSC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund**".

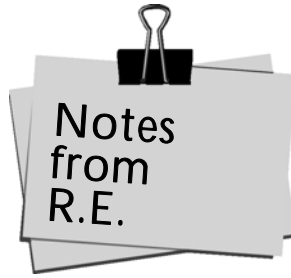
Congratulations to **Mardie and Anton Ninno** who welcomed their first grandchild, Dominick, on January 17 with their son, Andy, and his wife, Jen.

On Sunday please be considerate of those less able and leave the parking spaces along the front driveway for them. Thank you.



A very uncommon visitor

Bob and Mary Burdick have enjoyed their 15 minutes (or more) of fame with bird-lovers as a Yellow Throated Warbler came to their suet and peanut feeders, starting Monday, January 11th and staying through snow and rain for two weeks. They could still be seen as of Monday, January 25th.



Our winter term in RE has started. Everything transitioned without a hitch. Our first Sunday in the Winter term, was January 24th. We had a justice focus that day. After the earthquake in Haiti we decided to focus the justice work on the relief effort in Haiti. A big thank you to **Kenel Antoine** who spoke to the children in chapel about life in Haiti. Kenel grew up there and was able to share some of those stories and make a country very far away seem closer.

Our Windows and Mirrors group, our 4th, 5th and 6th graders, hosted a bake sale on the 24th of January and raised just over \$198.00. That money will be sent to the UUSC to support the Haitian relief efforts. And our K – 3rd graders put together hygiene kits to be sent to Church World Service to help with their relief efforts in Haiti. We put together over 40 kits. Thank you all for your generosity. All ages worked together to make these things happen.

Upcoming Events:

Our Junior High Group, Our Whole Lives, will be having their second overnight of the year on February 6 and 7th. We have 10 young people who are amazing. It is great to see them work together and have fun together.

February 5th – 7th the Teenz will be going to Binghamton for a District wide youth con. Our high school group has been quite active this year. We have about 17 youth registered with our teen group. And they are a highly committed group. On January 3 when we had so much snow there were 9 teens at May!

Remember that February is May loves the Arts month and as part of that there will be a talent show for all ages on February 14th. Contact Amanda Winkler for more information.

We will be having a Special programming Sunday on February 21.

~ Jennifer Hamlin-Navias,
Director of Religious Education Ministries



Marvelous History Corner

Mbre on Our Traveling Tiffany

In the last newsletter article I described how the stained glass window from our former James St. church, normally on display at the Everson, was on a new journey to three locations. I ended by hoping that someone could travel to one of these locations and see it in person. Fortunately, **Harsey and Joyce Leonard** for their 50th wedding anniversary spent time in France for the holidays. They were able to see "New Jerusalem" at the Musée du Luxembourg in Paris. They brought back photos, mementos, and first hand stories not only about the Tiffany exhibit, but how our window was clearly the best piece in the show (I might have added that last comment). I recently added to the web page more information about that window and its journey with a couple of new photos: <http://history.mmuus.org/NewJerusalem.htm>. Harsey and Joyce did say our window was the 2nd largest in the exhibit and with some backlighting using foil to reflect the light, it really was a beauty to see. One of the mementos was a 72 page booklet showing the exhibit pieces. All these mementos will go into our archives.

Some may have read the wonderful article about our window's journey by Dick Case in the *Post Standard* on January 12. He described his conversation with Deb Ryan, the Everson's senior curator, who explained how the window was taken apart and packed carefully in three separate wooden crates. Deb will fly to Paris as "New Jerusalem" is taken down and crated for the trip to Montreal. Now, is there anyone taking a trip to Montreal?

Several History Committee members have completed recorded interviews of 24 long time or past church parishioners. We've learned much about our history. Here are only three of the many interesting factoids from these conversations:

- *More than 70 years ago a large room in the James Street church used for religious education classes had movable dividers with opaque glass to create the appearance of rooms for a certain amount of privacy.*
- *In the James Street church there were many nooks and crannies where a clever and knowledgeable child could hide from parents and teachers if they so desired, sometimes for long periods of time.*
- *When the current church was built, children had to be at least three years old to attend because of concerns with communicable diseases, such as polio.*

With more than 40 hours of taped conversation we have gained much such knowledge. Forty more people have been identified whom we hope to interview over the next several months. If you would like to do some interviewing or any of scanning, inventorying, and other tasks the committee undertakes, we would love to have you join us.

