

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 23, 2020



*Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Integrity"
- A photo from a panel of stained glass at First Parish, Plymouth, MA*

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, "Pass it on" What is passed to us? What do we pass along?
Rebecca Kelley Morgan leads this morning.

Sunday, January 26

10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary



Embracing the Rats, Not the Race (#UUTheVote)

Youth-led Worship & Bring a Friend Sunday

Director of Youth Ministries Sam Wilson and
the Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

During Sunday's special worship service, led by the Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group (WUSYG) and Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Wilson, we will be exploring the power of the individual and the collective to effect change, specifically in this important upcoming election year. How do we as UUs and members of a faith community act with integrity in this pivotal election, while remaining mindful of the separation of church and state? This Saturday marks the kickoff of the Chinese New Year: the Year of the Rat, and we will be invoking this special animal's power as we consider the role each of us - whether or not we are able to vote - has in the upcoming election and future of our country and world.

This Sunday is also **Bring a Friend Sunday**, so be sure to invite someone (or several friends!) to join you for this inspiring and interactive service led by our beloved youth.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **The Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**, which is dedicated to kindling the sparks of leadership among Unitarian Universalist (UU) youth and young adults. The fund supports scholarships, grants, and programs for youth and young adult projects, conferences, outreach, and more. With the support of the Katie Tyson Fund, emerging leaders will be empowered to live out their dreams, weave our Unitarian Universalist principles into the fabric of their expanding lives, and encourage others to do the same.

Events This Weekend



From the Music Committee:

Our January jazz concert is right around the corner! Please join us on Friday, January 24th at 8:00 for a concert we call our "Saxophone Summit." This year's Jazz in the

Sanctuary concert will feature three sax players (alto, tenor and soprano sax) as well as John Kramer on piano, Mark Pucci on bass, and Yoron Israel on drums. We'll celebrate jazz greats like John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Stan Getz, Coleman Hawkins and more. And, there's still time to be a sponsor for this year's concert series. Contact Kathryn Maffei at klminc@aol for more info.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday, January 26th

The average frequency of a UU church member inviting someone to church is once every thirty-four years. Only once every thirty-four years! This implies most reading this blurb have never invited a friend to this church. Isn't offering to share a good thing, without any undue pressure, a generous act?



Our service on January 26 will be youth run, so guests will see first hand our high-

school age kids taking the lead. Most visitors will find this reassuring; the future will be in good hands. And those with young kids may be inspired to get their kids involved in an activity, like our church, that promotes growth both in character and competence. And after the service and coffee chat, friends who claim only "secular" interests might like the scheduled discussion about Massachusetts's proposed Safe Community Act. Please consider sharing a pew, a service, a coffee, and even a discussion of optimal local police policies. Reach out.

And Bring Your Singing Voice Sunday, January 26

You are invited to come join the choir in our anthem, "There's a River Flowing in my Soul" on Sunday, January 26th. Please plan to attend our rehearsal in the Sanctuary at 9:45am that morning. The music is easy to learn and joyous to sing. We look forward to seeing you there.



Creating a Spiritual Legacy, Part 1

Sunday, January 26th, 12:15 to 2:15 PM (lunch at Noon) in the Michelsen Room. Please join us for this first of two workshops on constructing a spiritual legacy. In this community devoted to spiritual

growth, each of us has a spiritual legacy worth exploring and sharing. We meet for a simple meal of soup and bread to nourish ourselves as we begin the process of inquiry and reflection on what values we hold sacred. Offered by the Pastoral Care Associates and staff members, this workshop creates a foundation for developing and documenting one's personal spiritual legacy. Please plan to bring a journal or notebook to the first session.

Contact Marianne DiBlasi or Donna Reed for any pre-workshop questions. RSVPs are requested, although not required. Please RSVP to Marianne DiBlasi at Marianne@winchesteruu.org. Save the date for part 2 of Creating a Spiritual Legacy on **Sunday, February 23rd**.



At noon this Sunday in the Sanctuary, **Karen Hirschfeld and Phil Coonley** will lead a presentation and discussion of the proposed **Massachusetts's Safe Communities Act**. About 60 other Massachusetts towns and cities have already adopted Safe Communities Act provisions in their police policies.

The Network for Social Justice wants Winchester to also adopt such policies, as well as clarify similar immigrant friendly "Welcoming" policies in our schools, hospital, and businesses. The presentation will include a video clip, from a recent Network public meeting, of a Mass ACLU lawyer and a Belmont real estate agent and activist. Please come, discuss, and perhaps

share stories about how you or someone you know might benefit from the state or your town being a Safe or "Welcoming" Community.

