

MAY MEMORIAL UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
169th ANNUAL MEETING
June 4, 2006

Call to Order: 7:03 PM—Barbara Mihalas, President

Adoption of Agenda: Addition to New Business, Item 4—Sam May Tablet
Minutes of 2005 Annual Meeting—Approved

Reports—all reports of all committees are printed for this meeting

1. **Highlights of Year**—Barbara Mihalas (see printed report)
 - Changes in Governance Structure for MMUUS
 - Increased involvement of May with the UUA and the St. Lawrence District, use of consultants, like Jerry King
 - Development of the Program Council, which is also working on updating the Operating Manual
 - Expansion of duties and membership of Public Relations Committee
 - Continuance as Fair Share congregation
 - Interim Ministry
 - Budgetary Changes
 - Board Covenant
 - A new DRE
 - New Office Administrator times two!
 - Election of the Search Committee
 - New computer system for MMUUS
 - Work Still to be Done:
 - updating the filing system
 - complete update of Operating Manual
 - need for new leadership for several committees
 - search for Settled Minister
 - new Board, New Goals, Fresh Ideas
 - Ongoing growth in Religious Education
2. **Ministerial Search Committee Report**—read aloud by Alice Chico
 - The current BIG push—complete the Congregational Survey
 - Developing a complete packet for the Search
 - Cottage meetings nearly completed.
3. **Nominating Committee Report**—read aloud by Peter Colman
4. **Reverend John Marsh remarks** (see printed report)
 - John notes that an often asked question is, "Is it normal to have the level of conflict in UU groups that we have had at MMUUS in the past?"
 - His comment: This body, the Congregation, is the Ultimate Authority here. UUs have no Bishop, the deciders are US. There inevitably will be conflicts, but it is imperative that we discuss creatively the things that are really important.
5. **Jennifer Hamlin-Navias** (see printed report)

- Jennifer had a lot of fun this year. She found the children in the Religious Education program engaged, curious, energetic, unafraid to ask questions. There is a "groupness" about them that shows they have a sense of identity as UUs. She felt the upstairs/downstairs split was not so bad. She is looking forward toward strengthening the religious education curriculum.
- Unique features about May:
 - We are very welcoming of our kids upstairs. This is not true in all churches.
 - She has found it unusual that the themes downstairs are so linked to upstairs themes, and feels that's very positive
 - Having a dedicated space for RE is unusual in many churches
 - The high expectation for parental involvement in RE is also unusual

Elections—no nominations from the floor. Slate approved **UNANIMOUSLY**

Board of Trustees

President: Fred Fiske

Vice President: Mariah Dillon

Secretary: Mary Fulton

Board of Trustees:

Anita Hastings-----three year term

Michael Stafford-Hill---two year term

Richard Applebaum---one year term

Kevin King-----one year term

Therese Hogle---continuing from 2005-2006 Board

Nominating Committee (one year terms)

Eliza Bailey

Janet Hiemstra

Barbara Mihalas

Ken Pease

Steve Ransford

New Business

1. Green Sanctuary Committee Resolution—to form a committee

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society shall hereby create a Green Sanctuary Committee. The committee shall be a standing committee with a chairperson approved by the Board and shall be composed of representatives of the congregation including representatives of all major committees, if possible.

The purpose of the Green Sanctuary Committee shall be to facilitate the process of MMUUS becoming and maintaining Green Sanctuary status as outlined in the most current recommendations and requirements of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth, which administers the Green Sanctuary program. In accordance with the Ministry for the Earth's current procedures, the Committee, with the concurrence of the Board, shall bring the Application for Accreditation as a Green Sanctuary to the Congregation for an affirmative vote when the required Action Plan and activities are complete. The Action Plan shall be approved by the Program Council and the Board.

If the Green Sanctuary status is granted, the Committee shall continue the recommended and related activities with a periodically revised Action Plan, as approved by the Program Council and the Board.

Discussion:

Budgetary implications?

No actual money amount is required. The congregation is only voting to form a committee to explore possibilities for Green Sanctuary.

Strong support from Dan Sage—symbolic value, this is a good idea, a form of Public Witness.

Resolution PASSED unanimously

2. Sam May Tablet—Roger Hiemstra

A thick marble tablet, approximately 9' x 3' x 2", with commemorative inscription to Samuel Joseph May from 1885, was located in storage by the Onondaga Historical Society. It originally hung below a stained glass window in the James Street church. The tablet has been reclaimed by May Memorial and will be repaired and hung on the exterior southwest wall of our building. Funds for the restoration and mounting came through the grant from the Universalist Convention received this year. A dedication ceremony for the tablet and the Pavilion is planned for October 1st, which will be our History Weekend. The tablet was described in the book, May No One Be A Stranger, by Jean Hoefler and Irene Baros-Johnson, both of whom are planning to attend that weekend. It should be quite a media event.

The Congregation is directed to the Web Site for pictures and more information regarding the tablet.

3. Operating Budget —Andrew Tripp (see attached)

- o This year we had a UU miracle, starting out with a \$35,000 deficit, and we wound up with about \$2500 in the black. How? By heavy, gross underspending—new personnel not yet getting retirement, less outlay on utilities than we had expected..
- o The proposed deficit is \$37,556. This deficit is, in part, due to not quite reaching our Stewardship goal. And we will have \$10,000 set aside for the Search—hopefully only a one-time expense. We have a new custodial contract, which is less than our previous custodial expense, and we have shoestring budgets for committees.
- o Discussion:
 - Office Administrator not quite up to Fair Compensation—we are moving toward that
 - A 30% increase is budgeted for Utilities
 - Betsy Fuller proposes restoring the 5-203.3 item covering the UUSC fee of one dollar per member

PASSED

- o **Vote to Accept Operating Budget, as amended. PASSED**

4. Capital Fund Budget for 2006-2007—Bill Haynes

Proposed Budget:

1. Three new Energy Efficient Refrigerators	\$5000
Ceiling Insulation for Memorial, Teen, and Foyer	
2. New amplifier and sound board	\$3500
3. Bridge Repairs	\$2000
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Total	\$10,500

Discussion

- Cupola repairs are in THIS year's budget, not next year's
- Ceiling insulation aesthetics still a big discussion
- Malcolm requests an additional \$400 for additional software for the computer operating suite, whose need for was not recognized earlier. This would bring the total to \$10,900
- Jill Evans believes the refrigerators will be approximately \$1000 apiece and that \$2000 may be too little for ceiling insulation—B&G's plan is to buy the materials and that members will do some of the installation.

