Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights October 1, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Theme for October is *Deep Listening*

Photo: Statues on the Boston Common

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, October 4 10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by Alfred Schrock on Unsplash

Listening with a Spiritual Ear: Discernment

The Rev. Heather Janules

Individuals sometimes make decisions through a list of pros and cons. Groups

sometimes make decisions through use of agendas and voting. These are fine tools...but sometimes the way forward is more complex and nuanced than a simple up or down vote. Returning to Susan Beaumont's book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You are Going*, we will begin this month centered on "Deep Listening" by exploring the practice of group discernment What if in your next work/family/committee meeting you set aside the planned agenda for careful, intentional reflective conversation the next time you are in the midst of a hard decision? What if meetings became a spiritual practice? **As this is the first Sunday of the month, there will be a conversation after worship to discuss the service for those who wish to do so.**

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **American Civil Liberties Union**, whose mission is to defend individual freedoms guaranteed by the US Constitution.

Family Worship, has returned to Sundays. This week, Listening. We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, October 4th. Please log on a little before 10 at www.tinyurl.com/wusworship and in the chat feature, write "the secret password". You will be invited into a breakout room by the host. and everyone is muted as they arrive before we begin family worship. This week, we begin our exploration of listening. The sessions will not be recorded, and we have gatekeepers to safeguard our youngest members' privacy.

Worship Notes



Chalice Images and Short Videos Needed

We wish to refresh our images for "Kindling of the Light" in on-line worship. Please send your images and short videos of you kindling your chalice at home to Director of Music John Kramer at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org

Zoom Support Volunteers Needed

Most of us have become more tech-savvy since March. If you have become Zoom fluent, consider serving as Zoom tech support should a newcomer have trouble accessing the Sunday service. If interested, contact Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

Community Connections



Online:

Friday, October 9 – Friday, October 23

Live Zoom Auction:

Saturday, October 24 at 7:15pm

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE IMPORTANT COUNTDOWN THIS FALL!

ZOOM-A-BID, WUS's Community Fall Fundraiser, begins in just 8 days!

Next week, you'll receive an **EMAIL** with the link to the Online Auction and Raffle and all the instructions you will need to participate. Feel free to forward the email on to trusted friends and relatives!

ON OCTOBER 9th AT 5 PM, THE AUCTION OPENS AND THE BIDDING BEGINS!

Here's your last sneak peek:



A Week at Tres Hermanos in Taos, New Mexico. Taos has something to offer at all times of the year: skiing, hiking, ballooning, the Pueblo, Taos music festivals, and so much more. This three-bedroom house can sleep 6 - 8 comfortably and will be available to the high bidder from February vacation on in either 2021 or 2022.



The Art of Flower Arranging. Upgrade your bouquetbuilding skills with tips from a WUS gardener and flowerarranging enthusiast. Seven lucky winners will receive hands-on experience next summer at WUS arranging their own selection of flowers to take home.

Get ready to start bidding, beginning on October 9th at 5 pm on more than 100 auction items, including vacation getaways, professional services for your home and landscape, delicious foods delivered right to your door, "master classes" brought to you by skilled fellow WUSers, original artwork, surprise themed bundles, and more!

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

Your Auction Committee: Sioux Brokaw, Naomi Delairre, Sara Delano, Jennifer Edwards, Karen Erikson, Kristine Kamikawa, Julie Khuen, Marilyn Mullane, and Cynthia Randall.

Join us October 9th - October 24th for this Special Fall Fundraiser to SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE WUS!

A Note from the Standing Committee and the Pandemic Planning Task Force

With Gratitude: We are grateful for the news in recent weeks of the continuing decline of COVID 19 cases in Massachusetts. As our congregation looks to the beginning of our church year, we remain cautious and place the health and well-being of our staff, congregation and communities as the highest priority. On August 19, the Pandemic Planning Task Force (PPTF) presented "Pathways to ReOpening" which outlines WUS's response to the Massachusetts phased reopening. We thank them for their dedication, time and effort in preparing this guidance for us, and we will continue to reach out to them for guidance throughout the pandemic.