Potluck Theology
Sunday! January 26th
4:30-6:30 pm in Symmes



All are welcome to join together for a shared meal, a conversation on refugees and our 7 principles, fellowship and fun. **Please use this link to RSVP:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4fa8ab2f4-potluck2>

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Morning Programs:

Sometimes you just have to do something different. In January, community members offer workshops for and with our young people.

This week for JanFest:

Ring those Chimes! Join Kirsten Hart, Children's Chorale Director for an introduction to this chorale favorite instrument. Kirsten invites families of all ages and stages (that means you, parents) to chime together.

De-engineering! A perennial favorite of JanFest, let's take that stuff apart. We meet in the upstairs classroom with tools and lots of things to undo and see what makes them tick.

Afternoon Programs:

Our Whole Lives meets from **4:30 to 6:00 in the Wallace Room**. This week, lovemaking. Ryan and Jenny facilitate the group.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

Sunday, January 26th - Youth-led Worship Service, WUS, 10:30 AM

o Youth will be leading this worship service, titled "Embracing the Rats, Not the Race (#UUTheVote)" Sam will be delivering the sermon but youth will do all the other roles. It's also Bring a Friend Sunday, so families are encouraged to come AND bring friends!

o Teens involved in the service should come at 9:30 AM – please check with your teen if they have volunteered (so far Arthur, Alex M, Bitsy, Charlotte, Rachel, Izzy, Abby and Tom have agreed to speaking roles, and Abby and Bitsy have agreed to perform, and Rhea and Rachel will also be performing in youth choir. Max and Luke have agreed to be Greeters and Rhea agreed to be an Usher). Youth are also strongly encouraged to join the "pick up choir" at 945 to quickly learn a song to sing during worship!

o Youth are also invited to join members of the congregation for a simple vegan

lunch afterward to celebrate their service and hang out together, provided by the team leading a Spiritual Legacy workshop (a 2 hour workshop teens are also totally invited to stay for if they can/want to!)

- o NO WUSYG Meeting that night

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



PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

Last week, our good Partner Church friend, Gizi, emailed us as follows from Transylvania:

I would like to let you know a very important news. On 19th of January at our church there will be a very important event. We organize the inauguration of the relief of Dávid Ferenc the founder of Unitarian religion in Transylvania. It will be installed on the wall at the entrance to the offices. It is a copper relief. I attach a picture of it and next week I send pictures of the inauguration. We could realize our project only with your help. We used \$1500 dollars from your last year donation. Thank you very much.

Those of us who have visited our partners in Marosvásárhely know how much they value their Unitarian heritage. We know how much this plaque will mean to them.

New Year, New Keys

In the coming months for the first time in 20 years the Society will be updating and changing the locks on the church. A new building access policy has been adopted by Standing Committee to enhance building security. Keys will be distributed

to staff, SC members, Chairs of Committees, and others as required. We know this is big change and every effort will be made to minimize any disruption to congregational life. We will leap to new locks on February 28, 2020. Please make an appointment with Thomas Slack to get your new key.



January Sanctuary Training at First Parish Bedford

If you want to volunteer to be one of the Winchester Unitarian Society volunteers and missed the fall training, now's your time to sign up.

Dates for training are as follows:

Monday, January 27, 7 -9pm: First Parish Bedford, 75 Great Road

Tuesday, January 28, 1 -3pm: First Parish Bedford, 75 Great Road

Please e-mail marilynmullane@me.com if you plan on attending. Provide your name, e-mail address and phone number. Note that drop-ins are no longer invited.



Immersion Trip to Honduras - August 1-8, 2020

Winchester Unitarian Society members are organizing an Immersion trip to Honduras to visit El Hogar, a school and home, if needed, for about 250 students. The program will give you the opportunity to engage with students, parents, staff, alumni and other nonprofits working for change. You will learn about the culture and the people of Honduras and explore the issues of extreme poverty, violence and climate change migration. There will be an information table in the Symmes room after the service on 1/19 and 1/26.

On **Sunday, February 2 at 12:30 pm (following the Pledge Drive Kick Off)** there will be an information meeting. You can reserve your spot by bringing a \$250 deposit to the meeting.

Contact Carol Delaney (ccdolaney1@hotmail.com) or Cynthia Randall (cynthiarandall@comcast.net) for additional information and to answer any questions. You can read more about the organization at www.elhogar.org

Save the Dates!

Family Book Discussion: *Refugee* by Alan Gratz sponsored by WUS and the Winchester Library. Sunday February 9, 2:30-4pm at the Winchester Public Library



Families with children ages 9+ and up are invited to discuss the book, *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. The discussion will be co-facilitated by Brittany DeLorme, Children's Librarian, and Rebecca Kelley-Morgan.

