

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 21st, 2019

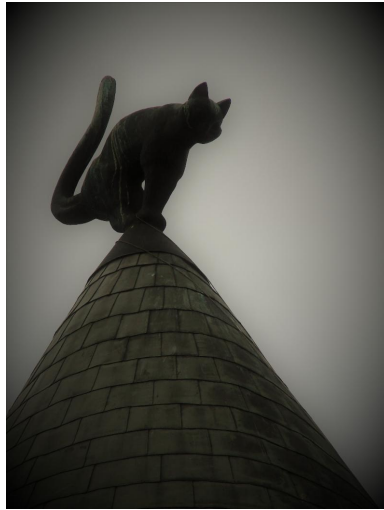


Photo: For this month exploring "curiosity," we share this photo of The Black Cat of Riga, Latvia. Legend has it that it was installed so its back would be to a guild that denied the artist entrance. Regardless of the intent, the Cat – perpetually surveying the city - reminds us that curiosity is not always a dangerous thing.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 24th, 2019

10:00 am Family Worship, Meyer Chapel

For young children, their adult friends and those with an inner child

A Leader of Light

10:30 am Worship, Sanctuary

Children participate in the first 20 minutes and may leave for religious education activities while adults remain for the entire service

"An Open Door and An Open Heaven":

Joel Metcalf, Minister Astronomer

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

In this month of "curiosity," we explore the life of WUS minister, the Rev. Joel Metcalf, remembered for his pursuit of his dual curiosities: spirituality and astronomy.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Winchester A Better Chance**, a nonprofit organization providing academically talented scholars-of-color with expanded educational and career opportunities.

Music

There are 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

World of Wonder: This week we celebrate the *spring equinox*, as we continue to learn about and appreciate the wonder of *budding plant life*. As Unitarian Universalist we welcome and celebrate our deep connection to the earth and the budding plant life that emerges in the spring. Teachers Beatrice and Caroline lead the group.

Moral Tales: This week we continue our discussion of *giving and sharing* as we practice exploring our impulse toward generosity. As Unitarian Universalists we know the joy that comes from living with an open and generous heart. Teachers Elizabeth and Charlotte lead the group.

Note: Last week the group made doggy treats. They will be completing this gift project and making the treats available to members of the congregation, who can then share them with four legged friends and neighbors.

Neighboring Faiths: Today learn about the origin and history of Judaism. As Unitarian Universalist we understand that one of the sources UUs draw from are the teachings of our Jewish (and Christian) heritage, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves. From Judaism we also take the belief that working together we can achieve peace and justice. Terry leads the group.

Afternoon Groups

Our Whole Lives meets at **4:30** in the Wallace Room. This week the changes of *sexual decision making*. Sarah Milt leads the group.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

This Sunday, March 24th: **Regular WUSYG meeting at 4:30 pm.**

To see more upcoming dates and info about our upcoming events, please use [this link to our latest newsletter](#).

Congregational News



Memorial Service for Rebecca Kelley-Morgan's Son Jonathan

All are welcome to attend the memorial service for Jonathan Morgan at noon on Friday, March 22, in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow. Please park along Mystic Valley Parkway or in the Aberjona Parking Lot (next to the railroad trestle, across from the Winchester Post Office. No permit is needed; we have permission from the Town.)



Second day of spring so time to start spring cleaning which means scouring your attic, digging into your basement, and taking a peek into that guest room closet for new or gently used items for our only fundraiser this year!

We need:

- Antiques, Art and Collectibles
- China, Silver and Crystal
- Books and CD's
- Toys, Crafts and Games
- Sporting Goods^[1]
- Clothes - Men's, Women's and Children
- Electronics, Technology Items and Video Games
- Indoor and Outdoor Furniture
- Garden Supplies
- Tools
- Home Goods including lamps and decorative items
- Kitchen Essentials including small appliances, dish sets and utensils
- Jewelry including Antique, Estate and quality Costume
- Musical Instruments
- Shoes - Men's, Women's and Children
- Women's Boutique Items - Brand Name Clothing, Hats and Purses

While our rummage sale isn't until June 1 (Winchester's Town Day), this is the perfect time to start setting aside those games your kids aren't playing with anymore, silver you inherited from your mother or an I-Phone you just replaced. Remember, this is not your average rummage sale, so please make sure your offerings pass muster.