On-Line Worship Continues Although the State permits in-person worship, we continue to feel it is prudent to be more cautious, and so will continue to have Sunday Worship on-line for the foreseeable future. We have been indebted to all those who have made this shift to technology-based worship successful. We are mindful that this requires additional time and effort and thank all who have made this possible. We are also pleased that so many are joining us who would normally be separated by distance! We hope to develop the technological capacity to continue streaming our Worship Services when we return to the Sanctuary. The Standing Committee will poll the congregation in the near future to get "a pulse" on when and how to return for inperson worship.

In-Person Meetings and Gatherings at WUS:In-person gatherings and meetings are now permitted in WUS building and on the grounds. HOWEVER, we ask that everyone STRICTLY FOLLOW the **Guidelines** found <u>HERE</u> to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

- Anyone wishing to gather at WUS must notify the office to reserve space.
- At that time, the organizer will receive the Guidelines which include Health Screening Questions and a Sign-In Sheet. (can be emailed)
- All attendees must answer the screening questions accurately. If no risk of Covid is apparent, that person may attend and must sign in on a hard copy, including phone number.
- The organizer will return the Sign In Sheet to the Office within 24 hours where it will be maintained for contact tracing if necessary. (A photo of the hard copy may be taken and emailed to the Office.)

While we are pleased to offer this safe avenue for some in-person gatherings, we wish to affirm that any member of the WUS community - friend, member, lay leader or staff - who cannot participate in gatherings in person, for any reason, should feel no pressure to do so. Organizers of in-person events should poll their invitees carefully and make arrangements for virtual participation to ensure inclusion and hospitality.

Renters' presence: The Winchester Cooperative Nursery school will be opening, following strict guidelines from the state. We have mutually agreed to cordon off the nursery school area Monday – Friday. They will enter from Metcalf doors. We ask that no one be in that area during the week. Please call the office with questions.

Re-Envision Our UU Community: All are encouraged to find ways to continue fulfilling our WUS Mission and Vision, living our values and creating community together that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. Be creative! Stay Connected!

Questions or Concerns?: Please feel free to reach out to the Standing Committee Co-Chairs: James Pidacks and Fritzie Nace



Too early to think about Thanksgiving? Not at all.

The Thanksgiving Food Basket Program is again upon us.

Last year our members donated the makings of Thanksgiving dinner to 33 families. This year, the need is greater than ever.

See details below, in the Social Action section.

Congregational News

Partner Church News

We hear from minister's wife, Gizi, that, in Marosvasarhely as in Winchester, covid19 has seriously curtailed church activities. They feel safe gathering on Sunday to hear Laci's sermons but allow no more than fifty people in the sanctuary and require proper distancing. This summer, they took a group of fifty congregants to a country resort location, where each family could have its own cabin. As Gizi commented, they were together but apart. They found it a refreshing relief from virus restrictions.



Our two university scholarship students, Anna Kiss and Anna Kamenitczky, are continuing their studies, albeit remotely. Neither one is happy about that. The latter's program is in geography and tourism; the former's in artisanry. We're hoping to learn how she is able to pursue her efforts in three-dimensional art of various kinds.



PLEASE JOIN US! MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020 - 7 PM on Zoom

A PRESENTATION from the YES ON 2 CAMPAIGN

with Rev. Vernon Walker, Campaign Consultant and Alex Arsenault, Field Director, Voter Choice MA

Learn More And Help Bring Ranked Choice Voting to Massachusetts!

PLEASE SHARE WIDELY!

PLEASE NOTE: You need to **REGISTER HERE** to attend this **LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT** or to receive a link to the recording via email the next day.

YES on 2 began as a grassroots-driven movement to build awareness around an improvement to our elections known as **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**. RCV helps reduce the issues of vote-splitting and so-called "spoiler" candidates -- common problems which often put pressure on candidates to drop out, and which prevent fresh, diverse voices from running for office in the first place.

RCV levels the playing field -- giving more choice, and guaranteeing a stronger voice for every voter. It eliminates worries about casting a "wasted" vote, regardless of whether or not your favorite candidate is deemed the most "electable," or whether they have the biggest bank account, or whether they drop out before election day after you've voted early. RCV encourages candidates to run more positive and issuebased campaigns, and it ensures that candidates win with over 50% support from their district. For a short 1-minute primer on how RCV works, check out the video on the YES on 2 website.

