

**May Memorial
Unitarian Universalist Society**
171ST Annual Meeting ☞ June 1, 2008

Agenda

Call to Order — Fred Fiske, President, Presiding
Adoption of Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of the
2007 Annual Meeting
Approval of the Minutes of the
January 20, 2008, Special Meeting
Reports
Election of Officers, Trustees,
and Nominating Committee
Adoption of Operating Fund Budget for 2008–09
Adoption of Capital Fund Budget for 2008–09
Presentation of Awards
Installation of New Officers
Closing Remarks — Fred Fiske
Adjournment

Table of Contents

Minutes of
June 3, 2007, Annual Meeting
Minutes of
January 20, 2008, Special Meeting
President's Report
Minister's Report
Religious Education
Director's Report
Music Director's Report
Committee Reports
Financial Reports
• *Year-End 2006–07*
• *Operating Fund, May 2008*
• *Capital and Endowment Funds*

**May
Memorial**
Unitarian Universalist Society

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
170th ANNUAL MEETING
June 3, 2007

Call to Order: 7:00 PM - Fred Fiske, President

Adoption of Agenda: as printed on the meeting packet

Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting: Approved as presented

Awards:

Samuel J. May Citation for Community Action to Samaritan Center of Syracuse

Evelyn White Unsung Hero to Harsey Leonard

May Memorial Annual Award to Alexa Carter

Outstanding Service to the Community to Bob Schulz

Office Administrators Award to Randy Archambault

Gift: David Fulton presented the congregation 2 checks from the Folkus Board. \$901.80 was from refreshment donations and \$1000.00 was a special gift in appreciation of May Memorial's support of the concert series.

Reports: all committee reports are printed for this meeting.

DRE Jennifer Hamelin-Navias thanked the RE Committee for their work and reported that the children's weekly donations would be sent to the Heifer Project. She mentioned several activities which the children had enjoyed, all of which conveyed the community message "to be engaged".

Fred Fiske reported that the Board had unanimously agreed to sponsor Jennifer Hamelin-Navias' studies to become a Unitarian Universalist Minister of Religious Education.

Gary Droege reported that 12 new Chalice-lighters enrolled today.

Randy Archambault reported that 80 people had signed up to attend John Marsh's farewell dinner.

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 - 2 years remaining

Michael Stafford-Hill - 1 year remaining

Joyce Leonard - 3 year term

Rob Neimeier - 3 year term

Nominating Committee - 1 year terms

Kenel Antoine
Eliza Bailey
Alice Chico
Barbara Mihalas
Ross Valenti

New Business:

1. Operating Budget - Joan Weiser (see attached)

- * This years deficit is \$18,000 less than anticipated
 - * The Growing Place has a signed contract for \$34,364.
 - * The 5% salary increase is compliant with the UUA fair compensation guidelines
 - * The position of teen advisor is a new one. This person will be under the supervision of the DRE.
 - * Office expenses are higher this year due to more new members and the new minster which requires new stationery, etc.
 - * A new expense of \$200 is a copyright license for showing videos in the church
 - * John Marsh started providing flowers in the restrooms. This practice will be continued by Mary Burdick
 - * Ongoing search committee expenses are for the new settled minister's moving costs
 - * Since the deficit this year is less than half of that projected with increased pledging there is the hope that the \$14, 355 deficit projected for next year may not actually occur
- * Discussion: Joel Hastings asked about the availability balance sheets. These are posted monthly on the Board bulletin board. He also asked about auditing procedurcs. Joan indicated that better procedures are being planned by the Finance Committee.

MOTION: to accept the budget as presented
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Capital Budget - Bill Haynes

Concrete Repairs (bridge and sidewalk) \$10,000
Wayside pulpit replacement \$3000
Minister's pulpit refurbishment or replacement \$2500
Lighting Upgrade (Office and Growing Place) \$4000
Rekey the building \$1000
Total: \$20,500

* Discussion:

- * Currently there is \$131,000 in the Capital Fund and \$70,000 in the Endowment Fund
- * Refurbishment, or replacement, of the minister's pulpit proved to be an emotionally charged issue. It was recommend that a task force meet with the new minister to discuss possibilities which would preserve the historical significance of the present pulpit while meeting her needs.

* May Burdick recommend presenting the Capital budget at the Board budget meeting so questions such those concerning the pulpit could be addressed in a more timely manner.

* Linda Wobus asked about the condition of the cupola. Mariah replied that roof repairs have been done recently and that there are plans to repair a door seal. This is a maintenance expense, not a capital one.

* Mal Clark pointed out that the new minister would not have access to a computer since John uses a personal laptop. Jennifer Hamelin-Navias said there is a PC in her office which Jean could use.

* Annegret Schubert asked for brighter hallways and bathrooms downstairs

MOTION: Change the wording of the capital budget to refurbish "or replace" the minster's pulpit.

PASSED with one opposing vote

MOTION: to accept the capital budget as amended

PASSED unanimously

3. Covenant of Right Relations - Harsey Leonard (See attached document)

Discussion:

* Vicki Schipper suggested there should be a statement about accepting feelings as part of conflict resolution. Harsey responded that the covenant is not meant to address conflict resolution, rather it is intended to model ideal relations

* Mary Louise Edwards asked if the document meant to include children as well as youth. Harsey responded that it referred to all persons of younger ages.

* Harsey recommended displaying the covenant and that all standing committees develop covenants too, similar to the Board covenant. These all need to be revisited frequently to be living documents.

MOTION: To adopt the covenant as written

PASSED: 68 - 2

Installation of Officers : Barbara Mihalas

Closing remarks: Fred Fiske

Topics of importance in the near future are

1. developing a spirit of generous stewardship and planned giving
2. a capital fund campaign to refurbish the building as it deserves, this will require the new ministers involvement
3. seeking new members
4. delicate covenantal matters concerning disruptive members and safe congregations
5. making more connections at the district and denominational levels
6. Participation in Association Sunday in October to amplify our voice in the liberal religious movement

Adjournment: 9:12 PM

Respectfully submitted, Mary Fulton, Secretary

MMUUS Congregational Meeting Jan. 20, 2008
Minutes

The meeting convened shortly after noon, with at least 64 members present.