Vote for the Capital Budget with amendment for computer software:

PASSED

Presentation of Awards

The Samuel Joseph May Annual Award for 2006—Janet and Roger Hiemstra

The Evelyn White Unsung Hero Award for 2006—Malcolm and Beverly Clark

Installation of Officers—Reverend John Marsh officiating

Reverend John Marsh and outgoing Board President Barbara Mihalas presented the new Board officers and trustees with a book,

Getting to Yes, by Roger Fisher and William Ury.

Adjournment: 9:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane S. Hainsworth, Secretary



President's Report
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2007
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May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society has had an active and successful year, the second with Interim Minister John Marsh. We were able to build on the wonderful governance changes worked out by Immediate Past President Barb Mihalas and her board of trustees, and approved by the congregation after much deliberation and spirited discussion. This year, we thoroughly updated the Operating Manual and Personnel Manual for MMUUS.

The board of trustees is now eight members, due to shrink to seven in the coming year. This streamlining allows for prompt attention to business at our monthly board meetings. While the board concentrates on policy decisions and fiscal stewardship, the work of our multiple committees is enhanced and coordinated through the new Program Council at monthly meetings facilitated by Vice President Mariah Dillon.

The religious education program led by RE Director Jennifer Hamlin-Navias is blossoming. The RE Committee and guides - parents and others - help create a center of activity, energy and spirit that is proving to be a magnet for families - and new members. Having the young ones sit and squirm and look cute in front of the Sanctuary for the weekly story reaffirms the message that children are a welcome part of worship - and that religious education is everyone's business.

It's been a busy year for committees, as the attached reports show. The new Green Sanctuary Committee led by David Ashley won unanimous support from the board and has been embraced by the congregation. Roger Hiemstra and the History Committee continue to unearth the momentous and the whimsical from MMUUS archives. A highlight of the year was the exhumation by Roger and Rev. Marsh of the cracked marble tablet from the old church, its repair and ceremonial installation on the lower west wall facing the Gazebo.

Anton Ninno, Bob Schulz and the Public Relations team have created an attractive, user-friendly Web site, and taken MMUUS to the next level of sermon-recording. This has helped the Worship Committee led by Chris Shultz and Joyce Leonard focus on planning services and lining up the summer worship schedule. Therese Hogle's revitalized Adult Ed Committee has gathered ideas and started expanding its offerings. The growing number of families and new members keeps the Membership Committee busy. Next year could be even busier!

The Social Justice Committee secured congregational approval for two acts of conscience: a Resolution on Torture and a Peace Vigil in front of MMUUS on busy East Genesee Street during Thursday morning drive-time. MMUUS Members have been active in charity and community projects, as well as in Denominational Affairs, attending leadership training weeks, district assemblies and workshops, and the UUA General Assembly. MMUUS is a fair-share financial contributor to the denomination and its mission.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed attending St. Lawrence UU District conferences on planned giving, growth and conflict resolution. The regular meetings of the Central New York cluster of UU fellowships (MMUUS, FUUS, Auburn and Central Square) are a great way to pick up good ideas and stay connected to the larger UU community.

MMUUS opens its doors to diverse groups and projects, first and foremost The Growing Place, the children's day center that has been a good tenant for many years. The church



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hosted district conferences - one on Social Justice, another on Racism, and a district-wide weekend Youth Con. The SLUUD's Jean Crain came to facilitate two workshops on conflict resolution hosted by May, and returned for a session on creating a congregational covenant. The CUUPS Pagan has been meeting at May. Friday night Folkus concerts fill the church twice a month with beautiful traditional and alternative-traditional music. Then there was the unforgettable spectacle of "The Vagina Monologues," put on by talented area high school students to promote a day dedicated to awareness of violence against women. (I wish you all could have heard Mary-Grace, daughter of RE Director Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, win over a somewhat wary Board of Trustees with her persuasive request for sponsorship.)

The church has been alive with parties this year - including luncheons put on by groups like the Coming of Age RE youth class, which used contributions to help pay for a memorable trip to Boston. It's been fun just to stick around church after worship for a bowl of soup, salad and good conversation, while helping worthy causes. The major fund-raisers of the church year take a lot more work by strong leaders and willing volunteers, and the results have been gratifying.

The finances of MMUUS are heading in the right direction. A deficit this year budgeted at \$38,000 now looks to be no more than \$23,000, covered by the reserve capital fund. Looking ahead, there's good news and even better news. The good news is that the projected deficit in next year's proposed budget is below \$15,000. If MMUUS continues to grow and leaders watch their spending, we could break even next year. Cross your fingers. The even better news is that this year's canvass came in 13 percent ahead of last year. Co-chairs Joel Hastings and Diane Hainsworth credit the stewardship team - and the 107 families and individuals who increased their pledges to help build a solid financial foundation for the Society.

Through this busy year, Rev. Marsh has been a good friend and spiritual leader. He stays close, listens well and is full of ideas - a great combination. His contributions range from the profound - congregational healing, organizational guidance, team-building, covenantal leadership - to details like fresh flowers in the bathrooms, a warm hug or a wry joke. His presence in the pulpit each Sunday is never less than inspirational. Be sure to find the time to thank him for his two years of extraordinary service to May Memorial, and wish him well as he heeds the call elsewhere - though he will make sure we're pastorally "covered" this summer, as needed.

The congregation owes a special debt to the Search Committee, led by Alice Chico. Kenel Antoine, Ed Blakeslee, Alexa Carter, Nancy Pease, Vicky Schipper and Linda Wobus joined Alice in the year-long process of consulting the congregation and finding a candidate for settled minister. Their hard work paid off: The Rev. Jean Wahlstrom landed in Syracuse from Phoenix in April for a whirlwind week of preaching and visits to every nook and cranny of MMUUS, and was resoundingly called by the congregation. Expect to see "Rev. Jean" in town starting in August. Then a new era begins.

It has been an honor to serve MMUUS, a religious community I have loved for 24 years. I thank retiring board members Rich Applebaum, Therese Hogle and Kevin King for their service. I appreciate the many contributors who make May Memorial a special place - including those who care for our exquisite but aging building and tend to the grounds and the Memorial Garden. Know that I appreciate all you bring, and that I look forward to days and months ahead that are spirit-filled and meaning-full.

Respectfully submitted by Fred Fiske



**Interim Minister's Report
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2007 Annual Report

from John Marsh

Interim Minister 2005-2007

As this is my final report to the congregation I will frame it around the Five Tasks of the Interim Period.

