

## CANVASS 1971

The Canvass Organization was made up of the following members:

John C. Fuller, Minister  
Ronald E. Clark, Associate Minister  
Joseph Pia, President  
Alex Bortoff, Vice-President  
R. Gordon Bradwick, General Chairman  
Verah Johnson, Program Proposal  
Robert O. Beadel, Advanced Gifts  
Roger C. Thielking, Teams Chairman  
Helen Obrist, Dinner Arrangements  
Charles W. Jorgensen, Canvass Consultant  
Dorothy Wertheimer, Canvass Publicity  
Mary P. Burdick, Canvass Coordinator

In October, 1970, a Town Meeting and two other informational meetings were held in order for the congregation to offer its suggestions for program goals, and therefore financial goals, for the fiscal year of 1971. A goal of \$75,515 was set for the operating budget. It was the intention of the Canvass Committee to meet this goal with the pledged support of members and friends of May Memorial Unitarian Society. A formula of eighty cents per week per \$1000 of income was suggested as a guideline for individual pledges.

Members and friends of the Society were informed of the Canvass in various ways:

1. Weekly notices in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin.
2. A letter from the General Chairman stating our goal.
3. An all-church dinner at which the purposes of the Canvass were stated.
4. A canvass of members and friends of the Society in person.

Fifty canvassers were organized in three divisions, which were subdivided into three or four teams. Canvassers had the opportunity to meet for two informational meetings regarding the techniques and reasons for canvassing in person.

An all-church dinner was held on November 4th for the purpose of explaining the Canvass. All potential pledging members and friends were contacted for the dinner by a telephone committee. Past presidents of the Society were invited to attend as guests of honor. 104 people attended the dinner. Those who were unable to attend received a letter announcing the Canvass and a copy of the brochure which had been distributed at the dinner.

The Canvass officially commenced on Sunday, November 8th and concluded December 1st:

316 potential pledging units were approached during the Canvass, including 10 units for advanced gifts. 30 units were contacted by mail.

Of these:

213 units pledged support for \$54,000.

55 cards were returned indicating no pledge or a desire to contribute rather than to pledge.

The follow-up phase of the Canvass has been continued by members of the Canvass Committee and Finance Committee. Contacts have been made with new members as they have joined the church this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Burdick  
Canvass Coordinator

Program Committee

The statistics for the activities sponsored by the Program Committee this winter are as follows:

Discussion Groups: 18

Sensitivity,  
Encountertapes

Spiritual Values: 9

Workshops: 2

Coffee Pub: Friday nights

Calendar: Each month

Cora Weiss

Debate between two Univ. Students

"Holy Outlaw" film

Social Activities:

Roast Beef Suppers: 2

Casserole Suppers: 8

Square Dancing: 6

Slide Programs: 5

Parties: 6

Picnic in July: 1

We have returned a profit of \$355.20 to the budget. This does not include fees from Encountertapes or profit from the Ecology group.

The members of the committee: Doug Aird, Nancy Bruce, John Fuller, Jack Haskins, Janet Jackson, Dorothy Jorgensen, Mary Lib Kroman, Joan Massey, George Nashen, Andrea Riggs, Mona Thomas, extend their thanks to the many groups and individuals who helped make our ideas a reality. Our special thanks to Keith Hunt, who donated his services for the square dances. The chairman would like to add her thanks also, to her hard-working committee.

This winter, I believe, has proved that this society can have a friendliness and a feeling of fellowship in this building. After watching the square dances, the helpers at the suppers, and several of the parties, I believe also, that the "Downstairs" and the "Upstairs" are going to enjoy being to-gether.

Harriette Robinson

Chairman

may 1971

# Forum Committee Report

Wick + Shirley Di Matteo

70-1

The following after church forums were held:

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<sup>Cape</sup> - Chphens House - G hidie

Unirondack - W Di Matteo

Tax Refusal - Pat Durgin

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On most occasions small meetings were held here + there.

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Perhaps evening forums should be held with more time, more people, less hassle

P.S. I don't dig typing - Shirley Di Matteo

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee's responsibilities fall within three main areas. These are the keeping of records, communication between new comers and MMUS, and involvement of newly joined members in Society activities.

We must unhappily report the net loss of three members this year, 45 joining, 37 moved from the community, 9 resigned and 2 passed away. A more depressing statistic is the decline in the number of new members -- from 61 to 45.