MMUUS President Fred Fiske convened the meeting and explained its purpose was to consider a resolution from the Social Justice Committee to continue the vigil for peace on church property for the indefinite future.

Social Justice Committee Chair Harsey Leonard provided background on the vigil, which has been going on over the previous year. He explained the vigil for peace is not political, following the UU principle advocating "the goal of world community, with peace, liberty and justice for all." He said signs call for "Peace," "End the War in Iraq" and the like. Because the vigil originally authorized at a previous congregational meeting was time-limited, the committee wished to have approval to continue it as long it felt necessary.

He read the resolution (copy available).

Steve Ransford moved to accept the resolution. Jill Evans seconded.

Discussion included what is defined by "political," why there should be a time limit, why restrict the vigil to either Tuesday or Wednesday, rather than at the discretion of the committee. Several members rose to speak in favor of the resolution.

Michael Stafford-Hill spoke against the resolution. He said he believes in independence of thought, and that this resolution mixed politics and religion. He said the motion was prejudicial in that it defines social justice as political action, that people need to make up their own minds on the subject. He said the motion represents political interest parading as moral authority, and that carrying a sign is by definition political. He asked: Do we want to reinforce that social justice is political? The association is too close, he said. Self-righteous politics and religion are too closely linked. He said he doesn't want the Peace Council "brand" identified with the UU "brand." He said May Memorial already has a reputation as a left-wing organization. He asked: Do we want to appeal only to people like ourselves? Do we disinvite people that way? You don't have to be a leftie to be a UU, he said, and that there shouldn't be a political test for UU membership.

A motion to call the question failed.

Discussion continued. Peter Colman proposed an amendment that eliminated specified days of the week and set a time limit on the vigil of five years. Mardi Ninno seconded the motion. Michael Stafford-Hill moved to amend the amendment to change the time limit to one year. Therese Hogle seconded.

A vote to call the question succeeded, and the amended amendment (no specified day of the week, time limit one year) was adopted with no negative votes.

A vote on the resolution followed, and it passed, 58-4.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Submitted by Mariah Dillon and Fred Fiske, scribes



President's Report

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

At the end of the 2007-8 church year, I'm delighted to report that May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, with its new settled minister, the Rev. Jean Wahlstrom, is a busy, spirit-filled place.

Four task forces have been engaged in diverse projects to advance the MMUUS vision, mission and program:

1) The Chalice Lighter grant task force is completing its job. Its plan to enhance and update the Memorial Room will be put into effect this summer, making one of May Memorial's special spaces even more welcoming and useful. Thanks go to Alexa Carter and her group.

2) The Safe Congregation task force is moving forward to help develop policies that will take the MMUUS Congregational Covenant one step further, ensuring that MMUUS is a safe place for children and adults alike. Thanks to Rob Neimeier, RE Director Jennifer Hamlin-Navias for their patience and persistence in working through the process.

3) Rev. Jean has convened a group to work with her to develop new MMUUS guidelines for communication and conflict resolution - another outgrowth of the Congregational Covenant adopted by members at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

4) The new Mission-Vision Planning task force has been doing some good thinking about developing a "road map" to guide MMUUS as it sets in place plans for the next five years or more.

Here are more highlights, from the president's perspective, of an active year at MMUUS:

To improve coordination and communication, the board this year raised the profile of the "Administrative Council" that stands beside the successful Program Council. While Program Council meetings are the way representatives from Social Justice, Worship, Adult Education and other program areas share and support each other, now administrative committees - Personnel, Capital and Endowment Funds, Public Relations and others as needed - are invited to report to the board at least quarterly.

This has been a productive year for May Memorial's committees, including the new Green Sanctuary Committee, which is poised to make MMUUS an advance outpost in charting a new energy and environmental future. The Social Justice Committee won the congregation's blessing for its peace vigil on Genesee Street - then got the congregation's nod to keep the weekly vigil going for years, if the committee deems it necessary.

cont...





President's Report

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Closer to home, the SJC kept the congregation involved in contributing personal care items to the poor in Syracuse through the Beech Street Baptist Church collection site. May Memorial's Web site has been a vital source of information, and shows potential as a recruiting tool.

Special memories of my year include a President's Workshop in Central Square last September, where Karen Palmer described the Oneonta UU Church's strategic process that produced this stirring, 12-word Mission Statement: "Creating beloved community/Freely seeking the light/Reaching for a better world."

At the same workshop, I had the opportunity to join with Jean Crain of the St. Lawrence UU District in "telling the story" of May Memorial's last few years.

In October, it was a privilege to help promote Association Sunday - an awkwardly named initiative to raise the UU banner in the world. MMUUS members contributed generously to this denomination-wide campaign, and the result already includes eye-catching ads in Time Magazine. This could be a good tool for growing the beloved community.

In October, SLUUD Executive Tom Chulak came to May Memorial to lead a memorable All-Congregation Gathering where dozens of members "reclaimed" the church through reviewing and cherishing its history and leaders. Tom took time the next day to meet with the board, committee chairs and staff to help focus energy on the road ahead.

May Memorial played host to some notable events during the year - from Professor Frederick's multicultural extravaganzas, to a party for Liberia's 150th Independence Day that nearly got out of hand! Throughout the year, Folkus brought some of the best music in town to May Memorial - and donated generously for the privilege. Thanks, Folkus!

