



“A New Look”

Congregational Meeting for January 29th, at 12:00 pm

The MMUUS Board of Trustees has called a congregational meeting for **January 29th, at 12:00 pm** for the purpose of voting up or down the following resolution:

The congregation recommends to the Board of Trustees, the hiring of Paul J. Mack and Associates to conduct a capital campaign feasibility study.

The vote will be preceded by a presentation by Paul Mack followed by a question and answer period before calling the question. All are encouraged to attend for this important vote.

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Celebration of Life Services

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.



January 15

Cultivating Wholeheartedness

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias

Can we ever really be enough? What would it mean to engage in our lives from a place of worthiness? How might that change us, how might it change the world?

January 22

Education for Unlearning

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

How do we approach what *we don’t know we don’t know*? Can we commit ourselves to the lifelong quest for truth and yet “let the mystery be”?

January 29

Light and Gladness, Prophecy and Song

Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom

It’s a new and brighter day. On the wings of the Butterfly, patterned by light on the front wall of our Sanctuary, let your imagination take flight.

* *Paul Mack and MMUUS Board proposal for a Capital Campaign Study at 1:00 pm*

February 5

Black Ice

Kelly Kilmer Hall

Crises appear out of nowhere, and usually at the most inconvenient times. How can we, as a community, support each other when the unexpected happens? How do we plan for aging gracefully and gratefully? What resources are available to us at MMUUS and in the greater Syracuse community?



CareRing News & Notes

A memorial service for **Nancy Seale Osborne**, a member of May Memorial for many years, will be held at the **SUNY Oswego Sheldon Hall Ballroom, January 28, 2012, at 2:00 pm.**

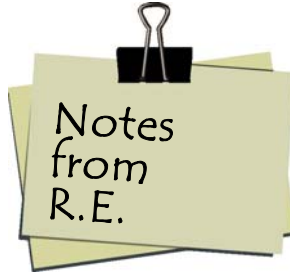
Maureen Cooke was recently hurt in a serious traffic accident, caused by the driver of a pickup truck who ran a red light and smashed into the driver's side of her car. She is home now, nursing a broken pelvis and broken ribs. It will be awhile before she will be fully functioning. Cards would be welcome. Her "sisters" in Evenings Beyond Eve can bring you up to date.

Jim Napierski has been at St. Joseph's Hospital and hopes to be home soon.

Intercepted: a message from former choir member **Liz Hassett** to the choir, telling of her recent adventures: she bought a house, got married, and on September 20th bore a little girl, **Mary Louisa**. Liz hopes to return to sing with us.

New photos in the Memorial Room!

Check out the two rows of ministers' photos in the Memorial room to see the new one for **Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias**. Thanks go to **Bob Burdick and the History Committee** for this effort.



Safe Congregation Policy informational meeting for parents

On **Sunday, January 22nd**, there will be a Safe Congregation Policy informational meeting for parents. This is scheduled to be our last informational meeting about our proposed Safe Congregation Policy. If you have not had a chance to look over the policy yet and would like to do so, the online link to it is www.mmuus.org/safechurch. There will be people in the gym who are representing the Safe Congregation Policy Task Force and will be ready and able to answer your questions about the Proposed Safe Congregation Policy. We will have extended childcare so that you can take your time for conversation. We will have pizza, drinks, and PB&J sandwiches. This is the last planned informational meeting about our Safe Congregation Policy and I encourage you to attend and share any questions or concerns you may have. We are hoping to have a vote on this policy in the spring.

Some of the highlights of the proposed policy are:

- Sets out safe policies and procedures for adults working with older youth
- Sets out safety policies and procedures for adults working with children and youth
- Sets out policies on general supervision guidelines
- Updated policy on teen and youth events
- Establishes a Safe Congregation Committee
- Establishes a Safe Congregation Response Team
- Requires background checks for volunteers working with children and youth
- Establishes policies for reporting child abuse
- Establishes guidelines for how somebody with a sex offense record may be involved in our congregation
- Sets our safety policies around fire and natural disasters

As you can see from the list, this is a pretty extensive policy. So I hope to see you on the 22nd!

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias,
Associate Minister for Religious Education



A word about the democratic process

At the beginning of this election year I have been thinking a lot about the Democratic Process, not only in our great country, but within the Unitarian Universalists' communities of which we are a part. The fifth of our seven principles states: "**We affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.**" For me this may be the most important of our principles, for it enables us to act on the other seven.

