

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights October 29, 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, “Listen to the Ancestors?” We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, November 1st. 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.

### Family Worship Advert:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Family-Worship-Advert-11.1.2020.mp4>

**NEW this Sunday, November 1st:** Miss Juanita and story time. This Sunday during worship following the first reflections, our youngest members are invited to visit with Miss Juanita (of the playroom fame) and hear some stories. As soon as the “Mustard Seed” ends, please type Story in the chat and you will be invited to a breakout room where Miss Juanita waits. Rebecca joins for a short visit after everyone is admitted. The very youngest may wish to bring an adult friend.

**Sunday, November 1**  
**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



## Celebrating Life in the Valley of the Shadow: A Service of Remembrance

The Rev. Heather Janules

It is our annual tradition, gathering to remember those we have loved and lost. Yet, this year our reflection on life, death and their meanings is shaped by living through the coronavirus pandemic and our inability to gather in person in the wake of a death. When tens of thousands have died, how do we honor each one? How can we heal when we have yet to fully bear witness to individual lives that have ended? This service will consider the collective grief that is with us in this pandemic time and will briefly celebrate the lives of WUS members who have died since the pandemic began. **Before we gather, please prepare photographs and small mementos of those you remember to share in the service. As this is the first Sunday of the month, there will be a conversation about the service after worship.**

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **US Forest Service's "A Living Tribute" program**. This program purchases young trees to be planted throughout the nation's national parks in memory of lost loved ones.

### Questions for Reflection

Did you know any of the Winchester Unitarian Society members we are remembering today? If so, what are your memories of them?

Even if you have not lost a loved one in this pandemic time, one could say we are experiencing collective loss. Do you feel this community grief?

If so, how is it coming up for you?

What are some ways we can foster healing at a time when we cannot gather in person? Who do you recall in times of remembrance?

And how do you remember them?

### 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>

## Worship Notes



### Chalice Lighters Needed

Our worship services are made richer by many faces and voices. Like with analog worship, one way people can easily contribute is by lighting the chalice in worship. On-line, you can pre-record this ritual or light the chalice live. If you would like to do so, contact

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

## Special Halloween Treat

### Pumpkin Carving Party

Did you miss the Pumpkin Carving Party on October 25th? Here is a video bringing some of the fun to you!

We gathered outside, some in costume, and - with the double doors to the outside wide open - a couple people entered the chapel at a time to capture their gourd creation.

This video, with photos from the party, tells the story with a spooky soundtrack, courtesy of JS Bach, Director of Music John Kramer and our own organ.



Check it out!:

<https://tinyurl.com/wushalloween20>

## Congregational News



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## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**WOW, our most successful church fundraiser ever coming in at \$31,470!** Who does that in the middle of a pandemic?? YOU. We did indeed have the dream team. Thank you Cynthia, Ivan, Jennifer, Karen, Kristine, Naomi, Sara, Sioux, Stephen, Thomas and Tyson! And thank you to our many creative and generous donors - you know who you are! Final thanks to all our bidders who heeded our auctioneer's guidance that bidding high is one of our new values!

Your Auction Co-Chairs,  
Julie and Marilyn

### WUS 2020 Auction "Zoom A Bid"

#### A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING AUCTION TEAM

for stepping up to make this a "one of a kind" fundraiser in the midst of a pandemic!

You volunteered because you care about the mission of the Winchester Unitarian Society. Your aim was to ensure that we continue providing services and resources to all individuals in our community. Given the upheaval this year we know how difficult it can be to motivate and we applaud your can-do attitude and creativity. We thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to help with this year's fundraiser.

THANK YOU to our fabulous co-chairs and live auction hostesses, Marilyn Mullane and Julie Khuen and their amazing team: Sioux Brokaw, Naomi DeLairre, Sara Delano, Karen Erikson, Kristine Kamikawa and Cynthia Randall. You personally connected with many and the variety of donations speak for themselves. Over 130 items were registered online, and 12 more fun and delicious donations helped to launch our first virtual live auction. So important at this time, our congregants generously supported many local businesses to create amazing raffle packages. You gave all those donations descriptions accompanied by witty quips and photos that clearly enticed many bidders. Your logo and posters got the word out with pizzaz! Thank you to our behind-the-scenes team: Jennifer Edwards, our skilled architect for the on-line silent auction; Thomas Slack, church administrator extraordinaire, who made sure we all received the invitations and announcements; and to Ivan Correia, for his live auction technical

support.

And THANK YOU to the Live Auction cast: to Stephen Perepeluk, who was masterful as *emcee* along with his partner, Terry Fitzpatrick who tracked the live bids and gonged the evening along; to Tyson Kamikawa as video coordinator and smooth entertainer with his live renditions of many familiar tunes, and to Julie and Marilyn, our fabulous hostesses who certainly attended to many details. Together, you brought fun, levity and cheerful competitiveness to the evening. With all the hard work over the last few months the Zoom evening felt personal and the community connected. More importantly, you were patient, kind with each other in stressful times and your unparalleled commitment to excellence shone through.

And to all who generously contributed donations ranging from paintings, homemade delicacies, dinners, entertainment, access to your beautiful homes and treasured vehicles, landscaping, flower arrangements, bird bath, pet sitting, jewelry, amazing wines and beers, tours, carpentry, blacksmithing, welding, fire arm training, and more, a loud and heartfelt "THANK YOU!"