This year, **YES on 2** volunteers certified **128,780 signatures** with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, placing Ranked Choice Voting on the **November 3, 2020 ballot.** Now, with only a handful of weeks left, each of us must answer the call to get this initiative over the finish line.

HOSTED BY

Social Action and Outreach Committee of the Winchester Unitarian Society with the following Co-Sponsors: Mystic Valley Area Branch, NAACP, League of Women Voters of Winchester, Network for Social Justice, and others TBA.

Bring-A-Friend Sunday: October 18@10:30am at the Winchester Unitarian Society

Please join us online (in the comfort of your home & PJ's!) by Zoom at: https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship

Whose Laws and What Order? Police, BLM and Us with Rev. Heather Janules

The use of police force against African Americans and other marginalized communities is one of the many catalysts to rising civil unrest, seemingly a conflict between efforts to "defund the police" and "back the blue." Yet, like many social struggles, things are not quite this simple.

This service will explore how we, a diverse nation, might seek to move beyond binary, hostile positions towards a society with authentic service and protection for all.



Service begins at 10:30am and is followed by virtual "coffee hour" where you can meet & chat with others in the WUS congregation.

We hope to "see" you there!

The Winchester School of Chinese Culture will not be running their after-school program at WUS this year. If you would be willing to lead an effort to find or suggest alternative sources of building related income, please reach out to Thomas in the WUS office (office@winchesteruu.org or 781-729-0949). Any building use must be consistent with the guidelines from the Pandemic Planning Task Force and the needs of our long-time tenant the Winchester Cooperative Nursery School. Every little bit helps!! Please share your time and ideas! THANK YOU!



Harvest the Power is an adult program that cultivates leadership growth through faith formation and the application of Unitarian Universalist theology to the goals of anti-racism and social justice. Learn about yourself, your fellow members and the skills and practices needed for leadership in these unfamiliar times throughout six, two-hour reflective and interactive sessions.

Co-facilitated by Liz Lintz and Phil Coonley of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, Director of Lifespan Religious Education Rebecca Kelley-Morgan and the Rev. Heather Janules, Parish Minister, this group will meet virtually throughout the 2020-21 program year, days and time TBD, beginning hopefully the week of Nov 9th but based on collective availability. We especially encourage those who are already in leadership positions or considering leadership positions to enroll, but it is open to all. Expectation is that participants will commit to the first three sessions and then assess from there. Please contact Liz Lintz at nominating@winchesteruu.org if you have questions or you are ready to join. Minimum 6 participants to begin, maximum is 12; deadline is Nov 8. We already have one enrollee so we just need at least 5 more! How about you?

Writers Group: 9-10(ish)
Every Wednesday
Next meeting is October 7th

The writer's group is led and facilitated by Dan Hermes. Dan will be facilitating



through early November, so please be in touch if you'd like the url to join the group. Dropping in is fine and invite your writing friends. Dan can be found here at: dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com



Covenant Groups, Affinity Groups, Connections to be made and deepened? As we go into autumn, and the days shorten, our connections are increasingly important. We would like to hear from you, if you are interested in joining a covenant group or an affinity group. Covenant groups usually meet monthly and engage with the materials sent out in monthly Soul Matters packets which align to the theme of the month, for example, in September,

Renewal. Affinity groups are organized around a shared interest or circumstance, our writer's group is one. But there's room for other interests - perhaps a parent's affinity group (after the kids are in bed!), a musician's group, a group for those who identify as People of Color, a children of aging parents group, a "let's talk about this past month's worship services" group, a divination salon, or? Let us know a) if you would like to join or move to another covenant group or b) if you are interested in affining with like minded people. Questions or? Please reach out to Rebecca at Rebecca@winchesteruu.org and let us know what you need.



Mask Makers: We have "kits" of fabric, instructions and the parts you need to make a cloth face mask. If you are a sewer, but don't have materials and would like to be able to sew, please contact (Rebecca) at rebecca@winchesteruu.org to work out pick up details. There are also sewing machines available if you would like to borrow one.

