

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 30, 2020



Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Resilience"

- A heart tree, painted on stone by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan.

Trees are good role models for resilience, rooted in place but moving with whatever weather comes their way...

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, Fritzie Nace leads the message on resilience and the web of community that holds us.

Sunday, February 2

10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary



Gifts, Humble and Great

The Rev. Heather Janules
Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

A faith community offers, in the language of a well-known hymn, simple gifts. But sometimes these gifts are transformative. This service will invite us to reflect on what it means to be part of a community and our role in the often invisible but powerful work of individual and collective transformation.

This Sunday, we will share the offering with the **Casa Alitas Welcome Center**. The Casa Alitas Program serves migrant families who have left their home countries to escape violence and poverty, providing care, short-term shelter and assistance to reunite with family members in the U.S.

Events This Weekend



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 **THIS 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*

2020 Pledge Drive Kickoff Starts Sunday, February 2

Our annual month long Pledge Drive begins on Sunday. This year's theme is '**clarity of purpose**' - something that is vital for success and for making dreams come true. Pledge packets will be distributed during coffee hour or mailed next week to anyone we miss on February 2.



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 (ccdelaney1@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

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Morning Programs:

World of Wonder: It's Groundhog's Day. Who is sleeping this time of year? Who is waking up? And who is always out and about in the wintertime? Our 7th principle reminds us to look to nature for wisdom. Caroline and Isabelle lead the group.

Moral Tales: Stepping Stones: As Unitarian Universalists, we celebrate resilience and our capacity to care about other people. This morning we hear about refugees who have come to this country and some of the reasons they have left their own. Charlotte and Elizabeth lead the group.

Faith Finders: This morning we hear about LexRAP, an organization established to assist refugee families in the greater Boston area. We also hear a story from "suitcase stories" sponsored by the International Institute of New England. We consider the difference between "refugees" and "immigrants" and how being Unitarian Universalists informs our response to people in distress.

Afternoon Programs:

Our Whole Lives meets from **4:30 to 6:00 in the Wallace Room**. This week, what is consent and mutual agreement? Ryan and Jenny lead the group.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

This Saturday, February 1st: Network for Social Justice and WUS organized this day to visit local businesses to invite them to post a rainbow decal in their window - see more info elsewhere in Highlights - we would LOVE to have lots of WUSYGers join in this important outreach so please try to make it if you can, we know some of you will definitely be there!

This Sunday, February 2nd: Superbowl Sunday, please note that we are having an EARLY WUSYG, from 3-5 PM.

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

From the Intern Minister

As we entered the year 2020, the reality of my two-year part-time internship coming to an end this Spring became more real. It's with bittersweet emotions of deep gratitude for and sadness of

leaving this beloved community that I announce my last Sunday at WUS will be April 5. With the support of Rev. Heather and the Standing Committee, this date is sooner than the original end date of May 31 for two primary reasons.

First, in conversations with Heather, we recognized the truth that there is no such thing as part-time ministry. In spite of efforts to work the agreed upon 20 hours per week, having an authentic experience of ministry required working more than 20 hours. To compensate for the additional hours worked, my internship will end early.



The second reason is, I have commitments beginning mid-May. During the weekend of May 16-17, I will be in Chicago for graduation festivities and the commencement ceremony from Meadville-Lombard Theological School's Master of Divinity program. Shortly after returning, I will begin a summer Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) chaplaincy internship at Heritage Havenwood Heights in Concord, NH.

I am comforted and energized by the wonderful ministry we will do together between now and April 5. I am honored for the opportunity to serve WUS as your intern minister.

With blessings,
Marianne

Thank you from the Music Committee

Thank you to everyone who helped to make Friday's concert a big success! We had a great night of jazz, nearly **200 attendees** and **\$2268 in donations**. Mark you calendars for **Friday, May 8th** to hear an impressive foursome of young folk musicians perform in a group called Windborne. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12HwvPpWUx0>



PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

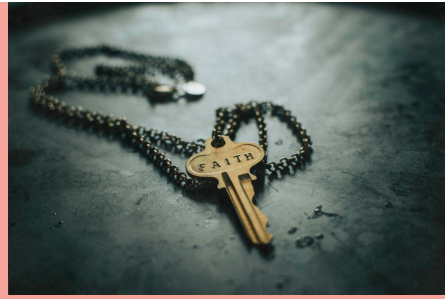
Last week, our good Partner Church friend, Gizi, emailed us as follows from Transylvania:

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.

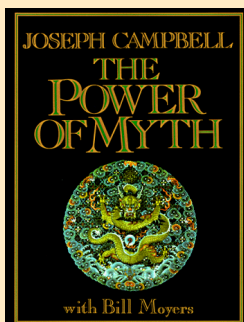


Family Book Discussion: *Refugee* by Alan Gratz sponsored by WUS and the Winchester Library. Sunday February 9, 2:30-4pm at the Winchester Public Library

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.