We have attempted to not only assist and advise prospective new members through new comers conversation with our minister on scheduled Sundays, but also have provided changing first hour greeters each Sunday as well as regular greeter-advisers during the second hour.

Various attempts were made to help newly joined members feel more at home in the Society. The most significant of these being the dinner get togethers. We feel new member involvement could be increased if the various working committees of the Society considered newly joined members when recruiting.

*Maurice Sengis*  
Chairman

The figures given, in most instances, will be round figures.

On March 17th, we co-sponsored, with the Program Committee, Natalie Lombard. Harriet Robinson, Chairman of the Program Committee, felt that we should bring Miss Lombard here, even if the event showed a loss. She felt that Miss Lombard's program was that worthwhile. Both committees concurred. Our income was \$100.00 and her charge for the program was \$125.00. There was some minor expenses, not to exceed \$5.00, part of which I absorbed personally. In looking back, I agree with Harriet Robinson's evaluation of Miss Lombard and her program.

Shelly Turian, on her own, conducted the sale of fire extinguishers and first aid kits. This sale netted us \$39.00.

The Antique Show & Sales netted \$400.00, which included \$172.00 from the food concession. The food concession was very ably run by Sid and Audrey Waldman, with some help from several others. We only netted one-half of last year's Antique Show & Sales, which was \$800.00, but would like to point out: That through the efforts of Leon Moody, who is a member of May Memorial, that we have netted approximately \$1100.00 in two years. We did not have the food concession last year.

The last item is the concert of the Bubonic Brass. Rudy Nashan set this program up and Ways & Means was to take it from there. Rudy generously agreed to underwrite any loss, which could have been as high as \$120.00. If the event succeeded, we were to pay the bills, \$120.00 for the orchestra and \$35.00 for a HJ ad, and split the profits, \$39.00 each.

In the coming year, Ways & Means is planning a church fair and there will be other fund raising events.

I would like to pay tribute to Sid & Audrey Waldman, whose efforts, the most recent being the food concession at the Antique Show, have meant so much to the Ways & Means Committee, and of course the church. Thanks to the Ways & Means Committee for their efforts and also any others whose help has been indispensable on one occasion or another.

Am saving the last for Joan Massey, a member of the Program Committee, who entirely on her own, has carried half of my burdens. I would like to award to Joan, on behalf of the Ways & Means Committee and the Church, a solitary rose.

Charles C. White  
Chairman, Ways & Means Committee  
May 28, 1971

The Worship Committee was initiated in January 1971 at the suggestion of the minister, John Fuller and the President of the Congregation, Joe Pia. It consists of 10 members of the congregation plus the Minister and the President. Its purpose is to facilitate involvement of the members of the congregation in planning and in many instances actually doing a worship service. Many thoughtful hours have been spent in this work. It has been a great challenge. We have learned so much about all that is required in time and effort to put together a meaningful service every Sunday morning. We have learned that it is not possible to please everyone all of the time, but perhaps a Worship Committee can help to please more of the people more of the time. The Committee will function this Summer and into the next church year. We hope to schedule monthly meetings with any interested members of the congregation who may have ideas for us.

Joan Massey, Chairman

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Annual Report - 1970 - '71

Attrition of our professional and lay leadership by way of out-of-town moves has made its impact on this year's program. The group of laymen already functioning well together continued the program with nominal felt losses. Lay leadership took up most of the slack felt by Ron Clark's departure except in those special areas of ministry that come not so easy for the layman. John Fuller's interest and support in this period is particularly appreciated.

Department heads, as a single or a team, continue to be the strong organizational backbone in the Sunday morning program. The committee will move to develop smaller departments built around interest needs as well as age grouping.

The merger of the Youth Education and the Religious Education Committees has proved beneficial to the entire program. The youth program will continue to be served by a department head.

A pattern of recruiting teachers, department heads and committee members is developing that takes cognizance of the realities of current life styles of individuals and families and the way they can most effectively serve the religious education program within that context.

