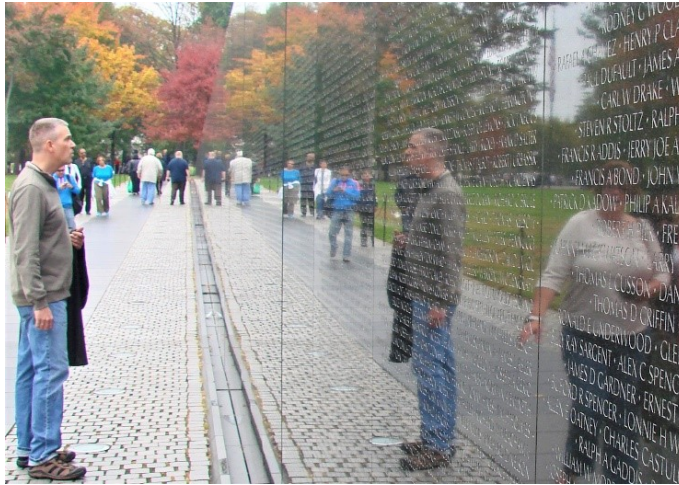


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights November 27, 2019



*Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Attention"
- A visitor to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.*

Upcoming Worship

**10:00 am Family Worship,
Downstairs Meyer Chapel**

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

About Family Worship

This Sunday, Deb Walsh leads the service with
"The More We Get Together..."

Sunday, December 1
10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary

A State of Being

Marianne DiBlasi, Intern Minister
Worship Associate: Peter McEntee

As human beings, we engage in a lot of doing in our day to day lives. This Sunday, we will explore the spirituality of being and ways to cultivate a state of being in the midst of doing. **Following the worship service, there will be a conversation in the parlor.**

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Mission of Deeds**, which began with the simple dream of one man: to be a place where disadvantaged families not only receive new beds and donated household essentials free of charge, but where people are also treated with kindness, respect, and compassion.

Events This Weekend

Office closed
Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29
for Thanksgiving

There is No Adult Choir this Sunday, December 1st



Bring Your Favorite Pen to Church

The Church of the Larger Fellowship needs our help. CLF, an on line congregation, is the largest church within our denomination with thousands of members worldwide. 1,084 of its members are incarcerated and we've been asked to write a message of hope on holiday cards that will be mailed to them. **Please join us in the Symmes Room after church on December 1st.** It will only take a moment. Call Betsy Bowles if you'd like to do more - (617) 584-6477.



Our Annual Mitten Tree un-decorating is taking place in the Symmes Room:

Take a mitten, buy a gift, attach your mitten!!!! and return them to church **no later than noon on the 15th of December.** Mitten Tree gifts may return earlier, but not later than the deadline. **When you bring your gift back, please make sure your mitten is attached,** and you may leave them under the tree in Symmes (going up next week). If you would like your gift wrapped, feel free to return it unwrapped to the tree for youth members to wrap on the 15th during and after our potluck.

This year we are gifting children and youth receiving Foster Care services in the state of Massachusetts, as well as children who are supported through the LexRAP organization.

Whatever their circumstances, all children deserve a little brightness in their lives and it is our privilege to contribute in this season. Although the tree will not be up until

next weekend, the mittens will be out and available. Please take one or two, or more...and thank you for your generosity.

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Preschool and up: This week, our groups all combine to hear about our unique Unitarian Universalist Holiday of Chalica, established by Daylene Marshall. All holidays originated somewhere and the ones we commonly celebrate were joined by Chalica in 2005. Beginning the first Monday in December, it is spreading around the UUiverse. It is a weeklong opportunity (this year from December 2nd to 8th) opportunity to light chalices AND remind ourselves about our 7 principles. We will be sending your child home with some suggestions on how to celebrate the week to come and a chalice of their creation for lighting at home.

Our Whole Lives **meets NEXT Sunday** from 4:30 to 6:00 in the Wallace Room. **Enjoy your long weekend!**

Mark Those Calendars!