What I have been musing about of late, is the lack of participation by the country's electorate in the voting process and Unitarian Universalist communities including our own as a microcosm of the rest of the country. Robert M. Hutchins, liberal educator and long time President of the University of Chicago has been quoted as saying: "**The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.**" Sad but I fear it is all too true. We now live in a country that ranks 38th in voter turnout among the world's practicing democratic nations.

Within our congregations two categories of parishioners are recognized: members and friends. Fortunately at May Memorial, we have a generous allotment of each. Our financial support is derived from both members of our society and also from our friends, many of whom pledge generously to support our ongoing work. The difference between the two groups is the entitlement to vote on matters that are presented during congregational meetings, often matters of importance to the future of our society. To our many friends I want to say thank you for being a part of our society and for your many contributions to our spiritual and secular lives. I would also like to remind you that as a financial contributor of record all that is required to entitle your vote is a signature in "the book" witnessed by one of our ministers or officers. Sign "the book" and 30 days later you will be on the members voting list.

During the coming months, voting members of our society will be asked to consider many things during congregational meetings called for specific purposes, some of which will involve empowering your board of trustees to raise and spend large amounts of capital for improvements to our building and grounds. The more voices that are heard in favor or opposed, the more responsibly the officials elected to represent you will be able to act. Knowledge is our ally when we are called on to make decisions and I can truthfully say that I have never presided over or attended a congregational meeting that failed to provide me with additional information about the issues

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("President's Letter" continued)

under consideration.

The MMUUS Constitution outlines the criteria for voting on matters brought before a scheduled congregational meeting. A quorum of eligible members is required to be present and a simple majority of that quorum is required to pass most resolutions. More complex issues such as hiring a minister require a two thirds majority to pass. What does that mean given our present membership? A quorum requires that 40 eligible members be present and a simple majority means that 21 people may decide an issue or conceivably 30 members could hire a minister. Is it appropriate to let 11% of our voting members decide important issues? Changing the above equations is up to the electorate.

On January 29th the Board of Trustees has called a special congregational meeting for the purpose of authorizing your Board of Trustees to hire Paul Mack and Associates to assist us in conducting our upcoming capital campaign. Will you let others make these decisions or will you be part of the process? The decision is yours. I would like to encourage a large turnout for this meeting and personally invite your participation.

A word on participation: everyone, including members and friends, is welcome to attend congregational meetings to contribute to the dialogue and make your voices heard. Anyone with an interest in the future of our society is encouraged to participate in the discussion.

~ Harsey Leonard, President,
MMUUS Board of Trustees



For our **January 17th** meeting, we will discuss the six short articles starting on page 22 of the winter 2011 issue of *UU World*, copies of which can be found in the rack across from the minister's office. Six UU ministers present their concepts of where UU churches have been, are now and need to go. All are welcome! **Please join us at 10:00 am in the Memorial Room** for another lively interchange of ideas.



Social Justice Forum on Haiti

Sunday, January 22nd, at 9:00 am

Kénel Antoine will speak about his recent trip to Haiti which included a visit to an exciting UUSC eco-village housing project. Not to be missed.

Our care baskets

In February our thoughts often turn to love - for family, friends, partners, lovers...and our larger community. Let us not forget those in need and continue to bring the much needed food and personal care items to fill our baskets. Your response has been greatly appreciated. Let's continue to make these gifts a part of our weekly offerings. - Lee Ann McKinney



Capital News

It's time to make a congregational decision as to the next step in our Capital Campaign process. **Be sure to clear your calendars for the weekend of January 28-29 to hear Paul J. Mack and have your voice counted in the decision on whether to hire him to help facilitate our campaign.** Paul J.

Mack Associates specializes in congregation-based capital campaign fund raising and has worked for many Unitarian Universalist churches in Canada and the US. All of the campaigns that Mr. Mack's company has conducted on behalf of UU churches have gone over goal. He comes highly recommended.

The schedule for this important weekend in the life of May Memorial is:

Saturday, January 28, 2012

- Dessert buffet and coffee at 6:00 pm
- Address by Mr. Mack at 7:00 pm
- Questions and Answers

Anyone in the congregation is invited to this meeting, but it is especially important for board members, committee chairs and anyone in a leadership position to try to be there.

Sunday, January 29, 2012

- Sunday service at 10:30 am
- Light lunch in the Social Hall from 11:45 am – 12:45 pm
- Address to the congregation by Mr. Mack at 12:45 pm
- Questions and Answers
- Congregational vote

Members of the Capital Campaign Advisory Committee include **Mary Burdick, Alexa Carter, Malcolm Clark, Gary Droege, Rob Neimeier, and Steve Ransford.** Please share your thoughts and ideas with them at any time.