Finally, an interesting history-related update. On January 22, **Harsey Leonard** and I met with **Mr. Peter Wilkinson Bragdon**, Exeter, NH, great grandson of Sam May. He presented to the church two bibles at one time owned by Sam May and passed down through the family. It was a wonderful occasion and the bibles will soon be on display. See <http://history.mmuus.org/bibles.html> for more information.

~ Rog Hiemstra, Chair, History Committee

Open Drum Circle



There will be an open drum circle at the First Universalist Church of Central Square on Friday, February 12th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Kurt Hohmann will be leading the circle. Everyone is invited. The event is informal (come late, leave early if you need to) and child-friendly. No experience is needed to enjoy drumming and there are extra drums, rattles, etc. available to use.

Directions: *From route 81, get off at the Central Square exit and turn left on route 49. Stay on route 49 until you get to the intersection of routes 11 and 49. You will see a Bank of America. You can park there. We share the lot with them. The handicapped entrance is on the opposite side of the building. Take the elevator to the lower floor.*

Attention bowlers or just people who like to bowl occasionally for fun...

Last year eight of us participated in the Syracuse Peace Council's "Strike for Peace" Bowlathon. We had a great time, and a very wide range of scores! This year the Bowlathon is on Sunday February 28th at the Flamingo Bowl in Liverpool in the afternoon, details TBA.

Contact me (**Doug Igelsrud**) if you would like to participate. Last year the cost was \$15 for adults \$10 for kids 12 and under and included 2 games of bowling plus shoes.





February is May Memorial Loves the Arts Month

The Music and Art Committee has planned several exciting activities for the month of February. Celebrate **Valentine's Day (February 14th)** by attending a **Sunday Serenade talent show**, which will be held at 12:15 in the Sanctuary. Members from the congregation will share their gifts.

On **February 28** organist **Glenn Kime** will host an organ demo and mini-recital. Join him in the choir loft at 12:15 for a behind-the-scenes look at our famous Holtkamp organ.

~ Amanda Eubanks Winkler,
(awinkler@syr.edu)
Chair, Music and Art Committee



Garnet Hill Ski Trip

This year's Garnet Hill Ski Trip is **February 26 - 28, 2010**. The trip is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy your fellow May Memorial community (and guests) at a nationally recognized cross country ski resort in the heart of the Adirondacks at North Creek, NY. This will be the 25th year that a group from May Memorial will be venturing north to this wonderland. Please consider joining us for great skiing (cross country on premise and down hill at Gore Mountain), delicious food, and invigorating fellowship. For more information contact: Carroll Grant 445-2532 cgrant6@twcny.rr.com.



Folkus Winter/Spring Schedule

- Emma's Revolution** • Fr 2/5 • May Memorial
- Tony Trischka** • Sa 2/13 • Westcott Community Center
- Tracy Grammer** • Fr 2/19 • May Memorial
- Words & Music: Joe Driscoll** • Sa 2/20 • Jazz Central
- Girlyman** • Fr 3/5 • May Memorial
- John Cadley and the Lost Boys** • Sa 3/13 • Westcott Community Center
- Joe Crookston** • Fr 4/2 • May Memorial
- Chuck Brodsky** • Sa 4/10 • Westcott Community Center
- Cheryl Wheeler** • Fr 4/16 • May Memorial
- Long Time Courting** • Fr 5/7 • May Memorial
- Amy Gallatin** • Sa 5/8 • Westcott Community Center
- Andrew and Noah VanNorstrand** • Fr 5/21 • May Memorial



Emma's Revolution



Do You Have Questions about Unitarian Universalism?

U101 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, February 28, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Memorial Room. Stop by the Welcoming Table for further information or e-mail: membership@mmuus.org. (The next class is tentatively scheduled for March 28).