Music has been a source of inspiration at MMUUS all year, thanks to Music Director Glenn Kime, the choir, other volunteer contributors and Music and Arts Committee Chair Nancy Pease. Jazz notable Nancy Kelly stopped by for a concert/fund-raiser in February. There were in-house cabarets during May Loves the Arts Month - including a concert from Yours Truly that was a personal thrill. (Special thanks to my collaborators: guitarist/mandolinist Chris Boddy and soprano Linda Wollowitz.) Bev Adams' inspired staging of her musical revue, "Letting It All Hang Out," in May capped the year in "spiritual entertainment."

February saw the formal installation of Rev. Jean. It was a thrill to be part of the closest Unitarian Universalism comes to pageantry, with UU notables from all around on hand, processing in their splendid robes and accessories. I particularly appreciated the Rev. Scott Taylor's participation, with his frank, healing remarks from the pulpit.





President's Report

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

At the Board Retreat last September, trustees brainstormed the following goals:

- 1) Develop a Mission Statement to guide MMUUS in the years ahead.
- 2) End deficit spending.
- 3) Present a balanced budget at the next annual meeting.
- 4) Restore capital funds in next year's budget.

How did the board do? The Mission/Vision planning group has laid the groundwork for an exciting experience next year. The proposed budget is still in deficit, but at least it holds the line, and provides more resources to follow the long-term plan of "growing" toward a balanced budget.

The 2008-9 budget presented to you by the Board of Trustees may not be balanced, but in a tough economic year for MMUUS and its members, it reflects the generous and genuine stewardship commitment of members, the deft leadership of Stewardship Co-Chairs Joel Hastings and Jason Winkler, and the dedicated work of their team. Continued growth in the congregation can only help. So does the effective work of the folks who mount the splendid MMUUS fund-raisers, like the fine-arts-and-crafts show over the holidays.

Other goals for MMUUS, including personal ones, are still out there. A Capital Campaign still lies in the future. Planned Giving has yet to raise its profile as part of church life. While some generous members have contributed to the UU Fellowship in Gulfport, Miss., more could be done to help former MMUUS member Rich Halloran and others rebuild an outpost of liberal religion in the Deep South.

These last are reasons for me to stay engaged in the good work of MMUUS after my presidency. I look forward to more "good years" in which to continue celebrating UU principles, contributing to and drawing from this religious community, and being engaged in furthering May Memorial's mission.

- Fred Fiske, president





Parish Minister's
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

This has been my first year here as your settled parish minister. The year's highlights have centered around our "Start Up" as congregation and minister. On October 26, we were led by St. Lawrence District Executive Rev. Tom Chulak in a workshop we called "From Strength to Strength". With Tom's encouragement, you built the story of succeeding generations of parish ministry at May Memorial. It did indeed feel like a gift to hear so clearly what has brought us to this moment in May Memorial's history. The next day, Tom met with the Board, staff, some administrative committees, and me to articulate our understandings of the ways we will work together, and how we will share or divide responsibility.

February 10, 2008 was our Installation ceremony. What a festival it was! The Ministerial Search committee did the bulk of the preparation and planning, with the help of Janet Hiemstra, Committee on Ministry members, and many others. Mary Burdick's flowers, Betsy Fuller's decor, and music arranged by Nancy Pease brightened the snowy day. Colleagues, family, and neighbors traveled to be with us. My ministry internship supervisor (1989-90!) Rev. Richard S. Gilbert delivered the sermon, Rev. Chulak gave the "Charge to the Congregation", and Rev. Scott Taylor provided the "Charge to the Minister".

Next fall I am looking forward to two very different "pulpit exchanges". The first will be an exchange in the usual sense, with Rev. John Marsh returning to lead worship here while I am at his congregation in Arlington, Mass. By fall we are also anticipating the arrival of a new Stickley pulpit for the sanctuary. The existing pulpit/lectern will undergo some seriously needed restoration before coming back as an (albeit less functional) alternative.

In terms of personal "start up", I have purchased a house in Jamesville – six miles south of May Memorial. I am very near Clark Reservation State Park, which I have enjoyed exploring these past three seasons. In January, I was interviewed for the "Neighbors" section of the paper.

There have been a number of deaths and health crises in our congregation this past year, including the death of Norma Coye in November. Earlier this month, we shared a memorial service for former MMUUS member Richard Dersheimer; Greta traveled up from Virginia to be with Syracuse friends in celebrating Dick's life. Both Norma and Dick will be remembered as we pass through the Memorial Garden, where their ashes rest. I also led a memorial service for Amanda Winkler's mother Valerie Eubanks.

I officiated at the wedding of one non-MMUUS couple, and will officiate at the wedding of Victoria Ashley in late May.





Parish Minister's
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

On March 23, we included in the Sunday service a ceremony of Child Naming/Parent Dedication. Nine children from four of our families – Kaftan, Hamlin-Navias, Siwinski, and Winkler – were a part of this special ceremony. A portion of the Teenz service on May 18 was a recognition of youth Bridging in to or graduating out of the Teenz youth group.

Each January, we report to the UUA our adult membership and other statistics. This year, we reported **239 adult members, 85 children and youth, and 182 pledging households**. Through the strong efforts of our Membership committee, May Memorial membership continues an upward climb. We added 20 new members this year.

Sunday attendance has continued strong, averaging about 128 adults at services. May Memorial has several annual celebrations which rank as highlights of the worship year: the Ingathering Water Ceremony, fall Memory Tree service, winter and spring Sundays, and the (upcoming) Flower Communion. The Worship committee planned several notable services, including an intergenerational Thanksgiving service, and guest speakers author Kate Braestrup and Sam May Day speaker Bill Cross.

Religious growth and learning are a life-long process, and an integral part of parish ministry. I have enjoyed working with Jennifer on our regular story/lesson time in the sanctuary. I have also found time to visit Children's Chapel, to be interviewed by the "Suuper Heroines and Heroes" class, and to consult with the Teenz on their May 18 service.

