

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 24th, 2019



Photo: A Christmas Cactus Blossom Anticipates the Future

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 27th

10:00 am Family Worship, Meyer Chapel

"Qi Gong for Children" With Deb Walsh

10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary

Do You See What I See?

WUSYG Youth Group and

Director of Youth Ministries Sam Wilson

Winchester Youth Group (WUSYG) and Director of Youth Ministries Sam Wilson will lead this service on hope and possibility in a world seemingly filled with despair. Bombarded with dark and heavy news, we often find ourselves pushing back on, and resisting, so much these days. But what are the good things that we are cultivating? What are the wins and how do we envision them continuing this next year? This service will ask us to find the seeds of good, and, seeing that so many have been planted this past year, imagine what we can grow together.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund**, whose mission is to release detainees from the South Bay Immigration Detention Center in Boston, to provide for legal services and to support immigrant-led justice organizations. (Beyond Bond will be our Share the Plate recipient for all of January, as part of a campaign to raise \$5K. Community contributions will be matched, up to \$2K, by the Social Action and Outreach Committee, through their funds for grants.)

Music

There are so many great opportunities for singing at the Winchester Unitarian Society.

Adult Choir rehearses 8:45 am on Sunday mornings.

Children's Chorale every Tuesday @ 6:15 pm in the Sunshine (Spirit Play) Room.

All children grades 2-6 are most welcome.

Our Youth Choir every Tuesday @ 6:15 pm in the Meyer Chapel. All singers in grades 7-12 are most welcome.



The more the merrier, so don't be shy about getting involved.
Questions? Contact John Kramer at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org

Religious Education

THIS SUNDAY Morning Groups

This Sunday, January 27: Welcome to the third Sunday of JanFest!
The children can choose from these engaging activities:

- *Puzzles for All Ages with Sioux Brokaw*
- *Feeding Our Feathered Friends with Fritzie Nace*
- *Beading Workshop with Karen Caputo*

Afternoon Groups

Our Whole Lives: Our Whole Lives meets at **4:30** in the Wallace Room this Sunday, January 27. This week we discuss *Lovemaking*. Liz Scott leads the group.

Family Worship at Winchester Unitarian Society 10:00 a.m. Sundays
Family Worship happens in the Meyer Chapel from 10:00-10:20.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG is leading the service this Sunday! We will have a rehearsal this Saturday from 3-5 pm and participants should also plan to arrive at 9:30 on Sunday morning. Regular WUSYG on Sunday from 4:30-6:30 pm, too.

Other dates and info about following us on social media (please join our Facebook group and follow us on Instagram!) can be found on our recently-updated website:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/youth>

Congregational News

From the Music Committee

Jazz in the Sanctuary concert which will take place **tomorrow, January 25th at 8:00 pm**. This year's theme is Fairy Tales: Think Alice in Wonderful, Someday My Prince will Come, Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum, and much more. And, please consider sponsoring this year's concert series at one of the following levels: \$125, \$200 (Forte Sponsor), or \$300 (Fortissimo Sponsor). Contact Kathryn Maffei at KLMINC@aol.com for more sponsorship info.



Where Are The Ministers?

This coming Sunday, 1/27, both Parish Minister Heather Janules and Intern Minister Marianne DiBlasi will be off-site, participating in an Our Whole Lives training, along with RE Committee co-chair Ryan Levering. We three will miss you!

Help Needed for Pledge Pie Party 2/3/19

Our annual pledge drive begins soon. The theme for this year is "A Year of Beginning, Becoming and Belonging: What Winchester Unitarian Society means to me."



To get things going, please join us for a **Pledge Pie Party** in Metcalf Hall, immediately following service on February 3rd. Standing Committee members will facilitate small group conversations about what belonging to WUS means to them. Participants will also hear about the overall finances of our church. Activities for children five and over will be provided. Planning to watch the Patriots? We should be on our way home by 1:15 pm.

We are looking for volunteers to bring pies on Sunday, February 3 (drop off in Metcalf kitchen before church), to help serve the pie, and to help clean up after the event. Please click the link below to sign up and please sign up by **Saturday, January 26**. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4CAAA728A20-pledge>

Thanks!
2019 Pledge Team
Rebecca Keller, Alison Kirchgasser & Stephen Perepeluk

Results of Racial Justice Survey

In Fall 2018, members of the Racial Justice Team conducted a congregation-wide online survey aimed at gathering opinions and suggestions about possible next steps in fulfilling our commitment to racial justice.

Twenty-six of you commented on programs and activities underway and noted other approaches that might further the cause of racial justice. Thank you for participating! You can access the survey results on [the Racial Justice page](#) of the WUS website:

[Summary of Comments with Suggestions](#)

[Results of Structured Questions](#)

Within that group of respondents, several expressed interest in helping plan future activities and were able to meet twice in December. The group discussed the results of the online survey and then created a "thought shower," organized around current

activities and future possibilities.