Potluck Theology

Please join us for our **next Potluck Theology on Sunday, December 8 at 4:30-6:30pm**, where we will explore different festivals of lights celebrated during the winter season including Hanukkah, Saint Lucy's Day or Santa Lucia, Winter Solstice, Advent/Christmas and Kwanzaa. Please sign up to help using the link below! Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4FA8AB2F4-potluck1>

Exploring the Power of Myth

Come discuss the ideas of this Joseph Campbell series/book, *Power of Myth*, one chapter per month. **The next meeting will be Sunday, December 8 at 12:00 pm in Michelsen.** Campbell told us that mythology is not a lie, mythology is poetry; not a literal truth but a metaphorical truth. Myths from different cultures, peoples, and faith traditions are remarkably similar, speaking to the innate condition of the unchanging human psyche. If our dreams are individual myths; then myths are our collective dreams. If interested, please contact Matthew Bronski mbronski@gmail.com or Rebecca Kelly-Morgan rebecca@winchesteruu.org

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

This Sunday morning we have a regular meeting with an exciting topic: "Let's talk about Sex Pt. 2!" to follow-up on the convos we started a couple weeks ago.

- We also have a Sleepover on Dec. 6th (multi-UU-youth group, at the UU church in Needham) and a regular meeting on the 8th (joined by our 8th graders!) Please click [here for the flyer](#) with more sleepover details.

- Please also mark your calendars for youth to be at WUS during the morning and early afternoon of Dec. 15th: there will be roles for youth in the Holiday Pageant upstairs at 10:30 then we'll be holding our services auction fundraiser downstairs afterward alongside the all-church potluck. Youth and 8th graders will also do gift-wrapping together for the WUS Mitten Tree and sell holiday confections alongside the services

that they'll be auctioning off silently. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us for everything that day!

To see all of our upcoming events, **click here to see a PDF of our calendar** for the year, or view and subscribe to our google calendar by going to our website: **www.winchesteruu.org/youth** where you can also find more information about our programs and ways to stay in touch. Email **wusyouth@gmail.com** with any questions, concerns or compliments!

Music

Choirs

Adult Choir rehearsal begins at 8:45 on Sunday.

Children's Chorale and Youth Choir rehearsals are Tuesday evening from 6:15-7pm. Do you know a young person who loves to sing? Both these groups are wonderful opportunities to learn about music and enjoy community, and have a great time.

Please contact Music Director John Kramer for more information at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org

Congregational News

Indoor Greening Party Thursday, December 5th, 6:30 pm

Anyone who wants to help "green the church" is welcome to join us. Kids are explicitly and warmly invited!
Cookies, eggnog and holiday cheer provided.



Parent's Night Out Saturday, December 14th 5:00 to 8:00 pm

An early holiday gift for busy parents and guardians. Here's a chance to shop for or wrap some special gifts or have a dinner out eaten on plates that can break. We are looking for folks who would like to be part of the adult oversight of our children. We'll have kid friendly dinner, games and fun. Please let Rebecca or any member of the RE committee know if you're interested.

Shop local! But if you're one of the 75% of Americans who shop online at Amazon, please help support WUS by naming the Winchester Unitarian Society as your designated charity on Amazon Smile.

As you shop this upcoming holiday season, we urge you to shop local. But if you're doing your shopping online and you're buying from Amazon, we hope you'll make **Amazon Smile** your starting point and support WUS through your purchases. Why? Because Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. It's easy. You start your shopping experience at smile.amazon.com instead of the plain old amazon.com – it's the same Amazon you know,

same products, same prices. You name the Winchester Unitarian Society as your designated charity and start shopping! Got questions about the program? Read more [here](#) or just get started at smile.amazon.com.

Thanks and Happy Holidays!



Sculpture Exhibition

More Sculpture Opportunities!

Sunday, December 1st before service and during Coffee Hour, stop by the Symmes Room to view the two pieces of sculpture generously donated by Jon Winer for sale to benefit

WUS.