The long term tasks of the committee appear to be: program development and support; adult-child relationships; what is the R.E. message as it happens.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Coye

Robert Burdick and Jill Coye, Co-chairmen  
Marlene Bortoff, Assistant Chairman



## Ushering

There have been two significant changes in ushering procedure this year:

1. The number of ushers (in addition to the Head Usher) has been reduced to two. Experience during the year has been favorable. Occasionally, special procedures during a service require additional ushers - when this happens, additional help is easily recruited on the spot.
2. For the past several weeks, the ushers have included ladies ("usherettes"?) as well as men. Call it "Women's Lib" if you wish!

Problems encountered have been very minor ones. Those listed below are included not by way of complaint, but rather because there may be those to whom the information is helpful:

1. Occasionally, the head usher must quell a disturbance in the foyer during a worship service. These are usually caused by youngsters who are "AWOL" from church school activities. "Do you know where your child is, at 11 am on Sunday?"
2. Certain worship services are done by a special group. If the group is to furnish ushers, or if special ushering services are required, the Head Usher should be so advised in advance.

Finally, I must express my great appreciation to those who have helped with ushering. Their cheerful co-operation has enhanced the services and made the ushering duties a real pleasure.

## Finance Committee

This committee was organized at a late date. As a result, the preparation of the budget was a somewhat frantic procedure, requiring several extra Board of Trustees meetings. In spite of the shortness of time, the board was diligent in affording the budget full consideration, and the result was good in that it reflects well the consensus of judgement of the board members.

In the coming year, it is strongly urged that the Finance Committee be organized as early as possible. It should, ideally, compile financial data from the treasurer and preliminary projections from church committees soon enough so that it can participate in establishing the Canvass Goal. Thus, much of the ground work will already have been done when the canvass results are in, so that the formulation of the budget will be facilitated.

As in the past, at least one committee member should be a Trustee, in order to insure a close liason between the Board and the committee.

  
Roger C. Thielking

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FROM HOUSEKEEPING CHAIRMAN

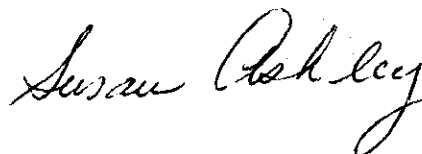
This year I have only purchased a minimum of mostly small items for the kitchen. Most of our expenses are operational (cleaning items, etc.) and having Mrs. Hare occasionally do a thorough cleaning job in the kitchen.

Several chairs have been re-caned and one of the bent wood benches was also re-caned.

Over the summer we plan to have the Oriental rugs cleaned, and also the drapes in the offices.

We desperately need some larger teapots - if anyone has a teapot they are not using and wish to donate it, we would greatly appreciate it.

Susan Ashley, Chairman



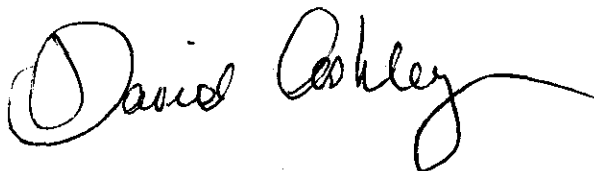
REPORT OF THE SITE COMMITTEE

The Site Committee is in the process of putting together a final report on a phased development of our site, to be presented this year. The final driveway topping was installed last Fall; a new sign for the church is in progress; and a railing has been constructed for the steps at the front entrance. The total development will be quite expensive and will undoubtedly occur only if special monies become available. In the meantime, we repeatedly request that everyone refrain from indiscriminately "sticking" things in the site without communicating with the Site Committee.

Site Committee

Dave Ashley  
Al Obrist  
Dorothy Ashley  
Bruce Massey

David Ashley, Chairman



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN OF MAY MEMORIAL

UNITARIAN SOCIETY

Since my appointment as Historian to the Society I have done absolutely nothing that would justify the title, except, and this stretches the point, to finish my MA thesis, "Origin and Dispersion of Unitarianism in the United States." I intend to do a lot of things. What could be more Unitarian than that?

