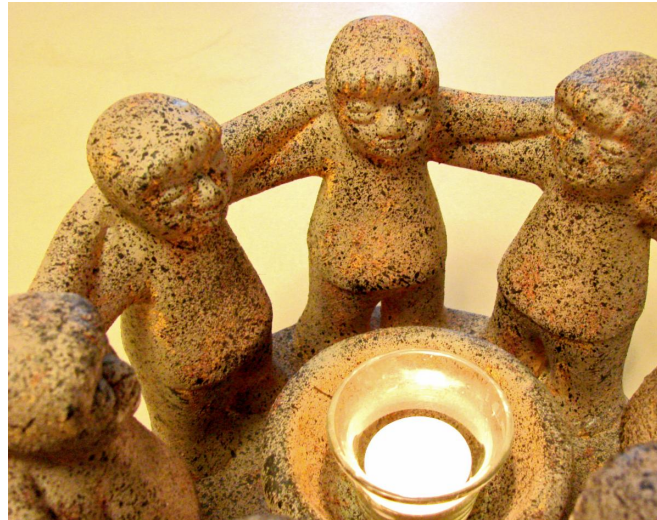


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights July 23, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, July 26
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**Climate Change:
Living in Interesting Times**

John Keller

Worship Associate: Martin Newhouse

Rapid, human-caused climate change is now well underway at a global scale. How will this emerging crisis affect our lives and those of future generations, if humanity continues on its current path? What specific actions can we take, especially as individuals, to mitigate its worst impacts? Is it too late?

Sunday, August 2
10:30 Worship, ONLINE

I Am Because We Are

Kye Flannery

Worship Associate: Marcy Tompson

Shame, blame and responsibility in an interconnected world

Community Connections

Update on WUS Congregational Life and the Pandemic

Your Standing Committee has formed a **Pandemic Planning Task Force** charged with leading the process by which we figure out how we will function as a congregation before there is a COVID-19 vaccine. **Many thanks to Dirck Stryker, Cynthia Randall, Evan Forcucci, Kerry Bartlett and Kim Foley for agreeing to serve on the Task Force. James Pidacks and Fritzie Nace** will serve as liaisons from the Standing Committee and Thomas Slack and Heather Janules will participate as staff.

You may reach the Task Force by emailing
pandemicplanningTF@winchesteruu.org

For now, we are assuming that we will be offering virtual worship and programming at least until the end of August...Stay healthy and safe, everyone!

NEW [Guideline for Outdoor Use of WUS for Meetings and Gatherings](#)

Summer Highlights

As of today, Highlights will be on the summer schedule of every other week. Please keep this in mind when making your submissions.

The summer schedule can be found below:

July 23
August 6
August 20

We will return to the normal Highlights schedule on **September 3**

Congregational News

Highlights from the virtual UUA 2020 General Assembly

A major theme of this 2020 General Assembly (GA) was understanding the history and current systems of colonialism and conquest, beginning with some ancestors of our religious tradition arriving in what is now called Plymouth 400 years ago. This is part of a series of GA offerings for the [Plymouth/Mayflower 400th Remembrance](#). This Action of Immediate Witness (AIWs) was adopted. [400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism \(PDF\)](#)



Call to Action for WUS Fall Auction

ZOOM-A-BID!

Online: Friday, October 9 – Friday, October 23
Live Zoom Auction, Saturday, October 24 at 7pm

Contributions are being accepted **NOW**
[CLICK HERE](#) to donate an item.

YOU are the Auction! Get creative with your own ideas. A few suggestions:

HELP and SERVICES: Handy-person services, bicycle repair, painting, home repairs, graphic design, landscaping, piano tuning, computer aid...

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES: Haiku of the month, chalk-sidewalk art, surprise box-a-month, artistic drawing/letter in a mailbox, porch serenade...

OBJECTS OF INTEREST: Art, jewelry, collectibles, perennial plants, antiques, furnishings, handcrafted items...

RETREATS: Boat ride, sports car for a day, weekend at Kripalu Center, round of golf, vacation home get-away...

GIFT CERTIFICATES: Supporting local businesses: car wash, beauty salon, spa, restaurant, dry cleaner, specialty shop, dog groomer...

Please note that we ask that you buy and donate gift cards to help our area businesses recover from the pandemic.

EDIBLES: Jams, celebration cakes, soup or pie of the month, dream on!

This auction has been designed to meet current CDC regulations for COVID-19.

Thank you!
Your procurement team,

Sioux Brokaw
queenbee108@comcast.net

Naomi DeLairre
naomidelairre@hotmail.com

Karen Erikson
karenerikson@comcast.net

Ready to Learn About Racism?

