

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights October 22, 2020

*(link to today's full issue of Highlights)*



### The Theme for October is *Deep Listening*

*Photo: Statues on the Boston Common*

## Upcoming Worship

Family Worship, has returned to Sundays. This week, “Is it Noise? Or?” We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, October 25th. Please log on a little before 10 at [www.tinyurl.com/wusworship](http://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. All will need to be admitted and sessions are not recorded.

Check out this Animated Video by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Family-Worship-Advert-WUS-end-caps.mp4>

**Sunday, October 25**  
**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



Photo by [Janine Robinson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Witnessing African-American Music, A Music Sunday

John Kramer, Music Director

This Sunday, with our theme of Deep Listening as a backdrop, we will be exploring music composed by African-Americans. Join Music Director John Kramer and the WUS choir along with many of the fabulous musicians in our congregation for a Sunday full of song and inspiring music. We will also explore the role of African-Americans in creating unique American musics and the cultural forces that have helped and hindered that creative process.

This Sunday we share our gifts with we share our gifts with **Winchester A Better Chance**, a nonprofit organization providing academically talented scholars-of-color with expanded educational and career opportunities.

### Questions for Reflection

How do the stories we listen to shape our identity?

What stories have been overlooked?

How can we empower all to find their authentic voice?

### Transcription Service Now Available

When you log on to worship, you will now see an icon reading "LIVE Otter ai." This is a transcription application that provides text for any Zoom meeting, a good tool for those with impaired hearing or anyone seeking clarity about what is being broadcast.

You can see a tutorial here: <https://tinyurl.com/OtterDemo>

## Service of Remembrance

Your Participation and Preparation are Needed!

**Our annual Service of Remembrance is happening on Sunday, November 1st.**

**Send Us Your Names:** As we did last year, we would like remember our loved ones through a sung litany. This is



a time to remember all our loved ones, but this year we will be bring special attention to those lost during this time of pandemic. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered in this litany, please contact John Kramer at [john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org). In this beautiful meditational space, the names will be invoked as we respond: "you are not forgotten."

**Set Aside a Photo or Memento:** There will be a time in the service to share a photo or small memento through your computer camera, similar to how we usually place photos or objects on the chancel altar. So come to worship with your photos or objects close at hand!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)

## Congregational News

# ZOOM Auction BID

**WUS Online Auction**

## Are you bidding??

<https://www.32auctions.com/WUS2020Auction>

All bidding for the online auction ends **Friday, October 23rd at 9:00 PM!**

But don't worry, there are great items you can bid on at the Live Zoom Auction Event to take place on **Saturday, October 24th at 7:15 PM!**

Keep an eye on your inbox as an email with the Live Zoom Auction link will go out tomorrow! Hope to see you there!



### **BUDGET UPDATE from the CO-TREASURERS**

We are happy to report that late last week the \$89,500 Payroll Protection Program loan was formally 100% forgiven and is officially a grant! As a result, we were able to rework the budget prior to the congregational meeting held on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The 2020/2021 budget that was recommended by the SC was

approved on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Here is the link to the budget in its entirety:

[https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WUS20\\_21apprvd-Budget-FINAL.pdf](https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WUS20_21apprvd-Budget-FINAL.pdf)

#### **The Executive Summary:**

We will restore the 2.2% Cost-of-living adjustment for all of our staff

We will restore the contribution to Social Action to 5% from 4%

We will restore the 10% requested increase in dues to the UUA

Other changes are detailed in the linked document  
We anticipate that we will have a budget surplus of \$4,955.87

## From the Standing Committee

As the circumstances of COVID 19 continue to change, we would like to hear from as many of you as possible in this poll. Please consider this a NEW poll and complete it even if you took the poll during the September 21 Sunday service.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3O8zx3jR0hDcQQ1bJ\\_136B1PDUNQX6FVzTebA6\\_Q8DZIRHg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3O8zx3jR0hDcQQ1bJ_136B1PDUNQX6FVzTebA6_Q8DZIRHg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## From the Music Committee

Our 15th concert series kicks off on **Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 PM** with a solo piano program performed by John Kramer: **A Celebration of African-American Composers**. The early 20th century witnessed significant and powerful classical music creations written by African-American composers. Much of this music was unheralded at the time by the white musical establishment, but today it is experiencing a renaissance. We are delighted to explore and celebrate some of these musically rich and expressive works with you in our November concert which will be streamed from the sanctuary. Please consider sponsoring this year's concert series at the \$125, \$200 or \$300 level. Please make your sponsorship check payable to WUS and write "concert series" in the memo field, or donate through WUS's GIVE+ or PayPal (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/winchesteruu>). Your tax-deductible donation will be included on your WUS annual statement. To be acknowledged on our Nov 14th sponsor list, please submit your donation no later than November 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Outdoor HAUNTED HOUSE!!