1. Coming to terms with History. Healing Grievs and Conflicts. Claiming and Honoring the Past.

There are perennial church issues (applause in church, wearing of robes, claims to authority, pastoral care) that continue to be charged with extra energy because of discussions that happened with the last called minister, Scott Taylor and Religious Education Director, Sheila Schuh. The congregation has made great progress in owning these conversations on their own terms. There has also been progress in appreciating the many gifts that Scott and Sheila brought to this congregation, as well as forgiving the shortcomings that are inevitably present in all human beings.

Having Rev. David Keyes visit last fall and lead the congregation through the "Writing on the Wall" project was helpful to many. David's sermon is still available online on the church web page and also in print.

Roger Hiemstra has done an extraordinary job as church historian during the past two years. The dedication of the Samuel J. May memorial plaque will forever be a highlight of my ministry. At the same time--much work has been done to reclaim the history of the congregation apart from the wonderful ministry of Samuel J. May. The marble bust of Samuel Calthrop has been brought up from the basement. We have had a temporary display of the photos of all the called ministers of the congregation and will soon have a permanent display. The written history of the congregation "Let No One Be a Stranger" is now available online.

We have also been aware that concentrating on our history shines a spotlight on how much males have had disproportionate leadership roles in our community. We have been glad to note the friendship between Samuel J.





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May and the early woman's rights pioneer, Matilda Jocelyn Gage. A wooden statue of Kwan Yin in our Memorial Room also now helps to balance the abounding male images.

2. Illuminate our unique identity, our strengths, our needs, our challenges

May Memorial continues its long tradition of being a center for the arts. Its outstanding musicians consistently provide music of the highest quality. Visiting musicians also provide inspiration and energy. The FOCUS concerts are one of the musical gems of upstate New York. The writers group is strong, ongoing and publishing!

It has been wonderful to see the Religious Education Program and the Social Justice Program come back into their own during the last two years. Much praise and thanks is due to those who kept the programs going during some difficult times, and those who have joined the programs in the last two years creating a new renaissance.

The Green Sanctuary Committee has issued a challenge to the congregation of making the building carbon neutral. This will require extraordinary effort and lots of money. However, as previously stated, this congregation can accomplish anything it wants to.

3. Clarify the multiple dimensions of leadership, both ordained and lay, and navigate the shifts in leadership that accompany times of transition.

Prior to my arrival, the congregation, with the advisement of Mary Hnottavange-Telleen, reduced the size of its board of trustees and began to have a Program Council meet monthly. These innovations are working well. The board is currently considering a proposal for quarterly meetings of an administrative council and the board. The administrative council would consist of : The Finance Committee, The Building and Grounds Committee, The Communications Committee, and the Personnel Committee.

With the exception of the Director of Music, Glenn Kime, and bookkeeper, Leslie Dendy, there has been a complete changeover in church staff during the last two years. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with all of the staff here. Week after week, they show extraordinary skills, intelligence and dedication to the well-being of this community.





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It has also been a great privilege to work with Board Presidents Barbara Mihalas and Fred Fiske who give continually of their time and energy. They have been a great support to me, and they are among those who are able to talk intelligently to every person in the community about any subject regarding the life of the congregation.

4. Renew connections with available resources, within and beyond the UUA

The church is extraordinarily active at the district level. It has made good use of district resources by participating in, providing leadership for, and also hosting workshops on different subjects, including fundraising, board leadership, electronic communication, social justice, writing a covenant of right relationships and behavior.

The Youth Group has hosted a district conference this year, and has had half a dozen youth participating in other district conferences.

May Memorial plans to send a team of lay leaders to the district leadership conference this summer.

I and two lay leaders have been active in the district cluster which meets (more or less) on a monthly basis.

This June Dan and Doris Sage will represent May Memorial at the national General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. It is my belief that May Memorial would benefit by being more involved at the national level. It currently has no member on any of the national committees.

5. Renew our vision, strengthen our stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest

The theme for the canvass this year was rainbows. Meanwhile our church Sunday School had its theme of butterflies. If we got any more zest around here we would probably have done something with unicorns, so it is probably just as well the congregation should stay a little bit grounded in reality.

The reality is that I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of serving this congregation for the last two years. Jean Wahlstrom is indeed fortunate to have been chosen





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to lead this congregation into its next phase. You are indeed fortunate to have your Search Committee choose Jean and you have shown wisdom in giving her a resounding welcome with your congregational vote. Great Ministers and Great Congregations create each other, and this is a congregation that can do anything it wants to.





Religious Education Committee
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It has been another busy and fulfilling year in Religious Education at May memorial.

This year we saw a significant amount of growth in the numbers registered for Re and the number of children and Youth attending RE classes and programs. We are ending the year with 60 children from nursery to coming of Age registered in our RE program. We have been having about 40 – 45 children and youth downstairs on an average each Sunday. Our Senior High youth group has varied in attendance anywhere from 3 – 10. Our growth has been significant enough that our Earthlings group (grades 1-2) had to be divided into two groups.

Our Committee had two members leave this year for work with other committees. Chris Shultz joined the worship committee and Mary Louise Edwards joined the history committee. We were sorry to see them go but they both did a wonderful job with RE and we are happy to share! Annegret Schubert and Julie Daniels stepped down as co-chairs and Stephanie Cross stepped up as chair.

This year our program saw some interesting ways in which our youth were involved in Social Justice. We started off the year having a pinwheels for peace installation around the May Memorial sign on East Genesee St. Our children made pinwheels which they decorated with messages supporting peace and then we put them on the front lawn on September 21st the 2007 International Day for peace. Our children participated in the downtown Syracuse CROP walk this year, helping to raise money to fight world hunger. Also our youth have consistently been bringing in food items and personal hygiene items for local food banks.

We also have been trying on implement more Green Sanctuary thinking in our RE class groupings. Our Webwalkers group (grades 3-4) has been using a curriculum that has been pulling activities from green sanctuary. Their main project for the year has been to study about monarch butterflies, and then research and create a monarch butterfly way station on the ground of May Memorial. By the time you read this report the garden should be planted and we will be waiting for the seedlings to come up.

Our Coming of Age program was run this year for students grades 7 -9th grade. It has been a few years since we ran a COA class. This year we were able to be a field-test site for a curriculum that the UUA is developing called Tapestries of Faith. Our COA youth are Dylan Ackerman, Katie Applebaum, Bobby Hogle-Easton Lauren Puente, Alex Sherman-Cross, Eternity Williams, and Sherwin Williams. We had a wonderful group of guides for this class; Lillian and Jerry Ackerman, Therese Hogle, Chris Shultz, Rob Neimeier and Joan Weiser. The guides put in many hours the students participated. Our COA youth were able to learn about the UU history and identity. And they were able to explore their own



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beliefs. The year culminated in a wonderful trip to Boston where we were able to visit the UU headquarters and have some fun exploring Boston.