For adults, I have led two Introductory series on UUism (called "UU 102"), and a workshop on planning and leading worship. I am hoping to do much more with Adult Education and also with Campus ministry in the upcoming year. In May, I was invited to be the speaker at our annual Women's Luncheon, where I enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the women of the congregation in a more intimate setting.

In the coming year, we will launch a program of Small Enrichment Groups. Using the "small group ministry" or covenant group model so successful in other UU congregations. These will be facilitated circles for sharing, learning, serving, and spiritual growth. Always open to new members, the groups should promote new connections and deepen relationships within our congregation. Since mid-winter, I have been meeting with the group who will become the group facilitators. In the fall, we look forward to a district workshop on small group ministry (Albany, Sept. 27) and a guest speaker to address the congregation as we launch these open groups.





Parish Minister's
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

A number of involvements beyond May Memorial are a part of my ministry, as well. On May 15, I participated in an interfaith panel discussion coordinated by the Christian Science church. The topic was "Where is God when bad things happen?"; the lively program was reviewed in the next day's *Post Standard*. I have participated in meetings of the Iroquois chapter of the UU Ministers Association, and the January meeting of the Fraters of the Wayside Inn – a small group of UU colleagues who meet annually in Sudbury, Mass.

On numerous occasions this past year, our staff has gone the extra mile in service to MMUUS. Music Director Glenn Kime, DRE Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, Office Coordinator Karen Love, and Bookkeeper Leslie Dendy all bring to their positions knowledge, commitment, and good humor. Our staff's collective talent and stable working relations go a long way to making MMUUS the fine religious institution it is. Despite the continued budget deficits, I support the increases proposed (over a 2-year period) for the DRE position and RE administrative support. It will represent May Memorial's commitment to providing a stronger ministry to children, youth, and families – to our future.

This has been Fred Fiske's second year as congregation president, and I have enormously enjoyed working with him. Fred's energy, dedication, and talents have made this important position look easy. Fred inspires us with his passion for Unitarian Universalist growth and outreach.

Finally, let me say how grateful I am for the privilege of serving as your settled parish minister.

Blessings, Jean





Director of Religious Education
and Religious Education Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

This has been a productive year of growth for the R.E. Program at MMUUS. Below are some of the highlights.

We have been a test site for the "Creating Homes" K-1 level curriculum, which is part of the UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum.

- In the autumn of 2007, our youth put on an Empty Bowl luncheon which raised over \$500 for the Homeless and Hungry Program. The youth made soups and breads to serve at a congregational lunch and painted bowls which were sold to the congregation.
- We had a small group participate in the Crop Walk in the fall of 2007, which raised money and awareness to end hunger through the work of Church World service.
- For the first time, the Middle school OWL (**O**ur **W**hole **L**ives) program was done in coordination with the youth/leaders from the First UU congregation. In total, there were 14 youth with a team of OWL leaders (Stephanie Cross, Steve Reiter, Annegret Schubert from MMUUS; Alan Stillman and Tanya Gesek from FUUS). This year long curriculum ended in a graduation on May 18, 2008.
- The Teen Group has been going strong with 5-10 youth each week and staff support/guidance through Rachel Woods. Several teens from MMUUS are involved in District leadership. Taylor Longo sits on the St. Lawrence District Board of Trustees as a youth representative.
- This was the first year of using a guide team model for each group of children in the R.E. program. This increased flexibility of scheduling guides throughout the year. The feedback was generally good about this new model.
- In January 2008, we hosted Sally Patton for a workshop "Creating Beloved Community - Welcoming Children with Special Needs" which was co-sponsored by MMUUS, FUUS and Plymouth United Church of Christ. The day-long conference was well attended by people from the region.
- The 85 children were registered in R.E. by Spring, 2008. On average, attendance each week was 50 children (nursery - high school)





Director of Religious Education
and Religious Education Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

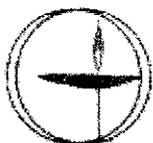
- 6th grade group is replanting for the Monarch Butterfly Way Station in an ongoing project of maintenance.
- Eleven children were dedicated this year at the Dedication Ceremony on March 23, 2008
- We had the Seven Weeks of Unity, which included two intergenerational services with a focus on our 7 principles and the sources.
- On May 18th the Teen Group, in consultation with Reverend Jean, planned and lead a Youth Service for the congregation.
- Looking forward to increased coordination with the Social Justice Committee and an increase in intergenerational services.

Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Cross-Chair

Committee Members

Lillian Ackerman
Nuriyah Bone-Owens
Joy Casey
Jackie Clarke
Julie Daniel
Carroll Grant
Therese Hogle
Thane Joyal
Rob Niemeier





Music Director Report
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

This report is primarily a way to say "Thank You" to the many people who have participated in the life of May Memorial by sharing their musical talents. As always, the choir remains a vital part of our worship, singing for 34 services throughout the church year. This includes the Winter and Spring Music Sundays, Rev. Wahlstrom's Installation, as well "regular" Sunday morning services.

Both Fred Fiske and Joe Cleveland provided music for services in my absence, a relief for me, and a luxury envied by my colleagues. My personal thanks to both Fred and Joe.

The depth of musical talent is great here at May Memorial. Many have participated by accompanying, performing special music, singing in the One Hour Choir, and even *creating a musical!* All of this adds to the richness of this place.

Our Holtkamp organ is now 44 years old, and needs some attention. A cleaning of the organ itself and a restoration of the console to reverse normal wear and tear as well as water damage are in order. I will talk more of this in the coming year.

Glen Kime
Music Director





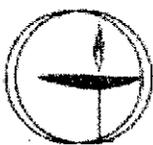
Buildings and Grounds Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

The committee worked to keep pace with the many issues created by the age of the facilities and the budgetary problems of the past many years. We rely heavily on volunteers, with limited time available. Despite those impediments we have kept up with many necessary maintenance needs while also doing some tracking of energy use and brainstorming energy efficient solutions. Some of our work this year is listed below. Many members of the congregation have helped with these tasks, especially during several work days that the committee organized.