HAUNTED HOUSE!!

Haunted events on church grounds this Halloween season!

Decoration donations appreciated! Volunteers welcomed!

More Information:



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_5py5MDmqGXlPep5rCgf0yDo7CDQZCPwV -9xlO8JtC8/edit

Contact Evan -- email: evan.forcucci@gmail.com or text: 781-460-8325

Calling all Recyclers -- and we hope that's every one of you! Empty pizza boxes can be recycled, even with grease and food stains, according to Recycle Smart MA

(https://recyclesmartma.org) Your empty boxes are needed to make new boxes, so don't trash them.

~ The Green Sanctuary Committee





The Wednesday Night Meditation Group is ON-LINE Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Sitting from 6:30-7:00 pm
bell will ring
Walking from 7:00-7:20 pm
bell will ring
Optional informal discussion 7:20-7:30 pm

Specific Instructions:

TO JOIN BY PHONE: - Dial-in number (US): (712) 770-5505, Access code: 891-437-120#

International dial-in numbers: https://fccdl.in/i/891-437-120

TO JOIN BY COMPUTER OR OTHER DEVICE:

Join the online meeting: https://join.freeconferencecall.com/891-437-120
Online meeting ID: 891-437-120

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text "Help" to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.

Also, please join as early as 6:20 pm to greet each other before we ring the starting bell at 6:30.

We will all be muted during the 2 meditation periods, when you should be able to see a video of a lit candle on the screen.

For further information, please contact Patty Shepard at shepard.patty@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Free conferencecall.com has a new software download that you may be asked to allow when you click on the link above. All you need to do is to accept the download and follow the prompts, including allowing a non windows installation, if you have windows on your device.



Fall Yoga Session Begins
Join us Mondays 6:45 – 8:15pm via Zoom
Led by Fritzie Nace, MA DTR

Deep breathing (pranayama) brings warmth and focus. Yoga postures (asanas) gently stretch and strengthen, enhance balance and counter patterns of daily tension. Connecting breath and movement deepens self-awareness and enlivens our sense of being. If you have never done yoga before, or only just a bit, Fritzie gives clear guidance through a slow flow of postures, offering support as we go. If you have more experience, you are invited to take the postures to your own depth of challenge. Ten-class (\$130), 5-class (\$65) and drop-in (\$15). For more information, see WUS website here. Questions? Email fritzie.nace@gmail.com.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister 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

Children's Religious Education: As long as the weather allows, we will be meeting on the grounds of Winchester Unitarian Society, with masks and social distancing protocols for everyone's health and well being. The gatherings will take place Sundays from 12:00 to 2:00, picnic and brief program followed by social time. Park in the back lot and find us on the lawn near the garden.

Sunday, October 25th 12:00-2:00 celebrate the autumn with Pumpkin carving/decorating. Put that one on your calendars!

If you haven't been contacted by a member of the religious education committee yet, please let us know when and how to best be in touch by letting Committee chairperson, Naomi Magnoni know at **naomimagnoni@gmail.com**. We look forward to connecting with you!

WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

We had SO much fun making Personal(ity) Pizzas with you all last weekend!

This Sunday is "Glow Your Mind" paint night and we'll be making Spooky Slime together, so you'll want to join us in a space you can craft in (and wearing clothes that you're ok with getting messy, too!) You should be able to find all the supplies you'll need in your Care Bags, except for a cup of water and something to spread your paint onto (piece of wax paper or cardboard works well).

Parents: Haley and Sam are hosting 20 min sessions to get to know you and learn more about your child. Sign up here if you're interested:

https://calendly.com/wusyouth/20min

All of the above will be on Zoom and can be joined by going to: www.tinyurl.com/WUSYGZoom

We will also have monthly in-person outdoor meetings starting on Oct. 25th. Any questions/concerns/feedback please message Sam & Haley: wusyouth@gmail.com

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

Council of Social Concern

There is an <u>urgent need</u> for food donations for the Council for Social Concern in Woburn. You may drop off food at church or at the pantry.