Take a look at the "Talking About Race" section on the website of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Conscious of the demands on your

reading and computer time, the WUS Racial Justice Team Planning Group offers this resource as a way to move us forward as an anti-racism congregation.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

You'll find three major portals for learning about racism: As an Educator, as a Parent or

Caregiver, and as a Person Committed to Equity. Explore All Topics and be sure to click on "Being Anti-Racist." You'll find short, informational pieces, videos, questions for you to ponder, and more. Wherever you are on your journey around race, we hope you'll find this resource valuable.



Volunteers needed for a week of garden watering in August

We still need volunteers to sign up for watering in late July and August. Volunteering for a week means keeping an eye on the weather and being available for an hour for up to three times that week in case mother nature doesn't bless us with rain.

Here is the link to sign

up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4ca9ae23a75-wusgarden>

If you have any questions please contact Margaret at mlowry142@gmail.com or phone at 781-258-8345. Watering notes will be emailed to you.

This is an easy volunteer opportunity and one that can be enjoyed by individuals and families alike. Please feel free to snip from our herb garden; parsley, sage rosemary, thyme, tarragon, oregano, basil, mint and marjoram.

Summer Writing Group

Please feel free to come to the Summer Writing Group on every Wednesday from now until August 12th. Meetings will take place over Zoom starting at 9 AM. The exact format and focus of the group will be discussed and determined each week based on how the attendee writers wish to spend the time. No writing experience is necessary – just a desire to write. We look forward to "seeing" you! For more information and the link for the meeting contact Judy [[HERE](#)].



Joys, Sorrows, Transitions and Concerns

As shared in worship on Sunday, it is with great sadness that we announce long-time WUS member, **Dan Hirtzay**, died peacefully on Friday July 17 with his beloved daughter, **Anne Hirtzay**, by his side. Memorial service arrangements will be shared when they are known. Sympathy cards may be sent to Anne Hirtzay and her family at: 4841 West Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Our love and condolences are with the Hirtzay family and Dan's many friends as they mourn his loss.

Our heartfelt condolences are also with **Kerry Bartlett and her family** with the recent death of Kerry's father, James Gaffey. Our love is with the Bartlett family. You may learn more about James and his life here:

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, our Summer Co-minister of Pastoral Care, Marianne DiBlasi, 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.

Religious Education

We are reaching out to get an idea of what our families would be interested in doing for the summer and fall to stay connected. Not all our needs are the same but we all share the same covenants. Please click below to fill out the form.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6wr8kkf>

Help us work together by filling out the form. We will try new ideas with the same covenants during this change in all our lives! Thank you!

-The RE Committee

WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG Summer 2020

We're back! In order to keep our community connected during this time, WUSYG has started holding in-person, socially-distanced meetings (outdoors and with masks, too) on Sunday nights, from 4:30 - 6:30 through August 30th. Parents and youth, please click here: <https://forms.gle/deR9d1fTWhadGUS87> to see and sign our mandatory agreements for our expectations and rules during these meetings, and more information about costs and eligibility. We're so excited to see y'all again this weekend!

Music

Virtual Choir

The music program will be experimenting with a "virtual choir". This is new to all of us so it will be interesting to see how it comes together. Choir members should already have been contacted about this. Please contact Music Director John Kramer at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org if you have any questions.

Social Action & Outreach

"Reclaim Our Vote" Phone Banking:

During the General Assembly, UU members from around the country made over 110,000 calls working with Reclaim Our Vote. Now they've launched the "ROV Every Tuesday Phone Bank." Calling begins at 5pm every Tuesday. If you're new to ROV calling, please click the link at 4:30 to get sign-up info and brief training. ROV has good lists and a very solid approach – chances are you will get to talk to some voters. Click

[here](#) to RSVP.

Renewable Communities 2020 Webinar Series

So much of the progress we're seeing on clean energy is happening at the local level. Elected officials and activists are working in cities and towns across Massachusetts to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation. To learn about innovative local clean energy programs,

[RSVP here](#) to receive a link to join the webinars

1: Cape & Islands: Hub of innovation was Tuesday, July 21, 10:30-11:30 AM

2: Clean & efficient transportation for Greater Boston: Friday, July 24, 10:30-11:30 AM

3: Fossil-fuel-free buildings: Tuesday, July 28, 10:30-11:30 AM

The people of Chelsea, Massachusetts still need our help. Chelsea is home to some of the most vulnerable groups in the Boston region: newly-arrived immigrants, undocumented families, non-English speakers, and low-income workers and families with children. The economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were immediate and dire for the many in Chelsea who live one paycheck away from serious financial hardship. COVID-19 has magnified the ongoing struggles of our community: unstable and unaffordable housing, food insecurity, low wages, lack of English proficiency, and high rates of uninsured. <http://healthychelsea.org/chelsea-emerges-as-covid-19-hot-spot/>



Help to Reverse Decades of Voter-Suppression in Florida!