Ongoing maintenance:

Light Bulbs and ballasts replaced - a constant and high altitude activity
(Michael Stafford-Hill, Bruce Macbeth, Mariah Dillon, Michael Dillon)
Driveway potholes patched - another constant (Charles Hannah)
Floor tiles replaced (Remo Bianco and Charlie Wollowitz)
Windows washed (Jill Evans, Adele Toney, and several others)
Dumpster area clean-up (Adele Toney, and others)
Cupola repairs - how much longer can this go on? (Stafford-Hill)
Furnace repairs (Bruce Macbeth and Doug Aird)
Large poplar cut down (Dale Sherman, Jerry Ackerman, Mariah Dillon)
Outside door repaired, new lock installed, doorbell installed (Stafford-Hill, Macbeth)
Heating vent grates repaired downstairs (Peter Colman and others)
Maintenance involving professional services:
Dishwasher repaired (also Bruce Macbeth)
Various plumbing fixtures replaced
Fire extinguishers replaced
Willow tree removal arranged for
Capital projects completed or underway:
Sanctuary sound system completed
New pulpit designed and ordered
Sidewalk and bridge repairs
Rekeying internal doors
Installation of energy efficient light fixtures
Wayside pulpit repair
Future projects planned or proposed:
Driveway repaving
Various energy-saving measures
Additional recycling

cont...





Buildings and Grounds Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Locating and hiring snow shoveling service*

*NOTE: Mariah Dillon, Michael Stafford-Hill, and Mike Dillon have been doing much of our walkway snow shoveling for several years, especially in the early morning. They are cold and tired and have retired. Many thanks for your many blustery, early, volunteer hours!!

In conclusion, we have a talented, energetic committee which has been doing a lot with limited time and funds. We look forward to more volunteers and better financial times ahead.

Mariah Dillon and Don MacKay
Co-chairs

Members: Doug Aird, Remo Bianco, Peter Colman, Charles Hannah, Bruce Macbeth,
Pete Shambo, Dale Sherman, Michael Stafford-Hill, Ross Valenti





Care Ring Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Care Ring Report

With a settled Minister now, the Care Ring is working hard to become more organized. Carol Bickart and Bob Coye have joined our committee. We meet often with our Minister with monthly meetings, e-mails and also phone calls. A member of our committee usually attends the program council with a report.

We have had some Memorial services and everyone has been wonderful in helping out when asked, since these cannot be planned in advance.

Many cards for various reasons have gone out to many of our members and friends. We want to thank the RE program for making so many beautiful cards also.

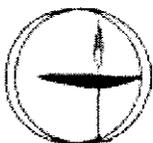
Many of our congregation filled out in our survey and we thank you. We do have copies in the office if anyone missed filling one out.

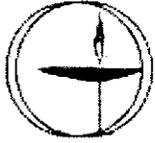
If anyone needing a blood pressure to be taken, a BP cuff and stethoscope are in the office

In the future, we hope to plan some small events or maybe some programs involving health issues. We also may need a contact person from the RE program who could report any issues that we could help with.

Many thanks again,

Peggy Ryfun/ Hildegard Vandersluis, Co-Chairs





Denominational Affairs Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Annual Report
Denominational Affairs
2007-2008

Co-chairs Alexa Carter and Mary Fulton

- May Memorial has contributed its fair share to both the UUA and SLD
- Our church hosted district conferences for History, Social Justice and Music and Arts.
- We had representatives at the District Assembly in April and several other conferences conducted throughout the year.
- We will have representation at the GA in Fort Lauderdale in June.
- Therese Hogle, Mariah Dillon, Mary Fulton and Vicki Schipper attended UULTI Leadership training in Pennsylvania during the month of July.
- We were the recipients of a Chalice Lighter Grant to enhance our Memorial Room and our number of Chalice Lighters continues to grow.





Green Sanctuary Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Green Sanctuary Committee
Annual Report Summary
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
June 1, 2008

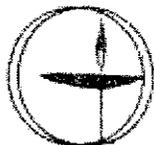
Committee Members: Janet Allen and Geri Aird, Co-chairs, David Ashley, John Allen, Doug Aird, Randy Archambault, Kenel Antoine, Alice Aylesworth, Peter Black, Jody Brown, David Cummings, Julie Daniel, Kevin King, Harsey Leonard, Bruce Macbeth, Don Mackay, Sue Savion, Dale Sherman. Some are liaisons from other MMUUS committees.

The 2007 UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) Green Sanctuary Program continues to support the work of Unitarian Universalists by affirming and promoting the Seventh Principle of the UUA, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." UUMFE recently announced that the Green Sanctuary Program will become an official program managed by UUA as a part of their Congregational Services program. This will be the first UUA program devoted exclusively to Earth concerns. Ministry for Earth will continue to support UU congregations with congregational resources and training. This new partnership shows a deepening commitment within the faith for this work, and provides an opportunity for Ministry for Earth to offer leadership and organizational capacity to address new issues of environmental justice and sustainability.

Both UUMFE and UUA endorsed the Internet-based organizational "Focus the Nation on global warming solutions for America" national teach-ins held nationwide, starting Sunday, January 27, 2008. Our MMUUS Sunday event was publicized online and in area papers with the assistance of the Public Relations Committee. Our church "Focus the Nation" event integrated each of the four Green Sanctuary Program focus areas: (1) Worship and Church Community Celebration, (2) Religious Education for children and adults, (3) Environmental Justice, involving collaboration with one or more groups in the broader community, and (4) Sustainable Living. Rev. Jean Wahlstrom and Harsey Leonard participated with us in a "May Memorial and Environmental Justice" Worship Service. Director of Music, Glenn Kime, the choir, Music and Art Committee Chair Nancy Pease and members of the congregation participated in the day's events. "Sustainability Fair" exhibits were on energy education and conservation, renewable energy, recycling, gardening and composting. Other exhibits were by Social Justice Committee, New York Interfaith Power and Light, Onondaga County Public Library, OCCRA, Syracuse University Sustainability Action Coalition. An afternoon video, "Kilowatt Ours" was followed by a discussion with Vicki Baker, environmental activist; David Ashley, LEED certified architect; and I.Holly Rosenthal of Syracuse Center of Excellence, who spoke on the collaborative economic development among business, government and academic institutions.

cont...