The Power of Myth:

Our February conversation exploring the work of Joseph Campbell will take place on **Sunday, February 9th from 12:00 to 1:00 pm** in the **Michelsen Room**. If you have not joined us before, you are welcome. Matthew Bronski convenes the group.

Spiritual Legacy creative session:

**Tuesday, February 11th
7-9 PM in the Parlor**

Join us for this informal session. We will have an opportunity to write and/or collage in community. Soul Collage is a way of getting beneath the mental chatter and distill our thoughts into images that speak to and from our souls. For those who prefer the practice of writing, there is space for you as well.



Parent's Night Out!

Saturday, 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.

Save the Date!

Love Has No Borders: Storytelling and Music on Immigration

Saturday March 14, 7-9pm at the Jenks Center

WUS is hosting a community-wide fundraiser to create awareness for immigrant experiences and inspire hope-filled action through the power of stories and music. We will hear the personal stories of two refugees, one of his life in his home country and the other of his life after coming to the U.S. The founder of LexRAP will share the story of how LexRAP began with the simple question, "Who's with me?" Our own WUS congregants, Patty Cameron will tell her story of being a Sanctuary volunteer and Karen Hirschfeld will share her vision of Winchester as a Safe Community.

Spanish folk music will be performed by a family whose husband/father fled Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Beth Levin, Cantor at Temple Shir Tikva, will lead songs which are sung at interfaith vigils at ICE detention centers.

Suggested donations of \$15-\$25 will benefit the non-profit Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (www.LexRAP.org) to support refugee families who are living in the local area. Doors will open at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.

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 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

UU The Vote: You're Invited: Massachusetts UU Conversation about UU the Vote
Click Here to learn about current actions and to find UU The Vote Resources
Join your fellow UUs for a discussion about what's happening. This will be a chance to begin organizing based on where there is the most interest. Wed Feb 5, 7:00 PM.
It's a: **Zoom Call (Info) Please RSVP Here**



UU Mass Action News: Feb 5th is the deadline for legislation to be reported out of Joint Committees. Here's the status of each priority bill:

Immigrant Justice. The #SafeCommunitiesAct Hearing was amazing! 800+ people turned-out. If you haven't contacted your legislator yet, you still can - **use this helpful link** We need to keep reminding our legislators that this is a priority for us. **Find your legislator and their info here**

Safe Communities Act S.1401/ H.3573 Protect the Civil Rights of all MA residents.
Senate: Eldridge/ House: Miranda & Balser **FACT SHEET** Status: In Joint Committee
Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee, Hearing 1/24/20

Work & Family Mobility Act S.2061/H.3012 Provide access to a drivers license for all in Massachusetts. Senate:Crighton/ House:Farley-Bouvier & Barber **FACT SHEET**
Status: In Joint Committee on Transportation, Hearing 9/4/19



REVOLUTIONARY LOVE CONFERENCE

The week of April 24th is going to be a powerful gathering of people of faith working toward justice, featuring an entire track on electoral engagement. This year's Revolutionary Love conference is being hosted by All Souls UU Church in Washington, DC. Join Rev. Heather in attending. The planners have generously extended a registration discount just for UU's until February 14th. **Use the code: UUVOTE20 to register here** and learn more about it.

"**Corporate Fair Share for Transportation**" details how we can both raise revenue for and invest in our transportation in ways that are fair and equitable! **Check out the full report here.** post about Corporate Fair Share on your social media platforms! We have **template posts here** and **sample graphics here** that you are free to use

Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **canned chowder**, **apple juice** and **cream of mushroom 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.

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!

IINE 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](#)

Moving Into Prison Ministry: An Introduction to the Prison Industrial Complex

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is currently supporting 1,106 incarcerated members all over the US. The CLF is hosting an all-day workshop focusing on the prison industrial complex at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, MA. Led by the Rev. Dr. Rodney Lemery, Minister of the Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network, this conference is for Unitarian Universalists and anyone who asserts that all are worthy of love and justice.

Religious freedom for people living in systems of mass incarceration is protected by the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution. Yet exploring and practicing a wide breadth of spiritual and religious views can be challenging. Prisons are dominated by largely fundamentalist teachings and resources. This conference will help people interested in prison ministry who offer alternative perspectives and can support the unmet religious and spiritual needs of those who are incarcerated. Prison ministry is an expansive term that can include such activities as becoming a pen pal, making regular in-person visits, hosting classes or worship services in prison, advocating, and more.

You'll find more information and a registration form at this link: <https://worthynow.org/classes-events/pic101readingma/>

Questions or comments? Contact Beth Murray at the Church of the Larger Fellowship.
bmurray@CLFuu.org
617-948-6150

Hope to see you in March!

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)

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
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