And, we are always looking for volunteers...it takes a village! So, e-mail bebowles13@gmail.com to learn how you can help.

[1] We can only accept Sporting Goods Helmets that are new and still have their tags.

SUMMER SERVICES: Do You Have A Sermon in You?

Summer services will begin on June 16 and end September 1. These services are led by lay members of the congregation.



If you are interested in leading a service, please see coordinator **Lee Barton** at church or contact him: lee.barton2009@gmail.com.

You would give a 15 to 20 minute Reflection on a topic that relates in some way to our Unitarian Universalist values and principles. You would have help planning and carrying out the rest of the service. Please consider it!

Pledge and Wheel of Fortune update

On March 2, both Fritzie Nace and Terrill Levering correctly identified the Wheel of Fortune phrase. Their keen puzzle skills has earned them bragging rights. Please be sure to congratulate them. For now, we are leaving the phrase a secret for the many who are still trying to guess. There will be one or two new letters on Sunday. The pledge drive is proceeding well. With 112 of an approximately 145 pledges in, we are at \$327,000 of our \$380,000 goal. Once remaining pledges are in, we will likely close in.



Spaghetti Dinner Fun



**Brought to you by the Membership and Fellowship Committee.
A good time was had by all.**



Chili Cook-Off and WUSYG Fundraiser Thank You!

Thank you to all who made the 15th annual **Chili Cook-Off** a success - all the amazing chili and mac 'n cheese chefs, the excellent eaters, our prize-makers, the setup and cleanup teams, and our cornbread contributors. Without all of your efforts

this event wouldn't have been possible. A huge thank-you to the Chili Cook-off aficionado, James Pidacks, for all the hard work and dedication! This event helped WUSYG tremendously on their way toward the fundraising goal for this April's service trip to Ferry Beach, ME -- Thank you so much to all who donated!

From the Intern Minister

From March 24 – April 6, I will be in Chicago attending the in-person classroom portion of my seminary classes at Meadville-Lombard Theological School. Meadville's low-residency model allows me to live and learn locally and travel to Chicago for intensive classroom time once each semester. While in Chicago, I will be available by email, although my response times may be slow. I am already looking forward to seeing you when I get back!

Marianne DiBlasi, Intern Minister



From the Music Committee: Tracy Grammer on March 22nd!

Tracy Grammer and her band will perform at WUS on Friday, March 22nd, 8 pm. In the words of Joan Baez, "Tracy Grammer is a brilliant artist and unique individual. Her voice is distinctive, as is her mastery over the instruments she plays." And, as reviewed by Me & Thee Coffeehouse: Tracy Grammer is one of contemporary folk music's most beloved artists. Though she is known for her crystal-clear alto vocals, perfectly intoned violin and guitar playing, what hits home for

audience members are her stories, sometimes described as "incantations" that add a mixture of vulnerability, intimacy, and hard-won insight. As one fan aptly puts it, "With Tracy, it's never just about the music, it's about a soul journey." -- Bring your friends!



John Kramer's original cantata *The Immigrant Experience*

Sunday, March 24th at 4 pm
St. Mary's Church
158 Washington St.
Winchester, MA

Mark your calendars for a performance of *The Immigrant Experience* by a interfaith

choir drawn from Winchester's faith communities. Singers from WUS, St. Mary's, St. Eulalia's, Parish of the Epiphany, First Congregational, Crawford Memorial, and Temple Shir Tikvah will be participating.

Written by our music director John Kramer, this timely and topical piece reflects the issues surrounding immigration, and features texts by founding fathers that establish the United States as a welcoming place - a place in the words of George Washington, "open to receive not only the opulent and respectable stranger by the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions."

Suggested donation \$20 with proceeds to benefit the International Institute of New England, a non-profit organization that has been welcoming and serving refugees and

immigrants since 1918.