Green Sanctuary Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

"Sustainable living" films and group discussions for adults and youth were held with First Unitarian Universalist Society, here and at their church. A Northwest Earth Institute course, "Choices for Sustainable Living" was held here.

GSC invited the congregation to an April 20 Earth Day Observance and Celebration. This supported the UUA and UUMFE "Celebrate and Advocate" theme for Earth Day 2008. A UUA website advocacy publication on "Climate Change Legislation" was distributed. Also in April, Janet Allen presented a workshop on Habitat Gardening at the St. Lawrence District Annual Meeting.

Throughout the year, GSC members and others worked on an Environmental Assessment of the church building and congregational households. This information is necessary to develop an Action Plan of twelve activities in the Program's four focus areas, including energy conservation. This Fall and Winter, some low-cost energy conservation measures were taken by Building and Grounds workers. The building's lack of insulation is a major problem and results in increasingly higher heating costs. The Household Survey was designed to build household members' awareness of environmental issues and possibly motivate participants to action they might not otherwise take.

The Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy will be submitted to UU Ministry for Earth shortly, moving us a step closer to becoming a Green Sanctuary Congregation.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Allen and Geri Aird, Co-chairs of Green Sanctuary Committee





History Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

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

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 and interest to them.
2. The History Committee met on three occasions, including with Rev. Wahlstrom when she was candidating. Rev. Wahlstrom also attended a portion of our initial meeting in the fall.
3. Various preservation and organizational activities have continued regarding our paper and media material. As in previous years, digitization of both paper and media archival material is ongoing. In addition, as in 2007, considerable more archival material has been discovered and/or received and it is being stored in Room 8 (basement).
4. Seven more people were interviewed regarding their memories of May Memorial and those digital records are stored in four locations.
5. Considerable new material has been added to the off-site web page maintained by Rog Hiemstra. For example, a manuscript written by Rev. Armida Alexander about Sam May as an abolitionist was completed. It is available at <http://www-distance.syr.edu/armida.pdf>
6. A digital record of all History Committee activities for the remainder of 2007 and on into 2008 is available on the Web: <http://www-distance.syr.edu/archives2007.html>
7. Plaques of our annual award winners, past MMUUS leaders, and past minister photos now reside on the Memorial Room's east wall. This special space was dedicated at the conclusion of a summer service. Both members and visitors have made positive comments about these displays.
8. Roger and Harsey coordinated a summer service on the history of our church buildings and they were assisted by Alexa, George, and Mary Louise.
9. Alexa, George, Harsey, Mary Louise, and Roger conducted a Saturday workshop at May Memorial last fall on historical preservation. People attended from several SLD churches as well as some local churches in the Syracuse area. Alexa and Roger conducted a mini-version of the workshop on a subsequent Saturday in Barneveld.
10. A display case to portray historical artifacts and information is being constructed and will adorn the east wall of the foyer.
11. Money has been set aside for enhancing the lighting in the Memorial Room. This will supplement the Chalice Lighter's grant received for the 2007-2008 year.
12. George, Harsey, Mary Louise, and Roger presented information on church history at the 2007 women's luncheon.
13. The History Committee hosted the coffee hour during May, 2007, and will do the same during May, 2008.





Hospitality Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Annual Report
Hospitality Committee
2007-2008
Co-chairs Alexa Carter and Linda Wobus

Events which involved input from the hospitality committee this year included:

- Greet and Graze
- Welcome breakfast
- District History Workshop
- Rev. Wahlstrom's Installation
- May Memorial Loves the Arts Cabaret
- Reception for the Clarence Darrow performance
- Reception for the Nancy Kelly Concert
- Child dedication reception
- Fred Fiske Concert
- Art at the Heart Conference
- Mayfest
- End of the year picnic

Workday lunches throughout the church year

Many thanks to all the members and friends who contributed time, muscle and cooking skills to these events. It's always a good time when we get together.





Membership Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Committee Members:

Janet Hiemstra and Mardie Ninno (Co-chairs)
Kevin King, Lee Ann McKinney, Mary Potocki, Peggy Ryfun, Vicky Schipper,
Britt Zumpano

The Membership Committee again focused its efforts this year on welcoming and helping to integrate newcomers into the May Memorial community in order to promote our continued growth. We have worked closely with our new minister, Rev. Jean Wahlstrom, and have appreciated her guidance and thoughtfulness.

Specific tasks that have been accomplished include the following:

- Updated the MMUUS membership database and developed a new directory that accurately reflects active members and friends;
- Staffed the Welcoming Table each Sunday, with personal follow up calls to visitors;
- Established an Angel Greeter program to facilitate hospitality and a more welcoming atmosphere to first-time and returning visitors in our Social Hall;
- Attendance by two members at a regional workshop at Central Square on "Assimilating New Members into a Church;"
- Participated in most Program Council meetings. At these meetings we encouraged other committee chairs to invite new members and visitors who are attending regularly to assist with needed tasks;
- Offered UU 101, an informational meeting for visitors, every four to six weeks;
- Facilitated two joining ceremonies for twenty-five new members. We provided UU 102 classes, led by Rev. Jean Wahlstrom, for people exploring joining prior to each ceremony and hosted a follow up breakfast for new members and their families;
- Met with the Hospitality Committee co-chairs to discuss social activities that would involve our newer members and friends;
- Scheduled a Friendship Dinner for November 8, 2008, to celebrate our newer members and our entire May Memorial community.