Our Senior High youth group has been active this year as well. The adult leader for the group is Rachel Woods who has been doing a wonderful job spending time with our youth, listening, caring, and being an advisor. They planned and hosted a district wide Con (youth conference) in January. About 90 youth from all over the district came to MMUUS. The con went off without a hitch. Our youth are to be congratulated!

Mary Fulton lent her expertise in cataloging our RE books. She worked on cleaning up the collections and then cataloging. This is an ongoing project. The goal is that eventually we will have a collection of books for our children and families that support our curriculum and is a resource for families around our UU principles and sources.

A RE welcome packet was designed for the welcoming folks to hand out to new and visiting families. It contains information of UU in general and about May and its RE program in particular.

We ran a cooperative class of Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Elementary age children grades K -3. This class was held at MMUUS for 4 Sunday afternoons throughout the spring. We did this class in conjunction with members of Plymouth Congregational, UCC from Syracuse. About 8 children attended and it was a good experience for all.

We were able to host some social times for families, pizza lunches after service. It is good to provide educational opportunities, but it is also good to be able to have times when adults and children just get some time for conversation and fellowship.

So clearly it has been a busy year. But the heart and soul of RE is the Sunday morning programming; where our children gather, build community with one another and get to explore their world, their beliefs, and begin to explore how to live out their faith. None of that would be possible without the hours of dedication and work that our guides give our children. It is with great thanks that we recognize our guides and others who helped make each Sunday possible from this year:

Jerry Ackerman, Lillian Ackerman, Bev Adams, Judy Antoine, Kenel Antoine, Joan Applebaum, Eliza Bailey, Nuriyah Boné-Owens, Joy Casey, Jackie Clarke, Maria Czerwinski, Julie Daniels, Mike Dillon, Jill Evans, Fred Fiske, Steve Harris, Jeanne Healy, Therese Hogle, Thane Joyal, Kevin King, Mark Longo, Kristine Martin, Katrin Naumann, Rob Neimeier, Jennifer Newman, Dinah Olson, Rachel



Religious Education Committee
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Ozer, Carrie Pizrick, Ilene Puente, Rick Puente, Annegret Schubert, Chris Shultz, Bill Snyder, Robyn Valentino, Andrea Wandersee-Habbel, Joan Weiser, Deborah Wilson-Alam, Ruth Yanai, and Sharon Zuis

Thank you to all. As you can see it takes many, many people to make a RE program. We are thankful to all of you and very glad that we are here at May.



Building and Grounds Committee
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Building and Grounds Committee Members:

Doug Aird
Remo Bianco

Mariah Dillon (Chair)
Michael Stafford-Hill

Don Mackay
Dale Sherman

Charlie Hanna
Ross Valenti

May Memorial continues to face many maintenance issues that challenge the Building and Grounds Committee. The highest priority of these issues is the cement on the bridge which continues to crumble, general concrete deterioration, and the cupola's continuing intermittent leak.

Recent financial constraints have led us to put off maintenance items and focus on responding to emergency maintenance issues. Due in part to our successful canvass, I anticipate much of that deferred maintenance work to be completed in the near future.

In response to our recent energy audit, two energy efficient refrigerators have been installed - in the pantry and Kitchen. This is expected to cut down won energy use and save on our energy bills.

In response to an order from the fire department, files have been relocated from the furnace room into the downstairs office, which acts as the bookkeepers office, history and bookkeeping file room, office supply room, server room and spare committee meeting room.

The committee will soon be updating the Room Use Policy to include a sexton position who would oversee building use issues in the evenings or as needed. Our new custodial service continues to work out very well.

Maintenance Items Completed:

- Floors upstairs and down were cleaned and waxed
- Ground floor windows were washed
- A new lock was installed in the door to the Day Care
- Kuan Yin was installed in the Memorial Room
- New carpet was installed in the foyer
- Burnt-out Light Bulbs were Replaced
- Door Closures Repaired

Summer Projects:

- Additional Bridge Repairs
- Cupola Repairs
- Side Walk Repair
- Energy Conservation Projects study

Respectfully Submitted,
Mariah Dillon, Building and Grounds Chair



Caring Committee
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As in the past, the CareRing has sent many cards to members and friends who have lost love ones. Also, cards and some visits were made for some who had surgery this past year.

In September 2006, a memorial service was held for Bob Marshall who had passed away late summer. Around the holidays in December, Poinsettias were given to members who are mostly home and are unable to make Sunday services.

We now have blood pressure equipment in the office for anyone who would like to have his or her blood pressure taken. Robyn Longo donated these items.

Our communication is good with the help of the staff and our MMUUS community. We will always look for ways to improve this.

Recently, Carol Bickart has joined our committee and we hope others will join in the future. Once again, thank you, to the whole MMUUS community for your support and help this past year, and any suggestions is always welcome.

Respectfully,

Peggy Ryfun/Hildegard Vandersluis- co-chairs





**Denominational Affairs Committee
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Denominational Affairs Committee Report 2007

Members of the committee:

**Mary Fulton
Alexa Carter**

May Memorial has had many interactions with the St. Lawrence District in the past year. We have sent representatives to many district events and we have hosted several events. We have benefited from the services of several district consultants and received grant money from two different sources. We are a fair share congregation for both the St. Lawrence District and the UUA.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS HELD AT MAY MEMORIAL

September 14 District Social Justice Council meeting
September 23 Presidents' Conference
October 21 Social Justice with Charlie Clements
November 14 District Social Justice Council meeting
January 12-13 Teen Conference

CONGREGATION WORKSHOPS WITH DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

September 16 Intergenerational Communication with Kathy Ellis
September 30 Writing on the Wall Rev. Keys
October 15 Conflict Management Jeanne Crane
November 5 Beyond Categorical Thinking
March 25 Racism/Classism Workshop Paula Cole Jones

REPRESENTATIVES AT CONFERENCES AND TEACHINGS

July EAGLES training
March 10 Growth Workshop Albany
April 23 Interfaith Advocacy Day
April 27 -28 District Assembly

MAY MEMORIAL MEMBERS WITH POSITIONS IN THE DISTRICT

Harsey Leonard – SLUUD Social Justice Council Chair
Alexa Carter – co-chair Leadership Development Committee
Jody Brown – Youth Coordinator

CHALICE LIGHTERS





**Denominational Affairs Committee
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At the present time we have 40 members of the congregation enrolled in the Chalice Lighters program.