Photo: The last performance of "The Immigrant Experience" at First Parish Concord



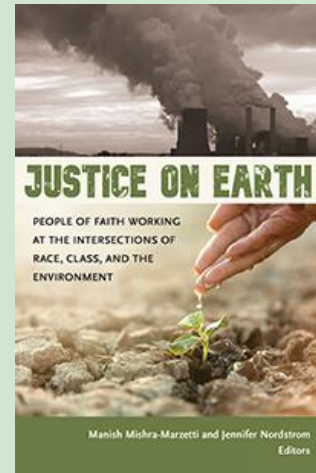
Grief, Loss and Transitions Group Meets Thursday, March 28th

7:30 - 9:00 PM, Parlor

Those living through times of bereavement, uncertainty and transition are warmly invited to this peer-led support group. Meetings are confidential and facilitated by a group leader. No RSVP is required.

A Community Conversation About Environmental Racism Sunday, March 31st, 5:00 - 6:30, Metcalf Hall

Inspired by "Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersection of Race, Class and the Environment," we will hold a community program and conversation about environmental racism (the ways in which degradation of the earth and the marginalization of people-of-color and other communities are connected.)



As this program is part of our youth group's preparation for their climate justice service trip, the program will be intergenerational. Participants from outside the WUS congregation are warmly and heartily encouraged to attend.

Questions? Ideas? Contact Sam Wilson, Patty Shepard or the ministry team.

You are encouraged to sign out and read a copy of "Justice on Earth" from the Michelsen Room in advance of March 31st. Many thanks to **Growth and Learning** for making these books available and co-sponsoring this event!

The Ordination of Deb Morgan Bennett Saturday, April 6, at 4 p.m.

The Winchester Unitarian Society will be ordaining our former Intern Minister, Deb Morgan Bennett, into the Unitarian Universalist ministry on Saturday, April 6th, at 4 p.m. All are warmly invited to attend both the ordination in the Sanctuary and the supper reception that will follow in Metcalf Hall. For those with children who are too young or restless to attend the ceremony, drop-in childcare will be available from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.



Helping hands will be needed for the reception before, during and after, including contributing cookies and dips. **Please click [HERE](#) to see the ways you can lend a hand and thank you.**

During the ordination, we will be presenting Deb with a gift from the congregation. If you would like to contribute, you can drop off or send a check to the office made out to the Winchester Unitarian Society with "Deb's ordination" in the memo line.

[Click here to view EVITE and RSVP](#)

Joys, Sorrows & Transitions

As named through an email to the community, our heartfelt condolences are with Director of Lifespan Religious Education **Rebecca Kelley-Morgan** and her family with the recent death of her son, Jonathan. He will be remembered through a memorial service on Friday, March 22nd at noon at WUS. All are welcome.

A service to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the death of **Jack Rowland**, son of **Ellie Griffin** and brother of **Catherine and Emily Rowland**, will take place this Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm in the Meyer Chapel. All are welcome.

Update: **Zareen Karani Araoz** has returned home from the hospital after being admitted with the flu. Her husband, **Alberto Araoz**, remains at Aberjona Nursing Center where he is continuing his recovery from pneumonia.

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

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO PROPOSE A GRANT for this year. Meet members of the Social Action and Outreach Committee at coffee hour to get a grant form and ask questions. **Please email Gordy McIntosh ASAP to tell us which group you plan to sponsor.** Grant Application forms are available on the **SAOC page** on the WUS website. Completed grant applications are due on Sunday March 31.

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday April 27 will be a Service Day at the Urban Ministry in Boston. We will carpool from WUS and spend the morning organizing food and clearing the grounds.

Books on Racial Justice are available to borrow from the library in Michelsen. We request you return your book after a month. A list of the books is on the SAOC bulletin board in Symmes. To join our monthly Book Group speak to Claire McNeill at coffee hour.

Black Lives UU Fundraiser at First Parish Arlington Saturday, March 23. *Potluck from 6 to 7:30, followed by a Dance Party to 10 pm.* Help support the good work of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU). Bring a dish that is significant to your family's culture. Dance to music rock and roll music from the 50's, 60's, and 70's! Raffles! Suggested donation at the door. All are welcome. If you have questions, please email racialjustice@firstparish.info

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](#).