Copies of the book in a variety of formats are available at the library and in the special display areas. Additional copies are available through the Minuteman Library Network and limited numbers for loan at WUS.

Parent's Night Out! February 15th from 5-8. Here's a valentine for parents and guardians. While your children play and socialize over a kid friendly meal, you might go have a dinner out eaten on plates that can break or spend some quiet time. We know it's the long weekend of President's day, so let us know if you'll be attending ASAP. With an **RSVP to Rebecca Kelley Morgan rebecca@winchesteruu.org by February 9th** and let us know if your children have any dietary limitations, so that we can plan appropriately.



Rainbow Campaign Enters Next Phase

Network for Social Justice and Winchester Unitarian Society have organized our first day for volunteers to visit local businesses to invite them to post a rainbow decal in their window, a symbol of welcome to LGBTQ people and their allies.

Our visits will begin on **Saturday, February 1st from 10 am - noon**. We will gather for a quick orientation and then make these visits in a team or teams. If you haven't yet indicated an interest in this project and would like to join, please contact Rev. Heather: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

We also need a couple volunteers willing to call businesses in advance to make them aware of our upcoming visit. Please let Rev. Heather know if you are interested in this role as well.

Photo: Henry Hunter Maguire celebrates pride with a rainbow decal at his home. Look for photos of flags and decals posted around Winchester with #rbowconnectionwin

NEW!!! Matching Funders with Shoppers for LexRAP Donations

Do you want to donate Huggies, PediaSure

and Wipes for the young child of a local LexRAP refugee family, but don't have time to shop or can't find items in your local store? Do you have time to shop, but have already made your donations?



We would love to help by coordinating people who are willing to shop for items with those who are willing to pay for items. **Call or text Mary McIntosh 781-354-0404** with your offer / need and she'll find a match for you!

Please bring purchased items to WUS and place them in the blue LexRAP donations box in the Symmes room. See below for specifics, especially for the PediaSure since it's the only type the child likes.

Vanilla PediaSure Shake, 8 oz. – blue cap with, no artificial growth hormones
Huggies brand pull-ups, size 5T for boys
Huggies Nourish and Care wipes

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

Drivers: to take family members to medical appointments, for groceries etc.
Conversational English visits: to practice speaking a new language

If you are interested in providing direct support to a local LexRAP refugee family, please **contact Marianne DiBlasi at marianne@winchesteruu.org**. Thank you for supporting Winchester Unitarian Society's relationship with **Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (www.LexRAP.org)** whose mission is to provide refugee families with a network of community support.



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!

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.

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 heartfelt condolences are with **Chris and Karen Erikson** with the recent death of Chris's father, Russell Erikson. You may read the obituary here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=russell-g-erikson&pid=195085303&fhid=20823>

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 presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org

Social Action & Outreach

Have you been on a Jericho Walk, supporting people threatened with deportation?

A company in Arlington has been working with ICE. You may sign a letter requesting that they cease doing that work profiting from families being torn apart by ICE.

[Link to the Letter](#) [Link to sign-on](#) [Deadline: January 24](#)

ABCs of Racism: Starting the Conversation about Race and Racism with Kids on Jan 28 at WUS from 7:00 -9:00 pm.

This interactive workshop led by Boston-based racial justice educators **Wee the People** will explore the barriers that prevent adults from talking about race and racism with kids, examine the social science of race awareness in children, and identify strategies to start the conversation with kids about the complexities of race, racism, and racial differences. This event is free, but registration is required. Register [here](#).

WUS Members recently watched the launch of#UUtheVote. We can engage our neighbors, educate our communities, and more broadly shape the public discourse with values-based framing, rooted in our theology and principles. [Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.](#)



Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying **e x t r a** canned **fruit**, **apple juice** and **condiments** 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.

Beyond the Congregation

Suitcase Stories

presented by International Institute of New England (IINE)

Friday, January 31 at 8:00 pm

Somerville Theatre, Davis Square Somerville, MA

Suitcase Stories® and Global Arts Live (formerly World Music/CrashArts) partner again to feature inspiring refugee and immigrant stories. Suitcase Stories® is a traveling live performance that features foreign and U.S.-born residents sharing refugee and immigrant stories. The format of storytelling in a theatrical setting is especially suited to these powerful tales of real-life experience, and because of our ever-changing casts, every show is different and features new voices!

INE has been serving immigrants and welcoming refugees to New England for more than 100 years. Now more than ever, new Americans need to know they don't journey alone - our community continues to embrace and support them. Hope to see you there! [Buy Tickets Online](#)

WhaleCoast Alaska 2020

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2020 is for you!

4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental/cultural/spiritual program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships -- our program is truly the best way to visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete info go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, [email dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

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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