This “shower” of ideas will be displayed on charts in the Symmes Room. Join us after the service this Sunday (1/27) in informal conversations about these rain drops, meant to nourish a more just and compassionate world. Add your comments (written on post-its) and support (voting with dots). What can we do? What might your role be? Let’s get on with this commitment together.

The principles of Unitarian Universalism recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

May it be so.

Phil Coonley, Gloria Legvold, Gordy McIntosh, Claire McNeil, Patty Shepard, Sandy Thompson, Ministerial Intern Marianne DiBlasi, and The Rev. Heather Janules



Flag Display Discussion in the Parlor at Noon This Sunday

This Sunday, January 27th there will be a conversation after worship regarding the displaying of flags outside the church. The conversation will encompass the American, Black Lives Matter and the Rainbow flag. Standing Committee would like to get your thoughts on these topics before developing any policies and practices regarding the flags. Below is link to a short four question survey. **Please provide your input!** Due to the limitations of the “free” survey feature we are limited to the first 100 responses. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3FCB7R>

Worship Debrief

On January 13th, WUS members and friends gathered after worship to discuss recent changes in our services. Due to an unfortunate recycling incident, the notes from the meeting are lost. However, some general conclusions include:

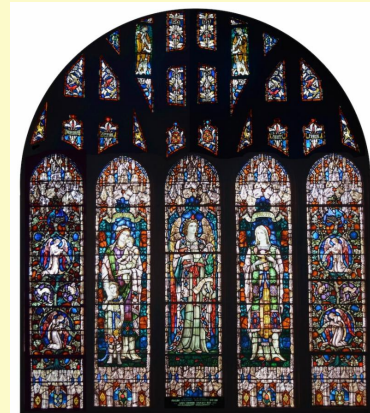
We want to include a brief time of all-community greeting but prefer that it happen very early in the service so it doesn't disrupt the flow of worship.

We have different opinions about asking first-time visitors to fill out an information card in lieu of a financial gift during the offering.

"Kindling of the Light" is appreciated and well-received.

Other ideas include: offering stones and a bowl of water in addition to candles to acknowledge personal joys and sorrows, providing an opportunity for people to write down joys and sorrows when they arrive for naming during the service, and having the greeters hand newcomers an information card before the service begins.

Drawing on this feedback, the worship team will continue testing different



approaches in the coming services. If a critical point is missing from this summation or you have something to add, please email Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

We're halfway there in our Match Campaign to Support the Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund

Readers of *Highlights* received a letter right before Christmas, asking for donations to the Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund. If you missed it, you can read the letter here: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/the-beyond-bond-legal-defense-fund/>

Checks can be made out to Episcopal City Mission with "Beyond Bond Fund" in the memo line but need to be mailed to WUS so that SAOC can keep track of congregant donations and its match. All donations are tax deductible. You can also donate through PayPal:

[Donate through PayPal](#)

As we near the one-year anniversary of the congregational vote that made us a Level 2 congregation and the one-year anniversary of "Maria's" stay with First Parish Bedford, let's keep our commitment to immigrants alive by contributing to this fund and making a real difference in the lives of detainees right now. A Boston Globe article about Beyond Bond has also been posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please check it out.

Sanctuary Training Now Available

You may recall in the Sanctuary Task Force's January update to the congregation, we were pleased to report that the Winchester Unitarian Society now has a total of 42 volunteers. At that time, we also indicated that training would resume in the new year. Dates are now available, as follows:

Monday, January 28, 7 - 9 PM

Both trainings are at **First Parish Bedford, 75 Great Road in room 202**. Please email marilynmullane@me.com and Bedford's Sylvia Cowan at cowan.sylvia@gmail.com if you plan on attending and remember to include the session you will attend. If you have any questions about volunteering, feel free to talk to any members of our task force. We would love to grow our volunteer numbers!

WUS Sanctuary Task Force: Steve Butterfield, Patty Cameron, Rev. Heather Janules, Marilyn Mullane and Sam Wilson



Jericho Walk at the ICE office in Burlington, MA on January 29th at 8 AM

Join us for the monthly Jericho Walk at the ICE office in Burlington, MA. This one is sponsored by the Winchester Unitarian Society and will be co- led by our own Rev. Heather Janules and Cantor Beth Levin of Temple Shir Tikvah. **A carpool will**

be leaving the church parking lot at 7:15 AM sharp. If interested, e-mail marilynmullane@me.com

The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to all, regardless of spiritual belief or religious affiliation.

Please bring signs calling for just treatment of those who are caught in our broken immigration system, suggested messages "Keep Families Together", "No Family Separation", "Not One More/Ni Una Mas", "Not In Our Name". Please refrain from signs explicitly endorsing or condemning any political candidate or official.

On January 29th at 8 AM, we will gather in front of the ICE Office, at 1000 District Avenue, Burlington MA. Meet along District Ave. You can park in the parking lot adjacent to the ICE Office.