~ Alexa Carter,
Capital Campaign Committee





Preserve, Conserve and Create in 2012

This month, "The Sierra Club Petition to Halt Fracking In New York State" will go to Governor Andrew Cuomo. Much appreciation goes to those who signed to tell the Governor to lead to preserve and conserve our precious air, water, and soil from hydrofracking and focus on energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy.

Since most of us won't be getting on board the chartered bus on January 23 from Syracuse to the State Capitol for 2012 Hydro-Fracking Day of Action, we could phone our state legislators in their home districts. Call with your own details. Much collective energy and attention will be needed to "watchdog" NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Let's work together to help preserve New York's environment, conserve and promote renewable energy!

Please phone your Assemblyman Sam Roberts at (315) 449-9536 or William Magnarelli at (315) 428-9651, then your Senator John DeFrancisco at (315) 428-7632 or David Valesky at (315) 478-8745.



2012 Hydro-Fracking Day of Action

During 2012, please make frequent visits to the informative shaleshockmedia.org website for documenting videos on hydrofracking events, including public hearings. At the December Green Sanctuary Committee meeting, it was voted to donate last October's "Change for Change" Sunday congregational contributions totaling \$108.09 to Shaleshockmedia to help keep fracking event documentaries online in 2012.

The Shaleshockmedia.org link with its videos have been emailed to Nancy King Smith of UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) for sharing with other Green Sanctuary groups in other states, where hydrofracking is underway or a threat. The UUMFE website and 2012 focus on "The Why and How of Environmental Justice" webinars will also be our resource. There is "environmental justice" work for new Green Sanctuary participants to do locally and regionally. Please email geri@aird.us for more information.

May Memorial Green Sanctuary and First UU Green Sanctuary combined activities will continue. A community Onondaga Creek walk is being planned by First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse.

For preserving our beloved church building and conserving energy, we will

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("Going Green" continued)

have challenges and opportunities. We'll be learning more soon from May Memorial leaders.

We'll also be learning more from Kenel Antoine, who recently visited an "eco-village" in Haiti. He will be leading in at least one Unitarian Universalist Service Committee project to create a "green" community environment. Our help will be needed for this creative work.

Creative actions and events to fight climate change will be a part of 2012. Check out updates from UUA and also the Green Sanctuary blog at www.uua.org. Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) spiritual values call us to act on the personal, local, and national levels to adopt practices that will reverse global warming/ climate change, and to do so in ways that are just and equitable.

Please email your suggestions for personal and group activities for Going Greener in 2012 to geri@aird.us.

Thank You,
Geri Aird, Co-chair,
Green Sanctuary Committee;
Green Sanctuary leader,
Action 12 "Environmental Justice"



May Memorial Loves the Arts Talent Show



February 12, 2012 at 12:15 pm

Do you write poetry? Sing? Dance? Have a hidden (or not so hidden) talent? Share your gifts in the annual May Memorial Loves the Arts Intergeneration Talent Show. If you're interested, contact **Amanda Eubanks Winkler** at awinkler@syr.edu by February 5th to sign up.



Silk Scarf Workshop Fundraiser with Barbara Weingart

Sunday afternoon, March 25th.

More details to follow in upcoming newsletters!

New Year's Eve Dance Party wrap-up

Happy New Year! Hospitality is off and running strong at MMUUS. We decked the halls with boughs of holly and kicked off the year with our Gala New Years Eve Dance. All were invited, and invitations were extended to First Unitarian Universalist.

It was a cozy affair with seating set up in front of the fireplace, with a nice warm fire to lend ambiance. As pot lucks go at May, the Hors d'oeuvre were fabulous. Plenty of yummy food was brought in by revelers. It was a really nice opportunity to meet and get to know more of the First UU congregants, as well as some of our own wall flowers who turned out for this event.

We all ushered in the New Year boogieing on the dance floor. And one of the best parts, in my opinion, was the easy break down with so many helping hands pitching in to help. We were home in bed by 2:00 am. Ugh. Well, it's only once a year!

~ Michael Dillon,
Chair, Hospitality Committee



Update on Julia Antoine's book sale

Julia Antoine went to Vera House to donate the proceeds from her book 'The Seven Principles'. She went with her friend Emma Tucker on December 28th. This is what they had to say about the experience:

"We met a lady named Jenny Hicks. She showed us the wall of donators and we had our picture taken by that wall. Our photo will be on the Vera House Facebook Page. Jenny told us that Vera House is a place where men, women and/or children can go to if they are being abused. Vera House has two other houses which are safe houses because no one knows where they are."

