

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 7th, 2019

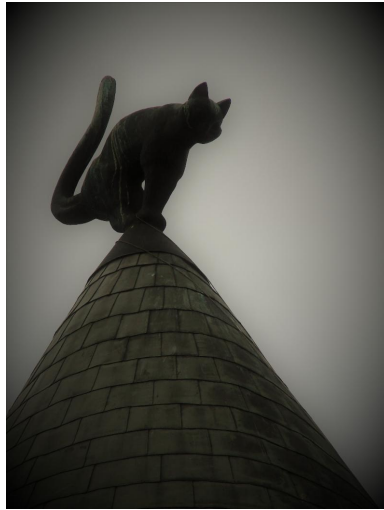


Photo: For this month exploring "curiosity," we share this photo of The Black Cat of Riga, Latvia. Legend has it that it was installed so its back would be to a guild that denied the artist entrance. Regardless of the intent, the Cat – perpetually surveying the city - reminds us that curiosity is not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

Upcoming Worship



Sunday, March 10th, 2019

10:00 am Family Worship, Meyer Chapel

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

Amazing Grace with Marianne DiBlasi

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

The Culture of Gender

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Peter McEntee

Brittany Packnett affirms that "Too often, the idea that marginalized people...should

not expect to be fully...included in the fabric of our communities is reinforced by each of us. By what we say. By what we don't say...By who we defend. By who we punish...By the changes we make room for and by the evolutions we deem 'too fast, too revolutionary, or too soon.'...By the pace we want to set for the freedom of others."

Although women and those with feminine gender expression make up a little less than half the world's human population, they have faced danger and discrimination in many cultures and across generations and thus are often marginalized. Some of these prejudices are woven into mainstream US culture itself, prejudices that harm people of all gender identities. This service will explore the role of gender in our communities and how we might move towards collective respect and dignity.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Planned Parenthood Massachusetts**, "protect[ing] and promot[ing] sexual and reproductive health and freedom of choice by providing clinical services, education and advocacy. [Their] vision is that sexual health is essential to every person's well-being."

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 explore the wonder of *life-giving plants and life-giving sunshine*. We study the growth of plants from tiny seeds to full grown plants, and start seedlings of our own. As Unitarian Universalist we celebrate with awe and wonder the miracle of plants, which nourish and sustain us, provide beauty, and contribute in numerous ways to the interdependent web of life. Teachers Beatrice and Caroline lead the group

Moral Tales: This week we talk about *giving and taking*. We learn to "lean on each other" through cooperative games and to create a gift to share with others. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in being generous with each other. Teachers Elizabeth and Charlotte lead the group.

Neighboring Faiths: Today we begin our study of *monotheism* and the *Abrahamic faiths* – Judaism, Islam and Christianity. We learn how these religions are linked to

each other historically and have much in common. As UUs we appreciate all spiritual expression, focusing on our similarities while honoring our differences. Terry leads the group.

Afternoon Groups

Our Whole Lives meets at **4:30** in the Wallace Room. This week the changes of **contraception and safe sex**. Liz Scott leads the group.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

This Sunday, March 10th: **Regular WUSYG meeting, 4:30-6:30 PM.**

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

Other dates and info about following us on social media can be found on our website: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/youth>

Congregational News



****What we do matters!****

When one of us is in need, WUS volunteers respond. A fresh list of volunteers is invaluable throughout the year when someone needs a ride, a meal delivered, or when a memorial service requires extra hands. Serving in these capacities is a caring and pragmatic contribution to our Church community. If you can be contacted to help on occasion, we'd like to know. Please contact Gay Mohrbacher at gay_mohrbacher@wgbh.org if you might provide a meal or a ride. And reach out to Vicky Coccoluto at vcoccoluto@yahoo.com if you are willing to help at a memorial service. Thank you!

Operations analysis

Last spring the congregation approved a budget for this year with a significant deficit, with the understanding that Standing Committee would undertake an analysis of staffing and other operations. Our goal is to determine what organizational structure will best help us to serve our mission within the constraints of our resources.