The Membership Committee hopes to explore the mission of Growth for our entire congregation next year and to determine what that mission might mean for other committees and groups at May Memorial. We are encouraged by our growing Religious Education Program, the enthusiasm of our Angel Greeters, and by the groups that have reached out to our newer friends and visitors this year.



Memorial Garden Committee
Annual Report
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
May 1, 2008

Committee Members: Randy Archambault; Ed Blakeslee; Mary Burdick; Julia Evans

Goals for 2007-2008

1. Maintain the grounds of the Memorial Garden [especially the removal of unsafe trees.
Work parties were organized in the spring and fall. The Board of Trustees received three bids to remove the tree over the pavilion at our request. The lowest bidder was contacted in April, 2008 after several calls were made to the Building and Grounds Committee starting in December, 2007. The removal of the unsafe tree has not taken place as of this writing.
2. Inform the congregation of the purpose and use of the Memorial Garden.
Brochures are displayed in several places in the church building.
3. Maintain the pavilion for outdoor events.
Construction "promised" to be completed by autumn, 2008.
4. Follow-up minister's contacts regarding the use of the Memorial Garden.
Ongoing
5. Memorial Book and Plaque brought up-to-date.
Done
6. Recruit new Committee members.
Participated in special Committee event and contacted individuals.
We were not successful.

5.1.08



Music and Arts Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

The Music and Arts Committee enrolls MMUUS as a congregational member of the UU Musicians' Network. Glenn Kime, MMUUS Music Director, attended and participated in the UUMN's annual summer conference in Clearwater, Florida, bringing back home new music and new ideas. He plans to attend this summer's conference to be held in Boston.

The committee sponsored a Sunday Serenade by flutist Chris Dranchek, accompanied by pianist Patricia DeAngelis and lent support to a Sunday Serenade performance of the musical *Letting It All Hang Out* by member composer Beverly Adams.

In addition, the Music and Arts Committee collaborated with the Writers' Group to present a *cabaret-style* evening of entertainment to kick off February, May Memorial Loves the Arts month. Later, Fred Fiske, MMUUS president and singer-songwriter, presented another *cabaret-style* evening of entertainment.

The Music and Arts Committee was also involved in a support – capacity with the fund-raising concert presented by jazz singer Nancy Kelly.

Nancy Pease-Chair





Public Relations Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2006
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Committee Members:

Anton Ninno, chair
Bob Schulz, webmaster
Bob Burdick
Peter Colman

Accomplishments:

The PR Committee continued to develop the MMUUS website, adding a discussion forum section that we hope will replace our several Yahoo Groups mailing lists (aka, listservs). The forums can also provide a private collaboration area for committees that request one. We added webpages for several committees and a directory of officers and committee chairs. We wrote and distributed press releases for a variety of events.

Goals for 2008-09:

1. Podcasting of the Sunday services will be limited to one per month.
2. Sunday services will be recorded when volunteers are available.
2. Development of the website will continue to meet congregational needs.
3. We will assist staff, committees, and volunteers with press releases.





Social Justice Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Committee Members:

Amanda Acquard	Harsey Leonard	Ike Sanbonmatsu
Mary Zimmer	Julie C. Evans	Jennifer Newman
Dan Sage	Vicky Schipper	Doug Igelsrud
Rick Olanoff	Doris Sage	

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS:

- The Social Justice Committee continued to support the efforts of Julie Daniels and Linda Wobus in their program of meal preparation at the Samaritan Center with member participation and fund raising efforts.
- The food basket collection for the South Beech Baptist Church continues. A collection basket has been placed in the church foyer for donated food items to be transferred to South Beech Baptist Church for distribution.
- The Social Justice Committee has continued supporting our successful program to assist Plymouth Church's distribution of toiletries and personal care items, not covered by food stamps, to welfare recipients. This program is a joint effort with our Religious Education Program.
- We continue to work with Plymouth Church and the Labor Religion Coalition on the New Sanctuary Program for Immigrant Rights.
- We have begun working with Contact Community Services on the Circles Program and Bridges Out of Poverty. One committee member and several members of the congregation are involved with this new program
- We are exploring allying with Interfaith Works to sponsor a family emigrating from Iraq. As this is being written the first of a series of meetings has been scheduled for May 6th.
- Members of the Social Justice Committee and others from May participated in the annual Gay Pride Parade in downtown Syracuse.
- Members of the Social Justice Committee also participated in a Veteran's for Peace Rally in Downtown Syracuse in September.
- Vicky Schipper of the SJ Committee participated in the annual Crop Walk on October 14, 2007.
- On January 20th, thanks to Vicky Schipper, May Memorial was well represented at the annual Martin Luther King celebration at the SU Dome. This year in addition to two tables of May attendees the Social Justice Committee sponsored two students and their adult mentor from Nottingham High. The Students both had outstanding records of social action activities.

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Social Justice Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY SERVICES:

- **July 1, 2007** Social Justice Sunday: This year's Social Justice Summer Sunday service centered on our sponsorship of Sarah Averill's trip to work with indigenous farm workers in the mountains of Guatemala. Sarah, a med student from
- SUNY Upstate, works with a mobile medical clinic during the summer months serving some of these same workers in Northern Onondaga and Southern Oswego counties. Doug Igelsrud and Nancy Gwinn from Plymouth Church also spoke of their recent trip to Venezuela with a Witness for Peace Delegation.
- **January 27, 2008** The Social Justice Committee partnered with Green Sanctuary in preparing and presenting the Sunday service. The theme centered on Social Justice aspects of Global Warming and other environmental issues.
- **March 16, 2008** The Social Justice Committee invited Angela Douglas to speak to us about the CNY Circles program. Angela is the CNY Circles Campaign Coordinator and a certified trainer for Bridges Out of Poverty.