**On WUS grounds**

**Friday, Oct. 30th 5:30 – 8:30 pm**

Mirrors town trick-or-treating schedule

**Family-friendly (no/low scare)**

5:30 – 6:30

**Medium scare**

6:30 – 7:30

**All-out scary!**

7:30 – 8:30

COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed

Fundraiser - Open to the public

FREE CANDY!!

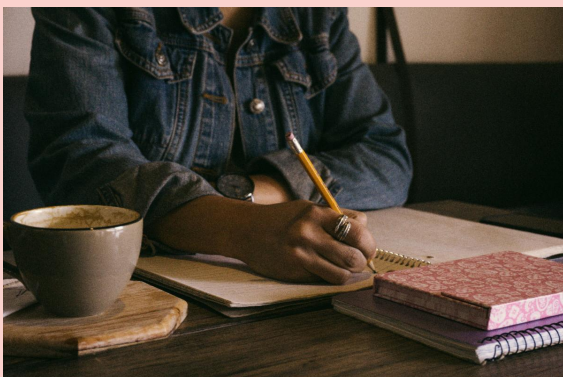
Fire pit! Spooky Storytelling!

Enter via rear parking lot.

More Information:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xnQD1UPmLXIQnff783-fkFGwO\\_3NggnVfiPtXLaVYDM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xnQD1UPmLXIQnff783-fkFGwO_3NggnVfiPtXLaVYDM/edit)

Volunteers and decoration donations/loans welcomed!  
Contact Evan -- email: [evan.forcucci@gmail.com](mailto:evan.forcucci@gmail.com) or text: 781-460-8325



### **Writers Group: 9-10(ish) Every Wednesday**

**Next meeting is October 28th**

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](mailto:dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com)

**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](mailto: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 some enrollees so we just need a few more! *How about you?*



### **We Believe in Dog Walks on Halloween!**

**Saturday, October 31st, 10am:** We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.

**We next gather on Saturday, October 31st.** We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway at 10:00 am and start walking around 10:05. *Our walk will comply with WUS pandemic protocols for outdoor gatherings including a sign-in sheet with a brief symptom survey. Masks – worn properly – are required.* Dogs, however, are free to walk without masks. **But dogs - and their humans - are welcome to come in costume! :)**

Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org) Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.

Photo by [Elias Castillo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## WUS Gatherings on Election Week

**Voter Vigil:** On Tuesday, November 3rd, we will open a Zoom room at 7:30 pm to center ourselves for watching the evening's poll results. After a time of checking in with one another, we will watch at home but revisit the Zoom room on the hour to share our reactions. The room will be informally "personed" throughout the evening in case there is a sudden development. Last check in will be at 11pm: [www.tinyurl.com/wusworship](http://www.tinyurl.com/wusworship)



**Post-Election Listening Circle:** Thursday November 5th 7:00 PM Regardless of the general election's outcome, the divisiveness of the national campaign season has been challenging, and for many of us, painful. Join your fellow congregants for a facilitated gathering and a time to be in community as we tend to each other's spirits. This evening is sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates and WUS staff: [www.tinyurl.com/wusworship](http://www.tinyurl.com/wusworship)

Photo by [Tiffany Tertipes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

A sign with a black border and white background, set against a background of a building and trees. The text on the sign reads:

**OPEN**  
OFFICE HOURS  
*With Rev. Heather* · WUS Meditation Garden  
Every Thursday (weather permitting) from Noon—2PM  
Beginning September 3rd  
Call the WUS office (781.729.0949)  
if the weather casts doubt  
**MASKS REQUIRED!**  
As always, Rev. Heather is available  
by appointment beyond office hours as of September 1st

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](mailto: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!

## A WUS Welcome Video!

The congregation made a welcome video as part of the minister search in 2015. Since folks can't get to know us in the usual way, we have dusted off that video and updated it to reflect our current ministries. It may not win at the Sundance Film Festival but this 20 minute window into our congregational life helps newcomers get a sense of how we worship, serve, play and advocate. You can find it on the front page of our website: [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org) Check it out and pass it on!



## NEW MEMBER DIRECTORY

There is a new member directory posted to the Members & Friends page of the Winchester Unitarian Society Webpage.

Find it here: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WUS-Directory-as-of-9.24.2020.pdf>

Photo by [Waldemar Brandt](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**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



## Joys, Sorrows and Transitions



Good news! **Cynthia and Scott Randall** welcomed their first grandchild, Leah Randall Sears, on September 13 in Berkeley, CA. They write, "Her parents, Lauren Randall and John Sears, are both Unitarians and attend the UU church in Oakland, which means there's another Unitarian among us!"