With the dedicated, imaginative and excellent leadership of the auction team, our congregation raised **more than \$30,000!** One of our *best* fund-raising events ever!! This was beyond our wildest dreams. Thank you all for your generosity in support of our shared values and community!

### FY20 Financial Report from your Co-Treasurers

WUS bylaw Article 21, section 3, states that "A final report of the year's financial operations shall be mailed to all members within sixty days of the close of the fiscal year." Please view the [Co-Treasurers' Report for fiscal year September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020](#) from Sue Kiewra and Judy Murray. Comments welcome via email to [treasurer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:treasurer@winchesteruu.org).



### BUDGET UPDATE from the CO-TREASURERS

We are happy to report that 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/1FAIpQLSe3Q8zx3jR0hDcQQ1bJ\\_136B1PDUNQX6FVzTebA6\\_Q8DZIRHg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3Q8zx3jR0hDcQQ1bJ_136B1PDUNQX6FVzTebA6_Q8DZIRHg/viewform?usp=sf_link)



## Outdoor HAUNTED HOUSE

On the grounds of the Winchester Unitarian  
Society  
Corner of Main St. and Mystic Valley Pkwy

**Friday, Oct. 30th 5:30 – 8:30 pm**  
(family friendly  
5:30 - 6:30 and by request)

Open to the public - Free with suggested donation  
**Half of all donations go to the Council for Social Concern**

**FREE CANDY!!**

~ Fire pits to warm your hands on a **CHILLING** night ~

Come in costume!

Please enter via Mystic Valley Pkwy parking lot.

**COVID-19 safety precautions:** All will be asked to sign in for screening and contact tracing before beginning the tour and must wear appropriate mask covering mouth and nose. Social-distancing will be in practice. Note: Event has been approved by the Winchester Board of Health.

**More Info/FAQ:** [click here](#)

### **News from the Sanctuary Movement**

In January 2021, Maria will be a “guest” at the First Parish of Bedford for three years. Maria has been involved in a movement called Colectivo Santuario for some time now. On October 28th, the attached video was shared with candidate Joe Biden to seek his support if he is elected President. Maria and her peers in sanctuary also hope to meet with Biden over Zoom.



### From the Music Committee

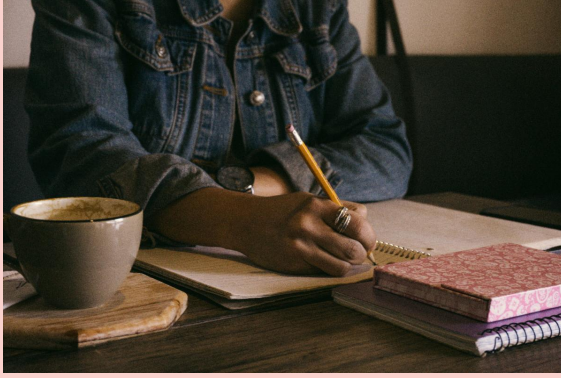
Our 15th concert series kicks off on **Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 PM** with a solo piano program performed by John Kramer: **A Celebration of African-American Composers**. The early 20th century witnessed significant and powerful classical music creations written by African-American composers. Much 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>.



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

#### **Next meeting is November 4th**

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)



## 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)



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

**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](#)



## NEW MEMBER DIRECTORY

There is a new member directory posted to the Members & Friends page of the [Winchester Unitarian Society webpage](#).

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

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, November 1st**, RE families and/or anyone who would like to visit outside socially distanced, as kids play are welcome at the congregation's back lawn from **12:30 to 2:30ish**. Dress for the weather! Social distancing and mask protocols will be observed.

**THIS Sunday, November 1st noon to 1(ish):** 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.

## WUSYG

### Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group



#### Coming Up Soon for WUSYG:

1. **Haunted House** is happening this Friday 5:30 - 8:30 pm on the WUS lawn (distanced & mandatory masks). If you want to help out, feel free to come by earlier in the afternoon! Otherwise, we hope you'll bring family & friends to come check it out during the evening!

2. We will also be **meeting this Sunday on Zoom from 4:30 - 6!** Join here: [www.tinyurl.com/WUSYGZoom](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUSYGZoom). See you then!

Any questions, concerns or compliments, please 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

### Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks to the congregation we will be supplying 40 large boxes of food to the Council for Social Concern. If you missed the deadline to sign up, you may bring other food donations to the church and place them in the basket inside the back door leading to the kitchen. What we need now are big cars and strong backs. Please contact **Sue Doubler** or **Claire McNeill** to volunteer your car and/or assistance in transporting these heavy boxes.

### 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 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](#)**



## **Help Pass the MA Safe Communities Act!**

There's no time to waste. A climate of fear has taken hold in our communities that leads many immigrant families to avoid seeking police protection or even health

care when they need it. This makes us all less safe.

We need to push hard to ensure the Safe Communities Act passes this year. That means legislators need to keep hearing us week after week, until we succeed.

We provide a short training at the beginning, log-in information, and lists for phone banking. You'll need a computer and phone to participate.

**[We'll send you Zoom information on how to join when you register on ActionNetwork.](#)**



**UU the Vote Post Election Vigil & Community Gathering**  
**Thursday Nov 5th, 8:00 PM**  
**[Click here for Facebook Page](#)**

No matter the results of the election this year, we know we will want to gather in community. Please save the date and join

the UUA, UU the Vote, Side with Love, and UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray for this event.

## National Day of Mourning

Since 1970, Native Americans and our supporters have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. **Thanksgiving Day** is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.

**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  
**CANCELLED**  
for Community  
Safety

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)

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