GRANTS

NYSCU - \$2500 to the History Committee to continue its work

Chalice Lighters – To improve the Memorial Room in order to continue to welcome newcomers

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

David Ashley and Peter Black – offered workshops at the DA

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The St' Lawrence District has provided advice, consultants, and a structure throughout the year which has enabled us to successfully call a new minister.





Green Sanctuary Committee
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Committee Members:

David Ashley Chairman Barbara Mihalas
Don Mackay Julie Daniel
Kevin King Harsey Leonard
Janet Allen
John Allen
Geri Aird
Doug Aird
Peter Black
Sue Savion
Randy Archambault
Kenel Antoine

Date May 2007

This is the committee's first year of operation and its first annual report

Just a word about our committee's charge. We are in the process of coming up with 12 tasks or more, so that we can apply to the UU Earth Ministries for Green Sanctuary status. The 12 tasks are in the categories of: 1. Environmental Justice, 2. Sustainable living, 3. Worship and Celebration and 4. Religious Education. Then we are to report to the Board and the Congregation for approval. We intend to do that next year some time.

In the meantime, we have already started some activities such as 1. The film series to which some of you came like "Inconvenient Truth" and three others. 2. Constructed a symbolic wind mill and have put up names of folks who signed up for renewable energy credits for some or all of their electric service. 3. Run a regular goinggreen column in the newsletter, 4 we gave two summer services last summer and will do at least one this summer. 5. Sending a letter to the newspaper promoting green principles on Earth Day. And 6. We did a presentation on Green Sanctuary April 28 at the District Assembly in Utica where we were pleased to have about 30 participants. Most of the other churches in the District have Green Sanctuary in progress, which we were happy to discover, but none have been certified yet.

Rev Jean Walstrom issued the church a challenge to become carbon neutral by the year 2015. This would be the responsibility of the B&G and Green Sanctuary Committees to figure out how to achieve that wonderful goal. David Ashley responded in a e-mail to Rev Walstrom who is still in Phoenix with the following That's what we should do, but it is indeed a radical thing for us partly because of our unique building with wood finish both inside and outside. The four steps to consider for the building to become carbon neutral are:

- 1. Insulate the building walls and roof (currently about R 4.5) with insulation exceeding the current code (R 30+), and replace the glass (R 1.15) with high performance glass (R 5 or better). This would cut the heat loss by 85% and heat gain in summer**
- 2. Install skylights for daytime lighting in the offices, foyer and social hall and toilets.**
- 3. Install a bio fuels gasifier and chip storage bin to supply the biogas for**



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the replacement condensing furnaces which could be much smaller because of decreased load.

4. For the remaining electric use in the day care center and occasional but limited summer air conditioning, buy renewable energy credits.

Those four goals would make us 100% carbon neutral. We will study this issue in the 2007-8 year and coordinate with the B&G Committee on a recommendation.

The committee intends to continue as a permanent committee after certification with an ongoing list of tasks that will periodically be presented to the Board and Congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ashley, Chairman



History Committee
Annual Report
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May 29, 2007

Committee Members: George Adams, June Card, Alexa Carter, Mary Louise Edwards, Roger Hiemstra (Chair), Harsey Leonard, and Verah Johnson

1. *Marvelous History Corner* articles were published in every newsletter and a variety of topics were covered. Many people have commented to a committee member about their value to them.
2. The History Committee met on three occasions.
3. Various preservation and organizational activities have begun on paper and media products. For example, digitization of both paper and media archival material is ongoing. In addition, considerable more archival material has been discovered and/or received and they now reside in Room 8 (basement).
4. A digital recorder was purchased with NYSCU monies and four people have been interviewed via oral history techniques with more planned in the future. In addition, audio and video interviews of several people in past years have been converted to a digitized format.
5. Considerable new material has been added to the May Memorial web page, the Sam May web page, and the off-site web page maintained by Rog Hiemstra. For example, a manuscript on the younger years of Sam Calthrop written by his daughter was recently added, and a biography of Sam May written by an SU history professor several years ago is in the process of being added.
6. A digital record of all History Committee activities is available on the Web: <http://www-distance.syr.edu/archives2005-2006.html> and <http://www-distance.syr.edu/archives2007.html>
7. The *Mary-Lib Whitney Award for Special Contributions to Religious Education* was updated and the plaque redone. It now resides outside Jennifer Hamlin-Navias' door.
8. Roger and Harsey presented on our preservation activities at the annual NYSCU conference in Albany, October 8, 2006.
9. The Sam May marble tablet was repaired by Professor Ron DeRutte, dedicated, and mounted in December on the outside southwest wall facing the Pavilion.
10. A second NYSCU proposal was submitted in December and \$2500 was received to continue our efforts during the 2007 calendar year. Such efforts include more preservation activities, creating a permanent history display area, and sharing the committee's growing knowledge pertaining to preservation with interested SLD members in two Saturday workshops in the fall, 2007.
11. A letter and resource guide related to our archives was mailed to all North America seminaries that work with students interested in the UU ministry in the hopes some students may be interested in doing related research papers or projects. It is displayed at <http://www-distance.syr.edu/mmuusresearch.pdf>.
12. A proposal for a permanent display of photos of past ministers was approved and is currently being designed. The display along with information on past church religious leaders and award winners will be in the Memorial Room.
13. Roger presented on Sam May during a Sunday service at the Auburn, NY, UU church.



History Committee
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14. A projector for connecting computers and other media to display digitized information to a screen has been purchased.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Hiemstra, Chair



Hospitality Committee
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May 29, 2007

Committee Members:

Randy Archambault
Mike Dillon
Donna Muhs-McCarten
Sue Savion

Hospitality Committee
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The Hospitality Committee is involved in all aspects of the life of May Memorial where food is involved. We organize dinners, breakfasts, and special events.

Starting in the fall, several people worked with the Board to organize the opening picnic. There were a couple of special events in which two of us served cake after the service. The crafters at our annual Fine Crafts Show and Sale have continued to laud us for the care we give them, with the wonderful food that is available throughout the time they are with us. The second annual Christmas Eve soup and salad dinner was appreciated by all who attended the services. The Sewardship kick-off breakfast was attended by a large number of congregants, many of whom commented on the excellent menu we prepared. During Candidating Week, we worked to assure that the lunches and dinners were organized smoothly. Rev. Jean Walstrom commented on how well we cared for her.

The new EnergyStar refrigerator in our pantry is greatly appreciated. It is efficiently organized and has a large freezer for storage of left-overs. I look forward to the purchase of a new, large microwave to take the place of the two donated appliances we presently have.