The
Quest for
Social Justice

Charity Begins at Home

During the past weeks we have heard a great deal about the ongoing tragedies in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that leveled Port-au-Prince. A plea from the pulpit raised a little over \$500 on one Sunday. We are recommending that contributions to the Haiti Relief Fund be channeled through the UUSC. That's the good news. The bad news is that here at home we have been neglecting our own ongoing efforts to offer local assistance to the homeless and hungry. The homeless and hungry program so ably administered by Linda Wobus and Julie Daniel is nearly \$400 in the red. The social justice committee will have a table in the social hall for the next few Sundays to remind everyone of this important activity. If you have never volunteered to help with food preparation at the Samaritan Center I strongly recommend the experience. If you are not able to offer your time, then consider a generous donation of cash for the ongoing support of this important work. Checks made out to MMUUS with homeless and hungry in the memo line will be credited directly to this account. Linda and Julie have given of their time and talents in support of this activity for longer than many of us have been members. Let's let them know we appreciate their efforts.

~ Harsey Leonard

“It Takes a Village”

It has been half a year since May Memorial's formal sponsorship of the Awad family ended. With the birth of the twins this is now a family of ten. There's a wonderful man, Larry Keefe, who now does the weekly grocery shopping with Saad Awad, the father. We had thought that the family would be shopping independently at this time, but their many needs have prevented this. With money left in our account from our initial fund raising, we are able to provide English lessons in the home for Nadal who cannot go to any of the classes offered to refugees because of the twins. We were able to purchase a much needed storm door for the main entrance to their home on Hazelwood.

At this time Saif, the oldest boy, is beginning to exhibit signs of depression which may even be post traumatic stress syndrome. He has been taken off the school bus for fighting and has periods of intense anger. Conversations with the family using an Iraqi translator have revealed that the children were exposed to a great deal of violence and that they were present when their father Saad was injured by a roadside bomb. The two older girls continue to be driven (by May volunteers) to Julie Daniel's yoga class once a week and they have other opportunities to participate in other events. We are looking for a mentor to take Saif and his younger brother to do special things away from home. It could be as simple as going to the library and reading books, going to the zoo, going out for lunch, coming to your home to draw, make hot chocolate and simply hang out. Perhaps a small group of people could share this and each could do something once a month. The outing does not have to be on the weekend. Interested?

~ Vicky Schipper

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship meets on the **third Wednesday of the month** beginning at 6:30 with a potluck. All men of May Memorial are invited. If you can't provide a dish to pass, come anyway and share conversation. It's an informal way to get to know each other.

Upcoming dates are February 17, March 17, and April 21.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2010

Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer in our 14th year! See *REAL* Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Observe wildlife, including bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles. Visit Denali National Park. Dave Frey, a 29-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit www.whalecoastak.org. Don't delay, the program usually fills by March 10th. Email dfrey@whalecoastak.org for information, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

UU're Home

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?



The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: see www.UUreHome.com for an application. If you have questions, contact us at info@uurehome.com or call 828-281-3253.

Wonder what Spiritual Enrichment Groups are all about?

SEGs or "Spiritual Enrichment Groups" are small groups of people who meet on a regular basis to explore topics that bring meaning and depth to their lives.

These groups have been identified in various churches as "Covenant Groups," "Small Group Ministry," and "Chalice Circles." May Memorial has three Spiritual Enrichment Groups currently meeting.

The format for a typical meeting includes personal sharing, inspirational readings, listening and discussion. A leader is designated for each meeting. Leadership duties are shared among members of the group who have expressed interest in taking on that role. Topics are generated by group members.

Group members have expressed the gaining of new insights from their discussions in groups. Those taking part establish meaningful friendships with fellow members and the topics are always relevant to daily life.

May Memorial's Spiritual Enrichment Groups invite you to a dinner meeting Friday evening, February 26 from 6 to 9 P.M. in the Social Hall. The evening will include dinner (provided by the current group members), fellowship, discussion and a sample meeting. Child care will be provided upon request.

Sign up on the Adult Education bulletin board or email: minister@mmuus.org.