Additional Immigration Witnessing Opportunities

- Prayer Vigil at Boston ICE Detention Center - **Sunday, January 27 at 2:00 pm**
- Also, "Suitcase Stories" will take place **Friday, February 1 at the Somerville Theater at 8:00 pm** in partnership with World Music. These individual stories of refugees have been shown on PBS and schools in the area. More information is available on the website here: <https://iine.org/suitcase>

MYSTIC VALLEY AREA BRANCH OF NAACP - FUNDRAISER IN METCALF HALL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 3-7 PM

The Mystic Valley Area Branch of the NAACP's is having their annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser in Metcalf Hall at the Winchester Unitarian Society, 478 Main St., on Saturday, 2/9/19 from 3-7 PM. For more information, please visit: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/events/winetasting-fundraiser-for-mystic-valley-naacp/>

1. [Letter and Form from the Planning Committee of Mystic Valley Area Branch NAACP](#), PO Box 132, West Medford, MA 02156, www.mva-naacp.org
2. [Flyer for the Wine Tasting](#)



Save the Date!

The Winchester Unitarian Society membership will ordain former Intern and Summer Minister Deborah Morgan Bennett into the Unitarian Universalist ministry on **Saturday, April 6th at 4:00 pm.**

If you would like to volunteer for this special event - before, during or after - please contact Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

Joys, Sorrows & Transitions

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, our ministers and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources.

Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org.

Social & Environmental Action

This Sunday, **January 27 at 11:30 am**, we will interact with members of the racial justice team as we view charts in the Symmes Room for the next two Sundays, to talk about ways to carry on our work.

Then at **1:45 pm** Sunday we will gather to discuss **Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism**, presented by members of the WUS Racial Justice Book Group. It's not just about prejudice. It's about the systems in our society. All are welcome to join the discussion of what it means to be white in America and what those of us who are white can do to interrupt racism.

It's time to work on important **state legislation** supported by UU Mass Action in the areas of: immigrant and economic justice, climate change and ending mass incarceration. There are 2 weeks in which to obtain legislative co-sponsorships. Go to <https://www.uumassaction.org/legislation/> to find information on the bills and links to contact your representatives. See some Fact Sheets on the Social Action bulletin board in Symmes.

Engage in local and statewide advocacy with UU Mass Action! For upcoming events, go to: <https://www.uumassaction.org/new-events> or visit WUS' [Social Action & Outreach page](#).

Engage in national-level actions with [UU's for Social Justice](#).

Environmental Justice

Visit the WUS [Green Sanctuary & Environmental Justice web page](#) for opportunities to

- [Recycle your electronics at Mt. Auburn Cemetery 1/26/19](#)

Highlights of Events at the Jenks Senior Center

www.jenkscenter.org

DEEP Dive into Racial Equity

Our Individual and Institutional Challenge in 2019 with Dr. Darnisa Amante, President/Co-Founder of The Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP) and Adjunct Lecturer on System Level Leadership at Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

Sunday, February 10 • 2:00 – 4:00 pm

[Deep Dive into Racial Equity Flyer](#)

Hammer and Silicon with Sheila Puffer

Tuesday, February 26th 10:30 am (Coffee/cookies available at 10:00 a.m.)

For more information on events happening at the Jenks, please click [HERE](#).



Woburn Food Pantry

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **canned** and **dry soup** for the Council of Social Concern's Food Pantry. These are the items they need this month to stock their shelves. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday Volunteers & Flower Dedications



Sign Up for Coffee Hour Refreshments

Help make Sunday mornings more welcoming and joyful by bringing refreshments for coffee hour! If you are willing to be contacted when **sign-ups** are needed, please email janetnelson@comcast.net to put yourself on the contact list.

Usually two people sign up to bring finger foods for one Sunday. We truly appreciate your willingness to be asked to help out in this simple way – thank you!

Sunday Secretaries

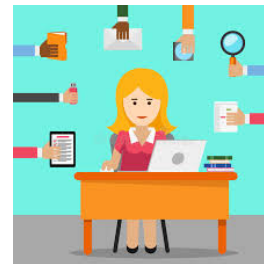
Sign up to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!



Flower Dedications

Dates are available for flower dedications. You may dedicate flowers in celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of someone and it will appear in the Order of Service.

The cost is \$45.00 (or you can bring your own flowers, but let the office know). Please click to **sign up** or use the sign up sheets in the foyer.



Ongoing

Yoga, Meditation, Qi Gong, Caregiver Support Group and Grief, Loss and Transitions Group

See Ongoing Activities at:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/news/ongoing-activities-groups/>

Deadlines

Sunday Morning Announcements Guidelines: **Click here**

For Highlights submissions: Wednesdays, 9:00 am

For submissions to the OOS: Thursdays, 9:00 am

Email to jenny@winchesteruu.org. No more than 250 words, please.

Staying Connected

Visit the WUS website!

- Read the latest Highlights and Mystic Messenger in **the news section**.
- Want to know if a room is free, or when your meeting is? View **the calendar page**.
- Need the latest directory, or a list of committee chairs? Go to **the members' section** (**contact the office** for the password).
- Want to set up electronic giving? Go to the **How to Give page**.



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