Write Postcards From Home to Register Voters for *Vote by Mail* and Increase Turnout

A Florida *Vote by Mail* postcard to-go event is a safe and effective way for you to help reverse decades of cynical and systematic suppression of the votes of working people and communities of color.

You'll personalize and address postcards to voters, telling them how to request a *Vote By Mail* ballot.

Our postcards increase their probability of applying to vote by mail. And when they apply to vote by mail, it makes it significantly more likely they will cast a ballot.

You can write the postcards from your own home! Just pick up your packet of 20 postcards and addresses, customize the postcards at home, and return the postcards by the deadline date.

The packets cost \$17 each, to cover the cost of materials.

To minimize cash-handling, please pay:

- with PayPal.com to OceanWaterLover@gmail.com or

- with a personal check to 'John Healey' or

- with cash.

- 41 Grove Street, Winchester, MA, 01570

Here's the Schedule for these distributions on Sundays through July:

July 26; noon to 6 p.m.
August 2; noon to 6 p.m.
August 9; noon to 6 p.m.
August 16; noon to 6 p.m.
August 23; noon to 6 p.m.
August 30; noon to 6 p.m.

Let me know if you cannot pick up at this time or place, and I will make another arrangement to get the packet(s) to you.

RSVP here please: OceanWaterLover@gmail.com

so I'll know how many packets to prepare.

Each brown paper bag packet contains:

- 20 postcards and addresses;
- 40 postcard stamps;
- 40 sticky seals (for the sides of the postcards);
- Instructions, with a script and example.

The packets cost \$17 each. Please pay:

- with PayPal.com to OceanWaterLover@gmail.com or
- with a personal check to 'John Healey' or
- with cash.

Our Refugee Support Continues

We have started a **Go Fund Me campaign** for the refugee family many of you have so generously bought diapers and Pediasure for.

The parents have gotten work permits and the father is now working, but the salary is modest, so the money raised through this campaign will go to living expenses. You can reach the campaign [here](#) to donate and/or share the link to the campaign by email, Facebook, Instagram, etc.

We continue to ask for any information on an affordable apartment that might become available outside the normal real estate channels, a landlord who might be willing to rent at below market rate, or someone going away on sabbatical who would like house sitting.

Please contact Gloria Legvold (glegvold@comcast.net, 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson (sandra.thompson3@comcast.net, 781-724-7571) Many thanks!

The refugee family WUS has been helping has been offered household goods and furnishings from a condo in Hampton, New Hampshire. They can store the kitchen and other supplies in the attic of the house where they are staying but need a storage area for the furniture. The condo has been sold and must be emptied by July 30. This is a wonderful offer, but we need someone who is willing to drive a truck to pick things up, bring it back to Winchester, and help with placing things in a storage area.

Please let Sandy Thompson (sandra.thompson3@comcast.net or 781-724-7571) know if you are available and/or know of a storage area.

Council of Social Concern

The Food Pantry at the Council for Social Concern is currently low on: **Canned meats (tuna, beef stew, spam, salmon), baked beans, hearty canned soups and pasta sauce.** Since donating food may not be convenient, contributions may be made directly on their website: www.socialconcern.org

The Winchester Unitarian Society will be staffed during its regular office hours of 9:00 am to 3 pm for anyone interested in dropping off food for the Food Pantry.



Food Pantry Hours (by appointment only) are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45 am – 12:00 pm or 1:30 – 3:00 pm, and Wednesday Evenings 6:00 – 7:00 pm (for those working full-time or in school full-time).

If you cannot make an appointment, an emergency box can be picked up anytime Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Food Pantry is open to Woburn & Winchester residents
If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call
Paula Matthews, Food Pantry Director at (781) 935-6495 ext. 208

Beyond the Congregation

CHANGE THE SACHEM MASCOT

115 Native American and civil rights organizations oppose the use of Native mascots

20 Years ago the Indian Commission on Native Affairs asked Winchester to stop using the sachem mascot. This never happened.

What can 1 person do to make a difference?

Email Rebecca at ipac@nfsj.org, or visit nfsj.org/programs/indigenous-peoples-advocacy-committee/

NETWORK
for **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
Educate • Engage • Activate



The Winchester HS Sachem mascot name and logo need to go! 4 ways you can help change:

- 1) Read these [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) about the Sachem
- 2) Post this graphic (seen above) on your Facebook or Instagram, post a quote from the FAQs on twitter, or add a link to the NFSJ's [mascot statement](#)

3) Write a personal and succinct letter to the [School Committee](#) stating your support for removing the Sachem. **The Committee will be voting on this July 28th.**

4) Connect with 4 friends and share your perspective on change.

Ongoing

*****ALL IN-PERSON MEETINGS AT WUS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED*****

**Yoga, Meditation, Caregiver Support Group,
and 350 Massachusetts Metro North**

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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