Goods and Services Auction

Saturday, May 1st is May Memorial's fabulous Goods and Services Auction! Invite your friends and come prepared for a great evening of fun and fundraising. There will be a preview between 5:30 and 6 PM, with wine and appetizers. Then, at 6:00 pm, the fun begins—Silent auction and some **special** items for Live Auction. Tables will close at different times throughout the evening, and final bidding will end at 9:00 pm. Childcare will be provided. Cash, check, or credit card will be accepted. Look for more information in future newsletters, on Sunday mornings. This event will be detailed on the MMUUS website in the very near future.

We are also looking for your donations for this great event. This is not a garage sale—we are looking for quality goods and quality services.

~ Diane Hainsworth
(446-2044, DianCNS@aol.com)

Barbara Weingart (474-0402,
Weingartbarbara@hotmail.com)

Auction Co-Chairpersons

Calendar

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Sunday, Feb. 21

9:00 am
9:40 am - 10:10 am
10:30 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm
12:15 pm

Fine Craft Show Committee
Silent Meditation
Worship Service
Teenz
Green Sanctuary Committee
Spanophiles

Tuesday, Feb. 23

3:00 pm
5:30 pm
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tai Chi
Worship Committee
Board of Trustees

Thursday, Feb. 25

3:00 pm
7:30 pm

Tai Chi
Choir

Sunday, Feb. 28

9:40 am - 10:10 am
10:30 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm
12:00 pm

Silent Meditation
Worship Service
Teenz
UU101
RE Pizza Lunch

Memorial Room
Creekside
Sanctuary
Teen Room
Sanctuary
Teen Room

Creekside
Memorial Room
Sanctuary

Creekside
Sanctuary

Creekside
Sanctuary
Teen Room
Memorial Room
Downstairs

View from the Study Window...

(continued from page 1)

is legendary. For a while, MMUUS struggled to live these principles of care and respect within our own congregation. In the past few years, we have turned that around. In 2007, the membership adopted a Covenant of Right Relations. Since I have been here, I have seen it used, not in censure, but in reflection on our behavior in community. We are not only *reaching out in welcome*; we are practicing this welcome, openness and acceptance day by day.

Already, always, we gather together each Sunday morning for *religious exploration, inspiration, and empowerment*. In recent years, our religious education program has grown. Syracuse area families have found here the guidance we seek for our children and youth, and a faith community supportive of our values. Our children will always carry what we teach farther in their lives than we can imagine – that is the way of the world. Through them we live on into the future of our dearest dreams.

~ Blessings, Jean

May Memorial

Unitarian Universalist Society

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

The Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom
MINISTER
Email ♦ jwahlstrom@mmuus.org

Glenn Kime
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Phone ♦ 729-3734

Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION MINISTRIES
Email ♦ jhamlinn@mmuus.org

Alexa Carter
SOCIETY PRESIDENT
Email ♦ garlex@aol.com.com

Brian R. Betz
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Email ♦ office@mmuus.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Email ♦ newsletter@mmuus.org

MMUUS Office Hours

9-1 Monday–Friday

315.446.8920 Office Telephone
315.446.4605 Office Fax

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 at 315.446.8920 or office@mmuus.org.

The deadline for the first of the month newsletters is the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for mid-month newsletters is the 5th of the month. Articles received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. To submit an article, please leave it in the newsletter box on the office door or email to newsletter@mmuus.org.

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

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Calendar

Tuesday, Feb. 2

11:00 am	Worship Committee	Memorial Room
3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:00 pm	Social Justice Committee	Teen Room

Thursday, Feb. 4

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

Sunday, Feb. 7

9:40 am - 10:10 am	Silent Meditation	Creekside
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room
12:00 pm	First Sunday Luncheon	Social Hall
12:15 pm	Spanophiles	Teen Room

Tuesday, Feb. 9

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
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Thursday, Feb. 11

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

Sunday, Feb. 14

9:40 am - 10:10 am	Silent Meditation	Creekside
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Teenz	Teen Room
12:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Music & Art Committee	
	Talent Show	Sanctuary

Tuesday, Feb. 16

3:00 pm	Tai Chi	Creekside
7:00 pm	Board of Trustees	Social Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 17

6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship Potluck	Social Hall
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Thursday, Feb. 18

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

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