The task force has reviewed internal data and documents – notably job descriptions for all staff - and has interviewed Rev. Janules as chief of staff. The Rev. David Pyle, our coach from the UUA, has helped us identify three congregations whose staffing structures might be instructive. We are gathering information about them and will interview a member of staff or lay leader from each. We will also be interviewing members of our staff, who are subject matter experts on how work gets done here and how it might be done better.

If you have questions or comments, talk with Patty Cameron, Sue Kiewra, Don Landing, Judy Murray or Kathy Richardson.

Standing Committee Open Conversation:

Should we have a capital campaign?

At last year's annual meeting the congregation voted to withdraw \$60,000 from the Meyer Fund to provide the bulk of the funds to re-do our parking lot, front driveway and walkways to enhance safety, circulation and access. At the time other major projects were identified, and several people posed the question whether we should consider a capital campaign. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the most urgent needs – a lift outside the office, improvements to the sound system and work on the organ – have been funded. Are there other significant needs? What enhancements to our building would enable us to better serve our mission? Come to a discussion in the parlor after the service this Sunday to hear what the Building and Grounds Committee has on its list and add your thoughts.

Sunday, March 17th
11:30 AM in Metcalf Hall
CHILI COOK-OFF & WUSYG Fundraiser!
Chili Cook Off Flyer



The chili cook-off will take place this year on St. Patrick's Day as a WUSYG Fundraiser and community event for families and all-ages, featuring a chili competition, mac n' cheese, and other fun ways to support WUSYG in raising money for their upcoming trip to Ferry Beach, Maine.

We will be bringing back chili categories this year for the competition and also introducing mac n cheese as a category for competing, too. We are also looking for folks to bring cornbread and desserts. If you'd like to enter the competition, please sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wBOeFm8BBLueeDf02qjSC2gA-6bJ-9Vplu44SjMgQZg/edit?usp=drivesdk> or contact **James Pidacks**: 781-729-1657 or james.pidacks@verizon.com

For other questions about the event, please contact **Sam Wilson**: sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org or visit <https://www.winchesteruu.org/events/chili-cookoff/>

IN SEARCH OF SERVICE TRIP CHAPERONES!

Would you like to join WUSYGers on their Service Trip to Ferry Beach this year, and work alongside us, combating the effects of climate change while learning more about climate justice? We're looking for a few more adults to join Sam and Haley on our exciting trip this year. For more information and to apply, please click here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/QbXHc32y3tbrVyRs2> We look forward to hearing from you!
Any questions, email Sam: sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org

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!



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

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

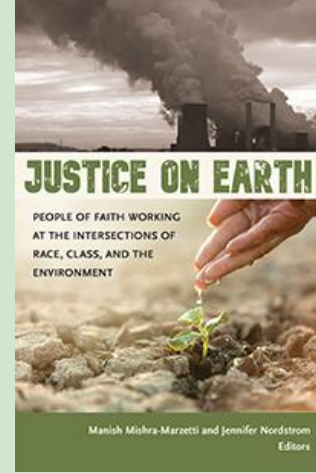
Inspired by "Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the

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!



SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT?

The Growth & Learning Committee invites you to join and contribute to a continuing discussion on the *The Acceleration of Knowledge: Implications for Humanity* focusing on **Social, Ethical, and Spiritual Challenges of the Genomic Revolution**

WHEN?

on **April 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm**

WHERE?

at Winchester Unitarian Society

BY WHOM?

Alberto Araoz, Dirck Stryker, Zareen Karani Araoz and a possible youth contributor

During the past few years there has been an enormous acceleration of knowledge, especially in the fields of biotechnology and genomics. Altering the human genome, extending human lifespans, and by-passing the process of natural selection raises tremendous social, ethical and spiritual issues. They affect an individual's own fundamental beliefs as well as the broader community.

Come and join in a stimulating workshop with small group discussions about meaningful questions that affect us all.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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.

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. Thank you in advance!

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.

Young children are invited to attend the ordination service; for those with children that are too young or restless, drop-in childcare will be available from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Click here to view EVITE and RSVP

Joys, Sorrows & Transitions

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 on Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm in the Meyer Chapel. All are welcome.

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 IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROPOSE A GRANT FOR A NON-PROFIT THAT ALIGNS WITH OUR MISSION. Meet members of the Social Action and Outreach Committee at coffee hour to get a grant form and ask questions. **Please email Gordy McIntosh by March 5 to tell us which group you plan to sponsor.** You may obtain a Grant Application form from the SAOC page under the Justice tab on the **WUS website**. Grant applications are due on Sunday March 31.

