

# Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 6, 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

**Sunday, February 9**  
(No Family Worship)

10:30 am Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary



### **Ability Diversity**

Marianne DiBlasi

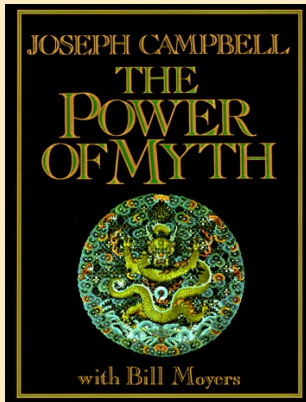
Worship Associate: Marcy Tompson

Each living being is marvelously created to offer their unique gifts to the world. Yet, societal norms and labels can limit the expression of our full potential. This Sunday, we will explore diversity through the lens of what society labels as disability. **This multi-generational service serves as religious education for the morning so there will be no Family Worship or RE activities.**

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Brio Integrated Theatre**, whose mission is to

transform lives by offering integrated and inclusive art, music, dance, and story-telling programs for people of all ages and all abilities.

## Events This Weekend



### The Power of Myth:

Our February conversation exploring the work of Joseph Campbell will take place on **Today, 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.

**Family Book Discussion: *Refugee* by Alan Gratz sponsored by WUS and the Winchester Library.**

**Today, 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.

## Religious Education

### This Sunday:

#### Morning Programs:

Sunday morning worship is our religious education for the morning. Ministerial Intern, Marianne DiBlasi leads this service about differences, diversity, and creativity.

#### Afternoon Programs:

Our Whole Lives meets from **4:30 to 6:00 in the Wallace Room**. This week, Sexually Transmitted Infections - symptoms, transmission and risk reduction. Karen and Jenny lead the group.

## WUSYG

### *Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group*

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](http://www.winchesteruu.org/youth)** where you can also find more information about our programs and ways to stay in touch. Email **[wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com)** with any questions, concerns or compliments!

# Music

## Choirs

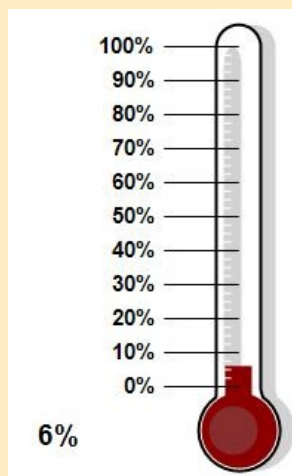
Adult Choir rehearsal begins at 8:45 on Sunday.

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](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

## Congregational News

### The Elevator is Back in Service!!



### Annual Pledge Campaign Underway

It's the first week of our month long campaign and all members should have received their pledge packets. If everyone is able to pledge the suggested amount in their letter, we will reach our \$400,000 goal. **We've already received approximately 10 pledge cards representing 6% of our goal. Please help us get to 25% by the end of our first week.** Thank you.

Additional blank pledge cards will be available during coffee hour.

### 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>

### 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.



### 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.



For those who are interested, during the first 20-minutes, Marianne will offer an overview of what was covered at Part 1 of Creating a Spiritual Legacy, giving people the option of attending Part 2 of Creating a Spiritual Legacy on Sunday February 23 at Noon in Michelsen.

## 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](mailto: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!

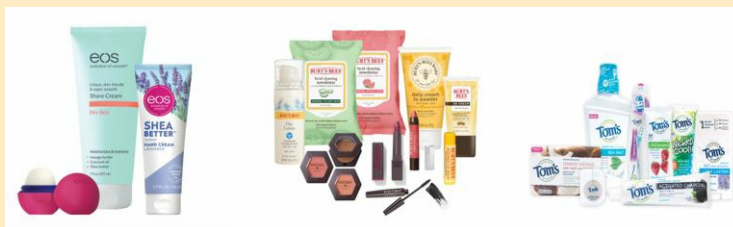
***Love Has No Borders: Storytelling and Music on Immigration***

**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 \$10-\$20 will benefit the non-profit Lexington Refugee Assistance Program ([www.LexRAP.org](http://www.LexRAP.org)) to support refugee families who are living in the local area. Doors will open at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.



## What is TerraCycle?

TerraCycle® is a social enterprise eliminating the Idea of Waste®. Operating in 20 countries, it tackles the issue from many angles,

and has found that nearly everything we touch can be recycled. It collects typically non-recyclable items through national, first-of-their-kind recycling platforms. Leading companies work with Terracycle to take hard-to-recycle materials, such as ocean plastic, and turn them into new products. Its "Loop" platform aims to change the way the world shops with favorite brands in refillable packaging offered with convenience and style. So far millions of pounds of valuable resources have been diverted from landfills all over the world.