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard Mooers*

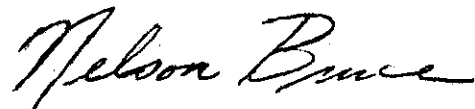
Richard Mooers  
Historian

26 May 1971

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Since I have held this position for just a few weeks accomplishments are limited and consist only of some general cleanup. The following is a list of problem areas and recommendations:

1. The concrete at the entrance to the church needs repair. For proper and lasting repair the existing concrete may have to be mechanically prepared to take new surfacing - this could be costly. On the other hand, there are new Epoxy resins on the market which could act as a bonding agent for new surfacing thereby reducing surface preparation and the cost of repair. Recommend some professional be called in to suggest best method of repair and preventive maintenance.
2. High windows ( esp. cupola ) need washing. This job should be contracted out on an annual basis.
3. Some decision should be made as to whether snow removal can be accomplished at a cheaper rate than our present contractor.
4. Parsonage:
  - a. Furnace needs repair ( esp. pipe insulation )
  - b. Front steps need replacement
  - c. Some clapboards need replacement
  - d. Downstairs floors need re-sanding.
5. Recommend that Buildings and Grounds, which has heretofore been a one man committee, be incorporated with the Aesthetics, Site Planning, Kitchen and Housekeeping committees to meet as one body in order to augment communications.



Nelson Bruce  
Buildings and Grounds

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT - JUNE 6, 1971

This is the 133rd Annual Meeting of Unitarians in Syracuse, New York. It is Number 10 for me as minister of May Memorial Unitarian Society.

What is the State of the Society? As I look at it and feel it from my peculiar viewpoint, I'd like to pronounce that MMUS is in the healthiest condition since I came to be its minister in September, 1961. Yes, we have a few problems, and thank God we're human; but we've solved most of the most serious ones. This past year, because of a concatenation of circumstances I do not quite understand, some of those most serious problems came rushing up to the surface: finances, mutual intolerance, underground anger and distrust, scapegoating the minister for some of the aches and pains — but they were mostly faced, looked in the eye, and seen for what they were and are. Now, at the end of this church season, we are beginning to go beyond them. Now we can, next season, leave them behind and be a liberal religious society that makes sense to all of us.

Seven years ago tonight, I complained loudly that we had no sense of being a congregation. This year from the pulpit, I have spoken of our Ridiculous Individualism, and of our need of Individuality in Community. The one is still with us; the other is what we've begun to work at and need to work at vigorously next Fall. This Sunday, the Guest Minister will ask the same old question: "What Do You Like: Diversity or Unity?" My answer to him in advance is: we like "Individuality in Community."

Had I not been so busy and were I not so procrastinating a parson, this report would have been in iambic hexameter with beautiful rhymes. But alas, it's not to be — maybe next year I'll get organized. Usually, in the past, I've high-lighted the memorable parts of the year. Tonight, you'll have to use your own recall. I think it's been an especially exciting, productive and good year. Just one thing I'd like to underline among the many: the work and spirit of cooperation in the Joint Committee on Campus Responsibilities — a committee made up of 3 May Memorialites and 3 First Church Universalists. Between us we've raised \$3,000 for a graduate Interne UU Chaplain on Syracuse campuses. He'll be appointed next week.

Some statistics you may not quite be aware of: since the last Annual Meeting

47 new members have joined,  
2 members have died,  
11 have resigned, and  
37 moved out of town — for a net loss of 3 members.

Our current total resident legal membership is 462, and most of that number are active.

Finances are an indication of what's happening this year. We reversed a downward trend in pledging and realized an increase in total amount of pledges over any previous year I've been here — thanks to Mary Burdick! So I believe upon evidence that the qualitative and quantitative nature of MMUS is healthy and vigorous. The time for pessimism and poor-mouthing is not this time; so let's none of us be so or do so.

I have thank-you's for everybody — for most of you, you know why; for some of you, it is because you have been something or done something that was of significance to me and to May Memorial, of which you possibly have been unaware. My thanks.

In particular, I want to thank Joe Pia, whose alternately stormy and peaceful paths of leadership as Society President have provoked all of us into something deeper, more thoughtful, more productive. Some of us have been angry at times, but all of us have benefitted. Joe, I, for one, thank you very much for all you've done to, with and for us! I am qualitatively more of a person because of you, and I thank you! And I hereby, at the appropriate moment this evening, elevate you unto the august ranks of Past Presidents of MMUS. If other past presidents present will stand — these are your colleagues in striving, exhaustion and satisfaction. I declare, Mr. President, by virtue of my authority, that this is so ordered!