The members of the WUS Racial Justice Book Group have organized **books on Racial Justice** to share with the congregation. **Come see our shelf in the library in Michelsen and borrow any book.** We request you return your book after a month. A list of the books is on the SAOC bulletin board in Symmes.

SAVE THE DATE "Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland," a documentary with refreshments and discussion with the two filmmakers and the lawyer for the Bland family. **Saturday March 9 - 1:00-4:00;** First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA. Suggested contribution - \$20

"Loving; All love is created equal." Film and Discussion. Sunday, March 10th at 12:00 pm, First Parish Arlington. This PG-13 film is a moving story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a couple whose 1958 arrest for violating Virginia's ban on interracial marriage began a legal battle that would end with the Supreme Court's historic 1967 decision. 2017 Oscar nominee. Refreshments, snacks and pizza provided. All are Welcome! A free-will offering helps First Parish support the good work of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)!

Building Bridges Benefit Concert: Sunday March 10, 2:00 - 4:00 PM at First Parish in Bedford, 75 Great Rd. "Building Bridges - Vintage Music of Latin America" is a benefit concert for the local interfaith sanctuary coalition. This solo piano performance costs \$20 for regular entry, \$15 for senior citizens and students. Pianist

Jacqueline Schwab is noted for her evocative playing on the sound tracks of documentary film maker Ken Burns' "Civil War." (See more information below)

Save the date for UU Mass Action Lobbying Day, Tuesday April 9th, 2019. For details see flyers on the Social Action table and bulletin board.

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](#).

**A Concert to Benefit the
Interfaith Sanctuary Program
Building Bridges - *Vintage Music of Latin America***

March 10 at 2:00 pm
First Parish in Bedford, On the Common
75 Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730
Suggested donation is \$20 (at the door).

For more information, contact
gladys.unger@gmail.com or dcfiner84@gmail.com, or (617) 999-5433.



Jacqueline Schwab

jacqueline@jacquelineschwab.com
www.jacquelineschwab.com

Ken Burns Pianist in Concert
[FLYER for Building Bridges](#)

Meals on Wheels For Winchester Residents


Whether you are incapacitated or you simply no longer choose to cook, Winchester Hospital will prepare your meals during the week and volunteers will deliver them to your door. You may look into how easy it would be to arrange for reasonably-priced hot meals by calling 781-729-9817. Please leave your name and telephone number for a call back to get detailed information on this desirable community service.

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
South Bay House of Corrections
20 Bradston Street, Boston, MA 02118
For more information, click **HERE**.

Come hear
Rabbi Claudio Kogan
tell us what life is like today at the
SOUTHWEST BORDER
MARCH 14 at 7:30 pm
At Temple Isaiah
55 Lincoln St, Lexington, MA

[FLYER for Rabbi Claudio Kogan](#)
RSVPs Requested: SocialAction@TempleIsaiah.net




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About The Speaker: Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan, MD, MBE, MEd is the Director of the Institute for Bioethics and Social Justice at UTRGV/SOM. He is also an ordained rabbi and a Clinical Associate Professor, Medicine Behavior Society School of Medicine. Previously, he served as rabbi for Temple Emanuel in McAllen TX and continues to serve as a chaplain for various law enforcement agencies and hospital systems throughout the area.



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Climate Change, Extreme Weather, & Vulnerability: An Interfaith Summit on How to Respond

WHEN: Sunday, March 10th, from 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm

WHERE: Old South Church, Boston, MA

RSVP: climatecrew.org/summit

We hope you can join us. Please **RSVP today!**

Craig Altemose, Executive Director

Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW)

To learn more, please click [HERE](#).

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 event!! <http://www.chriscrass.org/>

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.

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 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

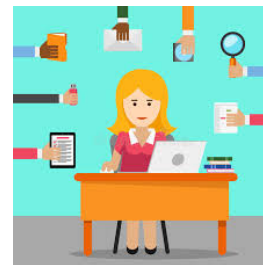
Sign up to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!



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**.



**It's probably on the
website!**

(And if it's not,
let us know)

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org