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



Update from the UU Urban Ministry

To learn how to sustain the link between WUS and the UUUM, you are welcome to attend their Delegate Training (even if you are not a delegate!):

October 1, from noon to 1:30 Register Here:

https://tinyurl.com/uuumdelreg

And Here are Some Other Updates -

- This summer we welcomed 8 high schoolers to the first hybrid version of our summer youth employment program. Part of their project was to learn digital storytelling skills using just their phones. You can see one <u>cool example here</u> (but it might make you hungry).
- While we continue to shelter our Renewal House families off-site, we are taking advantage of the emptiness and renovating the kitchen and common areas. We can't wait to welcome families back to what is turning out to be a stunningly refreshed space. (With major gratitude to the Franklin Square House Foundation for funding this project and letting us dream big.)
- Our Social Justice Fellow for the Arts and Humanities is working closely with Roxbury-based artists to amplify their work -- and we continue to be moved and inspired by the creativity around us. While we plan to share a new Artist Spotlight next week, you can get a <u>sneak peek here</u>. (And see <u>older episodes</u> <u>here</u>.)
- Work to restore the historic semi-circular configuration of our driveway and to reign in our untamed parking lot begins next week.
- In other exciting landscaping news: a \$25,000 pledge in support of our Healing Garden project pushes us so much closer to breaking ground on that beautiful, contemplative space next spring.

Too early to think about Thanksgiving? Not at all. The Thanksgiving Food Basket Program is again upon us.

This program, sponsored by the Council of Social Concern, delivers the makings of Thanksgiving dinner to families in need in nearby communities. Last year we contributed 33 dinners. This year, the need is greater than ever. Since they are excluding fresh vegetables, we estimate the cost to be from \$50—75.

Please sign up NOW to donate one or more dinners by sending Sue Doubler an email a t suedoubler@gmail.com. We will send you a shopping list and details about delivery to the church; you will need to provide your own sturdy box with lid. Together, we can make Thanksgiving a happy holiday for families in the Woburn/Winchester area who are facing difficult times.

Every Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. a community vigil in support of racial equality and justice for Breonna Taylor takes place at the four corners of Mystic Valley Parkway near the Winchester Unitarian Society.

All are welcome!

DISRUPTING RACISM NFSJ LEARNING SERIES

This 3 part series is designed to build a learning circle of diverse community members committed to diving deeper into racial justice theory and its practice

- Mapping our personal anti-racism journeys
- Discussing the intersection of key concepts and overarching frameworks
- Identifying practical tools to interrupt racism

7-9pm Tuesday Evenings October 13, 27th & November 10

Limited to 30 participants, priority given to Winchester community members

To register visit: disrupting_racism.eventbrite.com With questions lnorwich@nfsj.org



Network for Social Justice, nfsi.org

The **Network for Social Justice** currently lists organizations working to mobilize voters of color, and ways we can influence legislation to support Indigenous People in MA, such as changing the MA state seal and flag.

Did you enjoy coffee at our coffee hour last year? Our church purchased it from

Equal Exchange, a MA coop which sells high quality organic coffee purchased from cooperatives of farmers in Latin America and Africa. Now the small farmers need our help, for most churches have moved to on-line services. Any member of the congregation may order wholesale cases of organic fair-trade coffee, tea, chocolate and pantry staples directly from Equal Exchange for home use. To order, call the EE at 774-776-7366 or shop online at: **shop.equalexchange.coop** Please spread the word; invite your family and neighbors to support fair trade at home during the pandemic. Contact Claire McNeill for more information.



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:

Sunday, October 4, 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 (<u>glegvold@comcast.net</u>, 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson (<u>sandra.thompson3@comcast.net</u>, 781-724-7571) Many thanks!

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: <u>Click here</u>
For Highlights submissions: Wednesdays, 9:00 am
For submissions to the OOS: Wednesdays, 9:00 am
Email to <u>office@winchesteruu.org</u>. No more than 250 words, please.

Staying Connected

Visit the WUS website!

- Read the latest Highlights and Mystic Messenger in <u>the</u> 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 <u>the members' section</u> (<u>contact the office</u> for the password).
- Want to set up electronic giving? Go to the **How to Give page**.



Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890 (781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org