THE MINERS

HERMANN HAASE-ILSENBURG

(German) 1960 Berlin. The miner's Bronze, brown patina, gray marble on a square plinth with pick. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ " h.



TWO DOGS AND A RABBIT

JULES MOIGNIEZ (French, 1835-1894). Gilt bronze figural of two hunting dogs at point with a rabbit nestled beyond a rock in leaves. Signed "J. Moigniez". The oval shaped bronze mounted on an oval wood base.

7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " h x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ " l.

Feel free to share this opportunity with your friends and invite them to see this display.

For additional information, such as appraised value, please contact D. Andrews at dandrewse@gmail.com.

Good Solutions for Reversing Global Warming

by Phil Coonley

Seventy folks, from high schoolers to octogenarians, gathered at the UU church last Wednesday evening to hear of proven solutions which together could reverse global warming in high schoolers' life times. All watched a 22 minute video excerpt of Dr. Katharine Wilkinson (lead writer of the best-selling non-fiction book Drawdown) presenting at a 2018 meeting of the The New York Society for Ethical Culture. All then moved into sixteen 4- to 5-person discussion groups to: share reactions to the video; study a giant poster depicting

80 proven and 20 promising solutions; and identify some of their favorite. Most expressed intentions to support one or more of the solutions through consumption and behavior changes, volunteer work, or donations.

When reconvened into one group by facilitator Bruce Macomber, surprises were shared. One was that educating girls globally plus family planning together could have a bigger impact on reducing annual greenhouse gases than any other. Others were that improved refrigeration could have the single biggest impact, and that reducing food waste is close behind. Another was that the total cost of implementing all of the 80 proven solutions would be only a third of their economic benefits; that there is no silver bullet, but there is silver buckshot!



Volunteers from the five local sponsoring organizations then briefly explained their current initiatives. To learn more about what these organizations are working on check out their websites: [Mass 350 Metro North Node](#) [Sustainable Winchester](#), [Heatsmart](#), [First Congregational Church](#), [CoolWinchester](#). You could also reach out to the [WUS Green Sanctuary](#). Twelve of the of the twenty-two volunteers who made this community-wide event possible are from the WUS. In addition our sexton Mike Bussell and Administrator Thomas Slack provided invaluable support.



Adopt New Recycling Habits at WUS

There have been a lot of changes in the recycling industry. Recycling facilities can't take the volume of material they used to process and now some items even hamper that processing. These changes affect what can be put in the recycling bin.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is updating the church's recycle lists with information from Recycle Smart, the MA Department of Environmental Protection's statewide program (www.recyclesmartma.org) which promotes recycling that meets the new standards. The Town of Winchester, like many other cities and towns, has adopted this program.

New blue containers with the approved list of recyclable items will be in place around our church building beginning December 1. Companion containers will have list of items that are trash. We hope you'll look for them - and use them.

With thanks to Fritzie Nace for her expert advice and to Georgia Hoffmann for designing the signs,

Lindy Brown and Maggie Russell for the Green Sanctuary Committee

Contact us with any questions -

Lindy, lindybrown7@yahoo.com; Maggie, maggierussell@comcast.net

Supporting Local Refugee Families

WUS is beginning a supportive relationship with **Lexington Refugee Assistance Program** (www.LexRAP.org) whose mission is to provide refugee families with a network of community support.



There is an immediate need for the following items to support a LexRAP refugee family and their young child. Donations would be welcome and appreciated! If you would like to support this family, please bring items to WUS and place them in the LexRAP donation box in the Symmes room.

**Huggies brand pull-ups, size 5T for boys
Vanilla PediaSure Shake, 8 oz. with blue cap**

Additionally, there are opportunities to provide direct support to LexRAP refugee families who are living in the local area. There is a need for:

Drivers: to take family members to medical appointments, the grocery store, etc.

Conversational English visits: to help individuals practice speaking a new language

If you are interested in supporting local refugee families, please contact **Marianne DiBlasi** at marianne@winchesteruu.org.