As a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee, as well as chair of Hospitality Committee, I have instituted a "Green Kitchen". All who use it are encouraged to utilize china and metal flatware, instead of paper products. We are looking into green cleaning products instead of commercial non-environmentally friendly ones.

Respectfully submitted
Randy Archambault, Chair
Hospitality Committee





**Membership Committee
Annual Report
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May 29, 2007**

Committee Members:

**Janet Hiemstra, Lee Ann McKinney, Mardie Ninno, Peggy Ryfun, Vicky Schipper,
Britt Zumpano**

The Membership Committee has focused its efforts this year on welcoming and helping to integrate newcomers into the May Memorial community. We worked closely with our interim minister, John Marsh, and we will miss his guidance and wit. We also began looking at strategies for promoting retention of newcomers and friends in an effort to enhance growth for our congregation.

Specific tasks we have accomplished include the following:

- Updated the MMUUS membership database. During the summer of 2006 one of our members worked with a person from finance to create a new directory that accurately reflects active members and friends;
- Staffed the Welcoming Table each Sunday, with personal follow up calls to visitors;
- Offered UU 101, a monthly informational meetings for visitors;
- Facilitated two joining ceremonies, with 17 new members. We provided UU102 classes, led by Rev. Marsh, for people joining prior to each ceremony and a follow-up breakfast for new members and their families;
- Discussed ways to better integrate new members and friends into the congregation and to also get longer-term members and friends more involved. We developed a list of such people to share with committee chairs;
- Participated in most Program Council meetings and made preliminary suggestions there regarding growth; and
- Attended a SLUUD workshop on growth. This involved two Membership Committee members and two Board members.

The committee needs the support of all committees and individuals at May Memorial to enhance the integration of newer members and friends and to help our longer-term members and friends stay actively involved.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hiemstra and Mardie Ninno
Membership Committee Co-chairs



Memorial Garden Committee
Annual Report
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May 13, 2007

Committee Members: Janet Allen; Randy Archambault; Ed Blakeslee; Mary Burdick; Julia (Jill) Evans, Chair.

1. *Finish Pavilion* The pro-bono construction leader, Dale Sherman, is recovering from surgery. Plans are underway to finish the pavilion this summer with the funds in this year's budget, as well as the walkway.
2. *Collaborate with others on Dedication of Pavilion and Sam May marble tablet Sunday, October 1, 2006.* On Sunday, October 1, 2006, the pavilion and Sam May tablet were dedicated in a Special Service. Many were present to install the tablet, a collaborative effort of Building and Grounds, History Committee and Memorial Garden Committee.

We also collaborated with the Religious Education Webwalkers class [3rd and 4th grades] in the development of a Monarch Butterfly Way Station to be installed in the Memorial Garden. Janet Allen presented a power point talk to the class and guide. The class studied the subject carefully, planted seeds, etc. The Committee has considered a location for the garden which will be installed after the frost danger has passed.

3. *Care of the Grounds* The Building and Grounds Committee and the Memorial Garden Committee continue to provide care of the grounds. It has become clear a more focused approach will be needed to address the needs that are evident as both the grounds and committee members age.
4. *Expand Committee Membership* Robert Rohde resigned in the fall of 2006 and Janet Allen joined the Committee in January, 2007.





**Office Administrator
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May 16, 2007**

Having completed an entire liturgical year here at May Memorial, I am excited for the new year and the opportunities it brings. While Pastor John Marsh will be missed greatly, the job he did preparing May Memorial for a new settled minister has been extremely professional, organized and sensitive. I have been honored to work with John and the strong core of dedicated staff.

There have been many changes in the front office, the biggest is the new relationship with the Public Relations Committee. There will be continued communication and design for the Web site and the Newsletter to have a uniform look and feel. Lots of new training and possible workshops for me regarding technology, and a welcomed challenge.

Office hours have changed to Sunday- Thursday from 9am-1pm, for phone calls and for coordinating projects. This allows project management time, and time for printing jobs. The messages will be checked each day at 3pm before the Office Coordinator leaves for the day.

I was lucky enough to meet Pastor Jean Wahlstrom, and am excited for the energy and passion she will bring to May Memorial. It is my primary function to work directly for Jean, and I look forward to supporting her and all staff in the future plans and visions of May.

Many thanks to the entire congregation at May Memorial, in their support of me while I was on disability. The outpouring of cards and concerns was incredible. With my renewed health and energy, I look forward to serving May Memorial for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Love
Office Administrator





**Public Relations Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2007
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May 29, 2007**

Public Relations Committee Report for 2006-07

The PR Committee offers the following list of activities for review:

1. Re-create the PR committee at MMUUS - done!
2. Re-design the website and move it to a new server - done!
3. Create an interactive event calendar on the website - done!
4. Create a "read-only" mailing list for the minister - done!
5. Record Sunday services and begin podcasting - done!
6. Create a new procedure for reviewing MMUUS communications - done!
7. Re-design the monthly newsletter to match the website - done!
8. Add a webpage for the MMUUS Writers Group - done!
9. Produce press releases for special events as requested - ongoing
10. Work with Roger Hiemstra to manage the history archive - ongoing
11. Post important documents as .pdfs on the website - ongoing
12. Convert our 3 Yahoo Groups (listservs) to one discussion forum - ongoing
13. Analysis of possible MMUUS corporate support (ads) on WRVO - ongoing
14. Edit the MMUUS monthly newsletter - continues until Sept. 2007

The PR committee has accomplished nearly all of the tasks it originally planned to attack when it first began holding meetings in May, 2006. The website is a work in progress, but it is nearly complete in all significant aspects. Work on the site next year will only concern maintenance, updates, and further refinement.

We will continue to assist the Board and its committees when our help is requested for press releases, website changes, and to review any internal or external communications documents such as brochures and pamphlets for programs.

Submitted by Anton Ninno, PR chair





**Program Council
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May 31, 2007**

Program Council Members:

Therese Hogle.....	Adult Education
Mariah Dillon, Facilitator, Vice Pres.....	Building and Grounds
Peggy Ryfun/Hildegard VanderSluis	Care Ring
David Ashley	Green Sanctuary
Roger Hiemstra	History
Randy Archambault	Hospitality
Mardie Ninno/Janet Hiemstra	Membership
Jill Evans	Memorial Garden
Nancy Pease.....	Music and Arts
Anton Ninno	Public Relations
Stephanie Cross	Religious Education
Harsey Leonard	Social Justice
Diane Hainsworth/Joel Hastings	Stewardship
Joyce Leonard.....	Worship

The Program Council met at approximately 4-6 week intervals to keep everyone abreast of events coming up on the church calendar. We met quarterly for full committee reports. We kept each other informed as to when stewardship events, candidating events, church wide workshops, special services and social justice events would take place. There were more than a couple times when calendar conflicts arose, but all was worked out very amicably. It is a goal of the Program Council that announcements made at the Program Council meetings would be communicated to each committee through the Program Council member.