TerraCycle offers free recycling programs funded by brands, manufacturers, and retailers around the world to help individuals or organizations collect and recycle

hard-to-recycle waste. Led by Shealagh Crowley, the Green Sanctuary team has chosen three firms' products to recycle, downloaded free shipping labels, and built a small collection station for display and use in the Symmes Room. We will check this collection station and consolidate what 's collected for free shipment back to the firms for recycling. The products are from three firms, **EOS-Evolution of Smooth**, **Burt's Bees**, and **Tom's of Maine**. Pictures of the products are shown here and on the collection boxes. Please fill them!

### **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](mailto:marianne@winchesteruu.org)**. Thank you for supporting Winchester Unitarian Society's relationship with **Lexington Refugee Assistance Program ([www.LexRAP.org](http://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](mailto: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

As previously shared by email, it is with sadness that we announce the death of **Michael Costa**. His 19 month struggle with brain cancer ended on Monday, February 3rd. You may read his obituary here:

<https://www.andersonbryantfuneralhome.com/obituary/michael-costa>

A Service in Celebration of His Life will be held this Saturday, February 8th at 2pm at WUS. All are welcome to attend. Our condolences are with his immediate family members, **Daphne, Izze and Nika**, and his many friends and other loved ones.

Tina and Rocket, the two 18-month old indoor cats of **the Brokaw-Wright family** escaped early Sunday morning of January 26th. Tina was caught within three days and Rocket within seven. We celebrate that sister and brother are both healthy and happy now that they have safely returned home!

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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)



## Social Action & Outreach

**Do you have a favorite charity? The Social Action and Outreach Committee selects organizations whose purpose aligns with our mission. This is Your chance to propose a grant.** Meet members of the 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 29.

**Please tell your friends about the “Refugee” book discussion** for kids age 9 and up and their parents. WUS is coordinating the event to be held at the Winchester library

from 2:30 to 4:00 pm.

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.



### 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.

UU Mass Action's Mission is State and Local Action. If you are interested in engaging in National level actions for economic justice, environmental and climate justice, immigration reform or defending our democracy, **check out this great resource UUSJ**. UUSJ is part of the Coalition for UU State Action Networks (UU Mass Action is the Massachusetts State Action Network). You can participate in a *monthly Write Here, Write Now action* and have your letters personally delivered to members of congress by UUSJ volunteers. UUSJ has formed a new task group focused on **Defending Our Democracy**. For more information, please contact [advocacy@uusj.org](mailto:advocacy@uusj.org)

### 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**



**Voices on the Green: 'Timing is Everything'  
Friday February 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM  
First Parish, 7 Harrington Rd, Lexington**

Voices on the Green, a community program that is in its fourth year, brings together a mix of storytellers, an expert speaker and live music all centered around a particular theme that speaks to current experiences, values and issues. The evenings' theme is "Timing Is Everything." Storytellers Bob Coyne, Ajay Gallewale, Cheryl Meadow, Mia Roop, and Erik Svenson will tell stories from personal experience, including tales of love, danger, forgiveness and reaching crucial destinations, all under the pressure of time.

Bob Armstrong, long-time Lexington resident, head of the energy initiative at MIT and international expert on energy and its effects, will concentrate on understanding the crisis in the timing of climate change.

Popular Lexington musicians, David G. Moore, Ronnie Hirschberg and Chuck Clough, will perform music well-timed and well-themed for the evening, with guitar, keyboard and vocals.

A Children's Program will run concurrently with the main program, led by Marlon Carey, poet, performer and teacher, who prepares creative activities on the theme. As part of the Voices on the Green mission, carrying out the theme in outreach to the community, the proceeds of the evening will be shared with two Community Partners, Lexington Global Warming Action Committee and the Sunrise Movement: Lexington Chapter.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$20 for those who wish to be a donor and \$5 for students, young adults and children. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.

**Greater Boston UU Singles Valentine's Day potluck!**

Join a group of UU singles from all over the Boston area for our first event, a potluck on that most awkward of all days if you are single - Valentine's Day! Enjoy good food, good conversation and good fun with area UU singles. This is our first event, come and you can say you were with us on the ground floor! The dinner will be from 6:30 - 8:30 (ish) at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton (FUUSN), 1326 Washington Street in West Newton, convenient to the Mass Pike and Route 128. RSVP here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c44a5a72ca4f85-uusingles>. Please include what you will be bringing in the comment section (though if we wind up with 12 pans of brownies, is that really a bad thing?) For information, contact Barb Schmitt at [celeryelectric@gmail.com](mailto:celeryelectric@gmail.com).

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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)