End a Million Pounds of CO2 Pollution Now

Growing CO2 pollution is causing Earth's warming, ever more extreme weather, rising seas, human suffering and even extinctions for many life forms. To slow and reverse this disaster, each of us must act. One easy and significant act is to switch from your electricity source which is typically 85% from carbon fuels to one that is 0%; that adds electricity to the grid that is 100% produced by wind, solar, or hydro. Your electric bill cost change will likely range from -1% to +15%. So far this church plus 18 WUS households have acted by each making one phone call to the phone number listed for your town with 100% renewable in the Symmes room. (Other CO2 reducing acts are also explained there.) We aim for the following headline by June 1, 2019.

135 WUS Households Buy Green Electricity: Stop 500 Tons of CO2 Pollution Annually! Please help track our progress by visiting the Green Sanctuary table in the Symmes room.

Upcoming Immigration Justice events

First Parish of Watertown will lead our next vigil at the Suffolk County House of Corrections. We hope you can join us!

Vigil at the ICE Detention Center
Sunday, March 31 - 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Suffolk County House of Corrections
20 Bradston Street, Boston, MA 02118
For more information, click **HERE**.

Sunday, March 31st from 2:30 - 4:00 pm,
and Monday, April 1st from 6:00 - 7:30 pm
at the Boston Public Library, Copley Sq., Rabb Hall, New Immigrant and Refugee Visions in Film Celebrations. Join Community Supported Film and the New Immigrant and Refugee Visions filmmakers to celebrate the screening of all documentary films by and about immigrants and refugees.

14th Annual UU Advocacy Day

When: Tuesday, April 9, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Where: Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St.,
Boston & the State House

To read more about why you should come to the UU Advocacy day and to find out more information about the event, please visit:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/14th-annual-uu-advocacy-day/?preview=true>

To learn more about our legislative priorities, **CLICK HERE**

We need two things from you if you're coming:

- 1) **Please get a ticket** (\$25 now, increase to \$40 after March 29)
- 2) **Please provide a little more info via this form:**

Our apologies for the two-step process, but this helps us prepare for you and keeps the ticket fees low.

Keynote Speaker: Chris Crass, UU, published author, activist, father, and anti-racist educator and so much more! We are so excited to have him join us for this

John Kramer, our Music Director, will receive the **2019 Ruth Rowan Award**, celebrating John's original composition, *The Immigrant Experience*, a cantata in seven movements. His fundraising concerts have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Beyond Bond and Legal Defense fund.



Lindsay Foote in concert

The Ivy Chord Coffeehouse, located at 239 Woburn Street in Reading, MA, presents Winchester native Lindsay Foote on **Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.** (Doors open at 7:15 p.m.) Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$18 for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased at:

<http://uureading.org/ivy-chord/>

Her music can be found here:

<https://www.lindsayfoote.com/epk>

Flyer attached

Summer camp for UU Youth

If you have youth between the ages of 8 and 17 who are looking to connect with other UU Youth, enjoy limitless fun in the Adirondack Mountains, eat s'mores, create art and music, and play games and sports while learning about the importance of community all shaped by Unitarian Universalist values, welcome to Unirondack.

What truly makes us unique is the energy, caring, and creativity of the people who call Unirondack home. Inventiveness and youth empowerment abound as our staff aim to provide a space of excellent programs and promote the acceptance and respect of all campers.

At Unirondack we live the values that are inherent in Unitarian Universalist principles - acceptance, compassion, and decision-making through the democratic process while co-existing in an intentional community together.

For more information, visit www.unirondack.org, or ask your DRE or minister for a brochure. We can also be reached at Director@unirondack.org.



Woburn Food Pantry

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **shelf-stable milk**, **canned chowder** and **apple juice** 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 [Janet Nelson](mailto:Janet.Nelson) 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

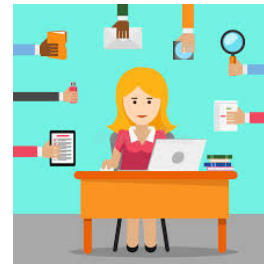
[Sign up](#) to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!



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, Grief, Loss & Transitions Group and 350 Massachusetts Metro North

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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