Jenny was thankful that for the money Julia collected and donated and for the copy of her book.



Photo of Julia and Emma which was taken by Jenny Hicks at Vera House.

First Sunday ~~Lunch~~ Concert

Celebrating Glenn Kime's 20 years at May Memorial's Holtkamp

On **Sunday, February 5th, at 4:00 pm**, an organ recital of Germanic Music will be performed by our own **Glenn Kime** in the **Sanctuary**. This program will benefit May Memorial. Suggested donation is \$10. A special viewing of Glenn's pedal work in the organ loft can be had for an additional donation! Questions? Call 446-8920 or email office@mmuus.org.



Annual Family Potluck and Bingo Party

Join us on **Friday, January 27th, at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall** for an evening of fun. The good news: EVERYONE is a winner! (this is a great event to bring visitors to our church)

Be sure to bring:

- Place settings for your family (this is a GREEN event!) a dish to share a prize to place on our Big Prize Table (one for each person playing)
- \$1 "entry fee" for each person playing

Be there or be square!! Questions? Contact **Julie Daniel** at 622-3423 or email jdaniel4@twcnny.rr.com.



"May Loves the Arts" month is back!

The month of February is our annual "May Loves the Arts" month, which means we will need art of all kinds produced by our church folk to fill our gallery. Also, we hope our writers will have literary or poetic offerings. If you have artwork or writing you would like to have displayed, contact **Bev Adams** at badams4452@aol.com or 682-9644.



2012 Folkus Concert Schedule



The following Folkus concerts will take place at May Memorial:

Jan. 20th - **Diana Jones** - *The Nashville based singer-songwriter brings her critically praised style of country music to Syracuse.*

Feb. 3rd - **David Francey** - *Scottish-born Canadian, David Francey is recognized as one of today's finest singer-songwriters. Aside from being a three time JUNO (Canada's top music award) winner, Francey also received the prestigious SOCAN Folk Music Award.*

March 2nd - **Dana & Susan Robinson** - *These Folkus Project favorites present a mix of old-timey instrumentals and heart-warming ballads, with a contemporary sensibility and one foot always in their North Carolina hometown. It's good to have them back!*

All shows start at 8:00 pm. To reserve tickets, or for details and additional ticket info, go to <http://www.folkus.org>.

If you are interested in volunteering at a Folkus Concert, e-mail volunteer@folkus.org.



Daily Inspirations from Rev. Jean

Starting on **Sunday, January 15th and running through Saturday, January 21st**, the *Syracuse Post-Standard* will feature a Daily Inspiration column by our own **Rev. Jean Wahlstrom**.

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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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Email ♦ newsletter@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

* *Tai Chi Chih classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Social Hall at 3:00 pm **

Sunday, January 15th

10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	Teenz	Teen Room
12:00 pm	Green Sanctuary Committee	Memorial Room
12:00 pm	Parenting as Spiritual Practice	Teen Room
12:15 pm	Spanophiles	COA

Monday, January 16th

6:30 pm	SEG	Memorial Room
7:00 pm	Building & Grounds Committee	Teen Room

Tuesday, January 17th

10:00 am	What in the World Discussion	Memorial Room
5:45 pm - 7:00 pm	Membership Committee	Memorial Room
7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Social Hall

Wednesday, January 18th

6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship Potluck	Social Hall
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Thursday, January 19th

7:30 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
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Friday, January 21st

9:00 am - 11:00 am	Board Retreat	Memorial Room
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Cabin Fever Game Night	Social Hall

Sunday, January 22nd

9:00 am - 10:00 am	Social Justice Forum on Haiti	Memorial Room
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	Teenz	Teen Room
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Safe Church Congregational Mtg.	Gym
12:00 pm	UU101	Memorial Room

Monday, January 23rd

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Wellspring 1	Memorial Room
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Wednesday, January 25th

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Wellspring 2	Memorial Room
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Thursday, January 26th

1:30 pm	Bookenders	Teen Room
5:30 pm	Twisted Sisters	Memorial Room
7:30 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

Saturday, January 28th

6:00 pm	Pre-Q & A Pot Luck Dessert	Social Hall
7:00 pm	Paul Mack Address/Q & A	Social Hall

Sunday, January 29th

10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	Teenz	Teen Room
12:45 pm	Paul Mack Address/Q & A (Congregational vote to follow)	Social Hall
6:00 pm	CUUPS	Social Hall