At each Program Council meeting, the Chair (Board of Trustees Vice President) gave an update of Board business and happenings to the council. Program Council issues and events were brought to the board as needed.

The Program Council met in March with the ministerial candidate and helped her to gain an understanding of how May Memorial programming works.

The Program Council has been an excellent avenue for communicating the activities of our busy church. We brainstormed on Green Sanctuary issues and talked about ways to make our community more receptive to newcomers. We discussed the role of our Public Relations committee and how they can support all the other committees with publications. We heard from committees who need help and brainstormed ways to assist. We communicated our committee goals and supported each other in the effort to achieve those goals.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mariah Dillon, Program Council Chair



Search Committee
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Our task was to search for a minister who would be the best fit for MMUUS. To this end, we met nearly weekly to create a survey which would reflect the needs, wants and dreams of all of our members, and which would help inform the creation of a Congregational Record and Packet of information with which to introduce ourselves to interested ministers.

In all, we read 18 Ministerial Records on line (records submitted to us by ministers interested in MMUUS after reading our Congregational Record), and 12 ministers' packets. From these folks, we invited 3 ministers to a precandidating weekend with us.

After lengthy and careful deliberation, we unanimously agreed to invite the Rev. Jean L. Wahlstrom to be our candidate for settled minister. She spent the week of April 15-22nd with us, preaching twice and meeting formally and informally with many MMUUSers. On April 22nd at a congregational meeting, she was called to be our next settled minister, with a vote of 96.2%.

Rev. Wahlstrom will begin her ministry with us on August 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Chico, Chair
Search Committee.





Social Justice Committee
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Committee Members:

Julie C. Evans
Doug Igelsrud
Harsey Leonard

Rick Olanoff
Ike Sanbonmatsu
Daniel Sage

Doris Sage
Vicky Schipper
Mary Zimmer

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS:

This year as in previous years the congregation participated in programs to provide food and services to those less fortunate.

- The Samaritan Center meal preparation, organized by Julie Daniel and Linda Wobus, continued to be supported by members and friends of MMUUS. In addition to donating over \$600, volunteers assisted in the preparation and serving of several hundred meals four times throughout the year.
- The collection of food for the United Baptist Church continued, with a donation basket in the church foyer often full to overflowing. Food items donated are transferred weekly to South Beach Baptist Church, for distribution to needy families.
- The program to assist Plymouth Church's collection and distribution of toiletries and personal care items, not covered by food stamp, was also continued this year.
- The Social Justice Committee joined with RE to begin a program of collecting specific items to send to Paul Darmody-Latham for distribution to troops serving with him in Afghanistan.

Social Justice Sunday Services:

- Sunday August 27 as part of the summer service program the Social Justice Committee hosted the "Lost Boys of Sudan." Clement Kuek and Santino Atak told of their journeys out of Darfur to refugee camps where they were fortunate to be among the few that escaped to the United States. They also presented slides of the refugee camp and the medical clinic they are raising money to support. The plate collection totaling \$466 was donated to their cause.
- Sunday April 1st May Memorial welcomed Fr. Roy Bourgeois as the Sam May Day speaker. A large turnout included many new faces and several former members of May Memorial who came to celebrate with us as Fr. Bourgeois spoke eloquently about his involvement in the SOA Watch and other matters of concern involving US relations with Central and South American countries. Following the service many congregants enjoyed a soup and salad lunch and returned to the sanctuary for a lengthy conversation with Fr. Bourgeois. A substantial check was presented to Fr Bourgeois to support his ongoing work.
- In Relation to Fr. Bourgeois School of the Americas Watch, six members of May Memorial traveled to Ft. Benning Georgia this year to join several thousand others in protest.

Congregational Action:

- Following several months of study and many revisions, members of the Social Justice Committee presented a "Resolution to Stop State Sanctioned Torture" to





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members of May Memorial for their consideration and adoption on September 24th. Following a lengthy debate and a minor change in wording the resolution was adopted by a wide margin.

- On February 25th following the morning worship a congregational meeting was convened to consider a request by the Social Justice Committee to establish a silent peace vigil on Church property. The resolution was adopted. On March 22nd the first vigil was held from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The vigil will continue through the summer months.

St. Lawrence District Activities:

- September 14th May Memorial hosted the District Social Justice Council's monthly meeting.
- October 21st marks the date of the first District Wide Social Justice Conference. May Memorial acted as the host for this event. The Key Note Speaker was Charlie Clements, the Director of UUSC and a long time activist. Over 100 people representing 19 congregations attended the opening service and participated in one or more of the nineteen afternoon workshops offered.
- November 14th May Memorial hosted the District Social Justice Council's monthly meeting.
- March 24th the Social Justice Committee hosted a District Workshop on Racism/Classism presented by Paula Cole Jones from All Souls UU Church in Washington, DC.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

- The number of persons whose contributions qualify them for membership in UUSC increased to 34% of our church membership, once again qualifying May Memorial for the "Creating Justice Banner."
- UUSC's Guest at Your Table program contributions totaled \$2,250 up from \$1,303 last year representing a 42% increase.

Interfaith Impact of New York State Advocacy:

- On October 6th members of the Social Justice Committee attended a Legislative Education Day at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Several Senators and Legislative Aids spoke on a variety of topics.
- On April 23rd, three members from May Memorial joined over 80 activists in Albany to participate in Legislative Action Day. Sponsored by Interfaith Impact, members called on Senators and Representatives to present their positions on a variety of issues from the prospective of a liberal faith tradition.

International Interests:

- This year the Social Justice Committee was invited to participate in funding for a SUNY Upstate medical student's trip to Guatemala. Sarah Averill, a friend of MMUUS traveled to Guatemala to participate in an ongoing program of providing





Social Justice Committee
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medical care to indigenous migrant farm workers. In addition to providing funds from the committee's budget to help finance the trip the Social Justice Committee teamed with the Coming of Age group in RE to collect medicines for Sarah to take with her. Sarah will be participating in the Social Justice Committee's summer Sunday service on July 1st to share highlights of her trip with the congregation together with Doug Igelsrud and Nancy Gwinn.