Three persons among us have died suddenly since the last Annual Meeting. If you will stand, we will hear their names and express silently our loving remembrance:

June Heisley      Helen Livingston      Stella Alexander

"Like the leaves in their generation, such  
is the race of men.  
For the wind casts the leaves from their  
branches to earthward, and again  
Others the budding greenwood each springtide  
brings to birth,  
So do man's generations spring up and fade  
from earth."

(From the Iliad)

I look forward in the coming year to several things:

- 1.) To working together with the 12-15 persons who make up the group called: Ministering to May Memorial;
- 2.) to having the aid, as the Trustees voted, of a half-time Administrative Assistant, starting in September;
- 3.) to my two months vacation, starting July 1;
- 4.) to working with all the new and old officers, trustees, and committee chairmen;
- 5.) and to all the surprises and opportunities which will come to me and to all of us in the next twelve months!

For some strange, or maybe not so strange, reason I enjoy being Minister of this Society! I hope the feeling is mutual!

I have only one recommendation to make to you. As a liberal religious society we need, both as individuals and as a corporate group, to exercise our social responsibility more deliberately in this inner and outer city complex called Greater Syracuse. We have been ingrown, like a toenail,

these last several years — not entirely, but pretty largely. We need to express in community action our reverence for all life and for the life-support system all about us, because we together can do something about injustice, insensitivity, violence, indifference, and man's inhumanity to man. It is one of the two reasons why we gather into a Society called May Memorial Unitarian. And it is the gap in our existence.

I hope you'll both follow and provoke my leadership this coming year in creating social responsibility at MMUS. As a starter, I have the privilege of kicking off the new-to-us Service to Others Fund. You've read a little about it in the Newsletter, if you read the Newsletter. The idea is based on an old saying: "As much for others as for ourselves!" The specific thought for a Service to Others came from my predecessor here, Bob Zoerhiede. The hope is that each of you will respond, and respond generously, to giving to others that they may help themselves, through the following:

- the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- the Meadville Theological School Scholarship Fund
- the AFSC Syracuse Draft Counseling Project
- the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations
- the Black Affairs Council
- and Black and White Action.

Mailed this afternoon was an envelope marked with a tree of life. When you see it in your mail at home: Don't, as Dan Berrigan says, "Don't just do something; stand there!" — and then open it, and act according to your conscience.

Let's make it our watchword for the coming year: AS MUCH FOR OTHERS AS FOR OURSELVES, in as many senses as possible. Thank you.

Respectfully,

John C. Fuller

File

CANVASS 1971

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Chairman

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Dick & Shirley Di Matteo

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WAYS & MEANS REPORT - 1970-1971

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Chairman, Ways & Means Committee  
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1971??

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Buildings and Grounds

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Harriette Robinson

Chairman

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### Ushering

There have been two significant changes in ushering procedure this year:

1. The number of ushers (in addition to the Head Usher) has been reduced to two. Experience during the year has been favorable. Occasionally, special procedures during a service require additional ushers - when this happens, additional help is easily recruited on the spot.
2. For the past several weeks, the ushers have included ladies ("usherettes"?) as well as men. Call it "Women's Lib" if you wish!

Problems encountered have been very minor ones. Those listed below are included not by way of complaint, but rather because there may be those to whom the information is helpful:

1. Occasionally, the head usher must quell a disturbance in the foyer during a worship service. These are usually caused by youngsters who are "AWOL" from church school activities. "Do you know where your child is, at 11 am on Sunday?"
2. Certain worship services are done by a special group. If the group is to furnish ushers, or if special ushering services are required, the Head Usher should be so advised in advance.

Finally, I must express my great appreciation to those who have helped with ushering. Their cheerful co-operation has enhanced the services and made the ushering duties a real pleasure.

### Finance Committee

This committee was organized at a late date. As a result, the preparation of the budget was a somewhat frantic procedure, requiring several extra Board of Trustees meetings. In spite of the shortness of time, the board was diligent in affording the budget full consideration, and the result was good in that it reflects well the concensus of judgement of the board members.

In the coming year, it is strongly urged that the Finance Committee be organized as early as possible. It should, ideally, compile financial data from the treasurer and preliminary projections from church committees soon enough so that it can participate in establishing the Canvass Goal. Thus, much of the ground work will already have been done when the canvass results are in, so that the formulation of the budget will be facilitated.

As in the past, at least one committee member should be a Trustee, in order to insure a close liason between the Board and the committee.

  
Roger C. Thielking