SPONSORSHIP OF OTHER EVENTS:

- **July 3, 2007** The Social Justice committee sponsored a pot luck and evening event for the "Pastors for Peace" caravan to Cuba. This annual event draws many social activists from the Syracuse area as well as surrounding communities. The July event was attended by 40 people including a contingent from the UU Church in Ithaca. The highlight of the evening was a talk by Ellen Bernstein of Pastors for Peace in New York City. Ellen has visited Cuba on many occasions including leading a Congressional delegation of Representatives and Senators from the Legislative Black Caucus.
- **Sunday October 14, 2007** The Social Justice Committee sponsored an event titled "Clarence Darrow, The Search for Justice", starring Gary Anderson nationally renowned Darrow portrayer. This well-attended, two hour event raised several hundred dollars for the May Memorial general fund besides being entertaining for all.
- **November 9, 2007** The Social Justice Committee sponsored a pot luck and lecture by Tom Melville and George Mische, long time activists in the struggle for peace and justice, and participants in the 1968 Catonsville 9 anti-Vietnam War protest. Tom Melville is an ordained Maryknoll Priest who spent many years in Guatemala.

UUSC GUEST AT YOUR TABLE:

- Support for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through participation in the Guest at Your Table program yielded \$1976.50 in collections and membership renewals. In addition, the MMUUS "fair share" budgeted allocation to UUSC, based on congregational membership, was \$239.





Social Justice Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

St. LAWRENCE DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

October 20, 2007

- The Social Justice Committee in conjunction with the District Social Justice Council hosted the second annual Social Justice Conference. The keynote speaker for this year's conference was Jay Gallagher, Albany Bureau Chief for Gannett New Service. Following the prophetic key note address attendees were treated to lunch and then chose from a list of 16 workshops during the afternoon.

May 19, 2008

- Members of the Social Justice Committee and other members of May Memorial attended the Interfaith Impact Legislative Action day in Albany, where they called on Senators and Representatives to present their positions on a variety of issues from the perspective of a liberal faith tradition.

PEACE VIGIL:

- At a duly called congregational meeting held on January 20, 2008 the members voted to extend the committees resolution to continue their sponsorship of a peace vigil in front of the church. The vigil continues presently scheduled for Thursday mornings from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Recent vigils have been well attended.

We look forward to continuing and expanding the many projects currently underway and we are exploring several other interesting Social Action programs for members and friends. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire committee to thank the Members and Friends of May Memorial for their continued support of your Social Justice Committee.





Stewardship Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Stewardship Report:

This year's Stewardship theme was "Nurture the Seed", which represented our continuing work to tend the garden of May Memorial and ultimately bring it to flower, with a new settled minister, the restructuring of our organizational governance, and a reinvigorated congregation.

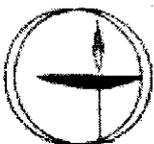
Our Stewardship Goal was an aggressive \$270,000, an amount judged necessary to move the Society's budget into the black. Regrettably, we have fallen short of that amount with a pledge total of \$250,000. This figure nonetheless represents an increase of \$9,000 over last year's pledge total, or a 3.3% increase.

During this year's campaign, 177 families and individuals made pledges, with 92 of them increasing their pledge amounts over last year. That number also includes 10 who did not pledge last year. The average pledge is \$1400, a 5.6% 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, along with the Society's staff. We thank the entire membership of May Memorial for participating in this year's canvass. The challenge to build a solid financial foundation for the Society remains ahead of us.

Joel Hastings, Co-Chair

Jason Winkler, Co-Chair





Worship Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Members of the committee this year were co-chairs Chris Fiske and Doris Sage, Joyce Leonard, Bev Adams, Deborah Welsh, Jody Brown and Jim Napierski

Rev. Jean Wahlstrom is an ex-officio member, and attends most Worship Committee meetings. She brings new ideas about doing things, and also is leaving the committee room to lead services. She collaborates with others on worship services, including the Green Sanctuary and Social Justice committees. She led a workshop on worship open to committee members and others on a Saturday morning. The small turnout allowed for a relaxed atmosphere. There was sharing and learning, and the workshop was very well received.

There was a full roster of summer services in 2007, starting off with the traditional Hymn Sing. Then, from opening Sunday's Water Ceremony, to the closing Flower Ceremony, the year was full of spirit-filled worship services.

Association Sunday drew attention to the new UU public outreach project, and congregational donations contributed to an ad campaign that began in Time Magazine.

Author Kate Braestrup, from Maine, gave a riveting sermon on life lessons.

Joe Cleveland, with wife Kristin and Dana Cook presented a zesty spiritual blend of folk music and bluegrass gospel.

Christmas seasonal services included the usual early and not-so-late Christmas Eve services, both led by Jean.

This year's Sam May service featured Bill Cross, speaking about Iraq war veterans and his mission to minister to their needs.

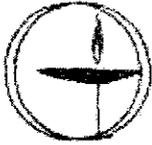
The Social Justice and Worship committees are looking to come up with a procedure so that both committees will be involved in finding Sam May speakers.

This year the teens spent lots of time planning their service, assisted by Teen Adviser Rachel Woods.

One innovation this year: Getting children more active as participants in intergenerational services. For example, at the Thanksgiving service, the children spent part of the time up front, drawing things they were thankful for. Then they went amongst the adults, show their work. In the Tree Service around Earth Day, we organized the children into a living "tree." The children also presented the Seven Principles as they are practiced in the "downstairs" Worship Service. The aim was to have interactive parts for children, and at the same time engage the adults in the service.

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Worship Committee
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Another youth-oriented innovation: At Jennifer Hamlin-Navias' request, there is a plan for a rite-of-passage and instruction for third-graders, who then will be allowed to light the chalice in the Sanctuary during "upstairs" Worship Services.

- Respectfully submitted by Chris Fiske and Doris Sage, co-chairs