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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

## Religious Education

**Children's Religious Education:** We are using a combination of online or delivered to



your home religious education and family support resources. In addition we have some in person meetings outside on the congregation's lawn. Please remember that the family and friends group is another way in which information is offered and exchanged.

**Sunday, October 25th 4:30-6ish. NOTE the TIME change:** celebrate the autumn with **Pumpkin carving/decorating and a dusky evening display of candle lit jack o' lanterns.** Come in costume and pose for photos with your pumpkins. No photos will be shared without permission and you are welcome to have photos of pumpkins only. To follow safety protocols it's BYOP&BYOB. (Bring your own pumpkin and beverage and we'll provide the pizza and safe utensils, napkins etc.) Put this one on your calendars!

If you feel you missed out on **Neighboring Faiths, 6th through 8th graders** are invited to join in a world religions exploration group forming with **First Unitarian in Chicago.** As the weather turns more New England, we will be connecting with other UU's (who might have colder weather than we do) in Illinois through the power of virtual worlds to explore other beliefs and practices with some socializing as well. Please contact Rebecca [rebecca@winchesteruu.org](mailto:rebecca@winchesteruu.org) if you have a child in that age group and are interested in having them check it out. **Sessions begin November 1st, from noon to 1:00 on Sundays.**

## WUSYG

### Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

**THIS Sunday is our 1st in-person event of the year! 2-4 pm, outdoor, distanced, wearing masks at WUS.** We'll be decorating pumpkins, drinking fall beverages & sharing spooky stories. No need to bring anything but please come in a costume!

**PARENTS:** please REGISTER your child in WUSYG first: <https://forms.gle/pRtVA6SEWLxN783w9>

Questions, concerns or compliments, message Sam & Haley: [wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org) if you have any questions.

## Social Action & Outreach

### It's Thanksgiving "Basket" Time:

For many years we have provided large boxes of holiday foods for area families through the Council of Social Concern. **Last year we contributed 33 dinners. This year, the need is greater than ever.** Since they are excluding fresh vegetables, we estimate the cost, including a \$20 gift card to be from \$75--85.

**Please sign up NOW** to donate one or more dinners by sending Sue Doubler an email

at [suedoubler@gmail.com](mailto:suedoubler@gmail.com). We will send you a shopping list and provide the heavy-duty box you will need.

This year we have arranged for Stop and Shop in Winchester to pack boxes for people who would rather not do the shopping themselves. We need to hear from you by Sunday, October 25 so we can arrange the payment.

Together, we can make Thanksgiving a happy holiday for many families in the Woburn/Winchester area who are facing difficult times. You may bring your completed box, with separate gift card to the church during the week of November 9. Drivers will be needed for delivery to the Council on November 16.

**Did you know we have a statewide group organizing for social action?  
It's UU Mass Action: Creating a World Where All People Are Honored & Valued  
FY20 Annual Report [Link to Newsletter Archive](#)**

**Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence  
Fall 2020 Quarterly Meeting  
Thursday Oct 22, 7:00 PM Via Zoom**

We have invited the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus Members to participate in a panel discussion, "Violence Prevention, Police Reform and COVID: What's Next?"

[Register here](#)



## Massachusetts Coalition To Prevent Gun Violence



### **Choose Democracy Marshaling & Peace Keeping Training**

The threats to democracy are real and unprecedented. While many continue to struggle with unemployment, food insecurity and the looming housing crisis, we must also grapple with what the election is likely to bring.

Now, is the time to understand what's coming, get organized and be there for one another. Join us for this gathering as we get grounded, get educated and get organized. Most importantly, we'll share ways in which you can take the fear and anxiety you feel and channel it into action. We will dig into practical tactics on marshaling a march and de-escalation.

**Click the button below to register for this training**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email to join the meeting.

Thurs Oct 22, 6:00 - 7:30 PM or Thurs Oct 29, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

[Facebook Page](#). In addition, [we invite interested people to fill out this interest form](#) for a new UU Mass Action Protest Safety team.

### [CHOOSE DEMOCRACY - Marshaling & Peace Keeping Training RSVP](#)

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!

### Council of Social Concern

There is an urgent need 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](http://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

### 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](mailto:glegvold@comcast.net), 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson ([sandra.thompson3@comcast.net](mailto:sandra.thompson3@comcast.net), 781-724-7571) Many thanks!

# ABC Bottle Drive

November 7

8am-3pm

Outside Transfer Station

Bring us your redeemable  
bottles and cans!

Support  
WinchesterABC.org

## 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](mailto: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  
(781) 729-0949 | [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