- In January this year Doug Igelsrud joined a group of peace activists on a trip to Venezuela. The trip was organized by Witness for Peace, a national organization advocating for world peace.

The Social Justice Committee is working on an exciting agenda for next year and looking forward to working with our new settled minister Rev Jean Wahlstrom. We are also hopeful that we will be joined by some new members at our monthly meetings.





Stewardship Committee
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For the 2007 – 2008 stewardship campaign, the theme was “Over the Rainbow,” which represented our journey through the interim years of reflection and change and our anticipated arrival into the sunlight of new beginnings with a new settled minister, the restructuring of our organizational governance, and a reinvigorated congregation.

Our Stewardship Goal was \$250,000, and we have come encouragingly close to reaching this figure. Pledges totaled \$241,136.48 at the conclusion of the campaign on April 30. A total of 182 families and individuals made pledges, with 107 increasing their pledge amounts over last year. That number also includes 18 who did not pledge last year. The average pledge is \$1325, an 8% increase over last year.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates the work of many individuals who took part in the canvass—from subcommittee leaders to individual canvassers. We thank the entire membership of May Memorial for accepting the challenge to begin building a solid financial foundation for the Society.

Diane Hainsworth, Co-Chair

Joel Hastings, Co-Chair





**Worship Committee
Annual Report
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May 30, 2007**

Members

**Co-Chairs: Joyce Leonard and Chris Shultz
Beverly Adams, Carol Bickert, Doris Sage, Deborah Welsh**

The Worship Committee's goal of striving for excellence in worship, carried out so ably in past years, was the focus of the present members' efforts. Under Interim Minister Rev. John Marsh's thoughtful guidance, the committee's members worked to plan and coordinate the many and varied worship services throughout the year. Additional goals of recruiting new members to serve on the committee and inviting newer and or younger members to coordinate some of the services will remain the focus for next year.

Interim minister, Rev. John Marsh, could be found in the pulpit the majority of Sundays, guiding and cajoling members and friends of May Memorial to move toward a better understanding of each other and our role in community life. John's subtle and sometimes not so subtle use of humor has been an inspiration to members of the Worship Committee and to the members and friends of MMUUS. John has been exemplary in demonstrating our goal of excellence in worship.

The Sunday morning Story for All Ages guided by our Director of Religious Education Jennifer Hamlin-Navias continues to be a wellspring of inspiration for children and adults alike. The success of this weekly offering may be measured by the number of children coming to the front of the sanctuary to sit on the rug to listen to the story.

The efforts of Director of Music Glen Kime and the dedicated members of the May Memorial choir are evident and deeply appreciated. In addition to their ongoing contribution to the spirituality and enjoyment of the morning worship, they have worked especially hard this year to present two special music services. These popular services are a showcase for the plethora of talent among May Memorial's members and friends of all ages.

A long time tradition of special services continued beginning with the "Water Communion" in September. Robin Kimmerer read her essay "Hydrology." During the service, many members and friends shared their summer experiences.

This year's Memory Tree service held a special meaning for us, as three long time members of May Memorial, Hannah Hayman, Evelin Page and Bob Marshall had passed away. A short biography of each member was read to begin the service. Bob Marshall's brother participated in the chalice lighting and offered remembrances of his brother.

Later that day, John led the Blessing of the Animals which was attended by many animals and their owners. The animals put on their best behavior for the service, sitting quietly while the owners shared their experiences and spoke of the special relationships they have with their pets.

Special services were prepared and presented by John Marsh during the traditional holiday seasons including Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. In early 2007, Rev. Marsh presented a series of sermons on reading and spirituality: "Reading as a Spiritual Discipline," "Comedy and Tragedy" as represented in the classics, Uncle Tom's Cabin and concluding with an in depth discussion of The Kite Runner.

February was MMUUS Loves the Arts month. Joe Cleveland spoke from the pulpit on the subject of "Woman's Literature from a Male Perspective." Joe's timely topic preceded the presentation at May Memorial of "The Vagina Monologues." This contemporary production was



Worship Committee
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presented at May Memorial the following weekend by a high school theatrical group that included several May Memorial teens in the cast.

Nan Gartner and members from the MMUUS Writer's Group were featured later in the month. Members read from their own works of poetry. The final Sunday in February featured the Wacheva Cultural Arts African Dance troupe under the direction of Bebohi Ouikahilo, originally from the Ivory Coast. This talented group of local performers presented many dances and provided explanations of their ritual meaning to tribal ceremonies. As a finale, members of the congregation, including Rev John Marsh, were invited to participate with the performers.

We welcomed several guest speakers to our pulpit this year. In September, Kathy Ellis in period dress spoke on Jane Adams work in the immigrant settlement houses.

In October, Rev. David Keyes, Interim Minister from Atlanta, GA. facilitated a "Moving On" workshop on Saturday followed by a sermon on Sunday. The following week, Rev. Timothy Behrendt and Peggy Spencer provided a glimpse into their efforts to return to a simpler time, through folk music and the spoken word. They also presented a visual look at their rural home in the social hall after the service.

In November, Donna Sequeira and Eddy Carro, emissaries from the UUA, presented a service in the sanctuary followed by an afternoon workshop titled "Beyond Categorical Thinking." Both the service and the workshop were well attended.

In February, Betsy Spaulding, a UU Minister, who is from Syracuse and active in the St Lawrence District led us in worship.

Father Roy Bourgeois, a Maryknoll priest and founder of the School of America's Watch in 1990, was the featured speaker at the annual Sam May service. The Worship Committee would like to thank Doris and Dan Sage for their considerable efforts in making Father Bourgeois' trip to Syracuse and May Memorial possible. After the service a luncheon was provided. Following the luncheon, Father Bourgeois returned to the sanctuary for a question and answer session.

Candidate week was an exciting time for all May Memorial's members and friends. There were numerous opportunities to meet with Rev. Jean Wahlstrom. Search Committee Chair Alice Chico and President Fred Fiske, two former members of the worship committee, coordinated for the two Sundays she was with us. When the Worship Committee met with Rev. Jean, she shared with us some of the experiences she has had with other worship committees as well as some of her expectations of our committee. We are looking forward to working with her in the coming year.

Other services included Stewardship Kickoff, Congregational Covenanting, Earth Day, Dedication of Kwan Yin statue, New Member Signing, Coming of Age, and the Flower Communion Service.

The summer services are all arranged and will include some old favorites and some new offerings.

We have enjoyed working with and learning from Rev. John Marsh. He has inspired us throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Leonard and Chris Shultz, Co-Chairs
Worship Committee