Social Action and Outreach wants your suggestions for justice and service projects this year. Please talk to any member of the committee: Sue Doubler, Harris Gibson, Gordy McIntosh, Claire McNeill, Patty Shepard, and Martina Warner. We have one vacant spot. Visit a meeting, the first Tuesday every month.



Sunday Secretaries are needed!

The office could really use your assistance on Sundays.

Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!

There is a **Facebook group for WUS Members and Friends**, a fun way to connect outside of Sunday morning. If you wish to join, simply find the group on Facebook, ask to join through the page and, recognizing your name, office staff will approve your request. **Join the conversation!**



Community Joys and Sorrows

Our love and care go out to all who have joys or sorrows, hopes or prayers on their hearts. 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

Social Action & Outreach

Help refugees learn English with the International Institute of New England a refugee settlement agency in **Lowell**. They need adult volunteers to work in the classrooms with mothers and their children in a weekly, specialized ESOL class. Friday mornings, 10 am - 12 noon. For more information, contact Shannon St. Pierre ([sstpierre@iine.org](mailto:ssstpierre@iine.org)) To carpool with other members, contact Claire McNeill.

UUs Showing Up for Climate Action & Justice! Again!

Important: **Please RSVP**

Join fellow UUs: **UU Climate Action Advocacy Day**

Tuesday December 17, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM



We'll meet at the State House in a [conference room 413E](#), briefly and then send a team of volunteers to the State House. All the materials you'll need will be provided – we just need you! This is part of a coalition wide effort to have weekly groups visit every legislator's office to keep up the pressure about our bills! Can't come to the hearing? Please call your legislators! We need as many people as possible to make calls on the day of the hearing and advocate for the Safe Communities Act. [Here's a helpful tool to help you do this](#) Or write a Letter to the Editor of your local paper drawing on our [talking points](#).

Show your support now for the MA Safe Communities bill by emailing your MA representatives: [Click here to find the fact sheet](#) . Public Hearing 10 AM and Rally 9 AM, Monday, Dec 2nd. **Join the Safe Communities Coalition – get updates directly by texting SAFEMA to 52886.**



Did you know that you can donate airline miles to reunify immigrant and refugee families and to allow these families to make their way to their sponsors in the United States? Donating airline miles is a perfect way to make a difference in the lives of immigrant friends, families, and neighbors.

RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services - <https://www.raicetexas.org/>) has partnered

with Miles4Migrants and as part of our partnership, we want to ask our supporters to donate in a new way - their airline miles.

For more information, read the [Support RAICES Campaign to Raise Miles FAQ](#) and watch the following [short video \(3:30\)](#) to see how a Miles4Migrants case works.

Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **shelf stable milk**, **apple juice** and **canned soups** 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

Coffee Hour Refreshments

Two people/families will be assigned to bring refreshments for one Sunday. We truly appreciate your willingness to be asked to help out in this simple way - thank you!

You can see when your assigned week is by looking [here](#).

Without a doubt, there will be an assigned week that won't work for a given family and we ask then that you barter with your fellow congregants to switch up the assignment to cover your assigned Sunday.

Help make Sunday mornings more welcoming and joyful by bringing refreshments for coffee hour!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tyson (tyson@kamikawa.us) along the way.



Flower Dedications

Dates are available for flower dedications. You may dedicate flowers in celebrations 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.

Seeking people to organize and lead the message part of Family Worship first Sunday of each month! The Religious Education Committee invites those who are interested to lead the message for 10:00 Family Worship for the first Sunday of the month. If you have a favorite child-friendly story to read or tell, or short activity you would like to share, please do! Themes in the past have involved the environment, meditative practices, social justice, and friendship. You will be asked to coordinate with that day's worship leaders and provide any props. The message should be no more than 10 minutes long. Email the RE Committee at rec@winchesteruu.org (link address?) if you are interested. If you would like to lead, but need some suggestions, please let us know!

Ongoing

Yoga, Meditation, Caregiver Support 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: Wednesdays, 9:00 am

Email to office@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)

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