



# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*

Volume 55 Issue 5

Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

January 2011

**WORSHIP SERVICE 10 A.M.**

P. O. Box 218, Winchendon MA, 01475

**This is the Church of the Open Mind  
This is the Church of the Helping Hands**

**This is the Church of the Loving Heart  
This is the Church of the Caring Community**

## Church Calendar of Events

**Sunday, Jan. 2, 10 AM. Morning Worship: John White**

Monday, Jan. 3, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

**Wednesday, Jan. 5, 7 PM. Chalice Group**

**Sunday, Jan. 9, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**

**Sunday, Jan. 9, 11:30 AM. Religious Education Committee meeting, Pine Room**

Monday, Jan. 10, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday Jan. 11, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

**Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7 PM. Governing Board, Pine Room**

**Thursday, Jan. 13, 7:30 PM. Choir rehearsal for M L King Service**

**Sunday, Jan. 16, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Wendy O'Brien**

**Monday, Jan. 17, 7 PM. Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service**

Monday, Jan. 17, AA meeting will be at the Church of the Redeemed, Central Street

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

**Saturday, Jan. 22, (Time to be announced) R E Game Day**

**Sunday, Jan. 23, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**

**Sunday, Jan. 23, 2 PM. Film & Discussion Series on Immigration, at UU Society of Gardner**

Monday, Jan. 24, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Tuesday, Jan. 25, December newsletter material due

Thursday, Jan. 27, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low cost meal—everyone invited)

**Sunday, Jan. 30, 10 AM. Morning Worship: This I Believe: Sara Michalewicz, David Faucher**

## Minister's Reflection

I heard recently about a different way to look toward the future. The Maori people from New Zealand, are reported to look toward the future, by actually focusing toward the past and walking backward into the future. I was walking on a path in the woods near my home with a friend when she told me about the Maori people. I said, no wonder I often find myself tripping into the future, surprised at what actually happens. Odd as it sounds, it made a lot more sense than walking toward something that we really know nothing about; the future! The "walking backward" approach to the future means that we are keeping our eyes on what has already happened and learning from our successes and our failures. While we may feel awkward, and may stumble over roots and rocks, at least we will be grounded in history, not just flying into the face of the unknown with nothing to guide us.

So, as we walk backward into the year 2011 lets keep our eye on what happened in 2010. Where did we fail and where did we succeed. What did we try and what did we turn away from? Who was born and who died? How much fun did we have at our fundraisers and who came into our building because of an event? Who became an active member of our church and who either faded away from our company or stepped back for a while? How did we impact our community and when did we keep silent? What can we learn as we go forward into the New Year by walking backward?

In 2011 our church will be participating in two new events. One is new in that we are hosting for the first time the community annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Day service. If we look to last year we will see that just a few of us attended the service that was held at the Church of the Redeemed. Many

*(Minister's Meditation Continued on page 2)*

*(Minister's Meditation Continued from page 1)*

of us either chose to not attend or could not get there. I remember that the weather was pretty snowy! Not too many of our UUCW voices were "in the choir." This year we are hosting the event and have a chance to do something different by more actively participating ~ coming to the service, cooking for the reception, singing in the choir, and warmly welcoming visitors to our beautiful Sanctuary.

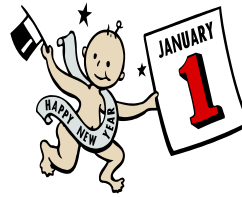
A second event, this one really new for us, is that we are co-sponsoring a film series with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner. The series starts in Gardner on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2PM (after church), the second will be at our church on March 13<sup>th</sup>, again at 2PM, and the final film will be shown in Gardner again on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The films will all focus on some aspect of immigration and will include a "talk back time" and snacks of course. Childcare will be provided. Since this is so new, what can we learn from our past? Well, we did enjoy meeting with folks from other UU churches last year at the Association Sunday. We have really had a good time showing films at our church last year (mostly attended by our RE families.) And, speaking of visiting churches, in 2010 we did get to visit the First Parish Northfield and were warmly welcomed and this year we will welcome them to UUCW on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Maybe our church visiting last year has something to teach us even now as we approach the film series with Gardner; maybe something about "caring for the other?"

Looking to the past, walking backward into the future does not mean that we do not embrace the new. It just means that we do so with some awareness of what has already happened and helps us make choices that we will be happy about when 2012 comes along. Join me in walking into the New Year. Let's hold hands as we stumble into the future. Who knows what will happen!

In anticipation of the New Year,

*Reverend Marguerite*

## RE News



Happy New Year! The switching out of calendars signals a fresh start to many – perhaps a new diet, a resolve to spend less and save more, an exercise program, or a promise to spend more time with family. Throughout the year it's easy to say "next week" or "some day" but January 1 seems to trigger urgency within us. I wish you courage and will power to follow through on your resolutions (if you have them) and patience with yourself if you falter.

The Christmas Eve Service was beautiful. Highlights for me included the Tibetan singing bowl reminding us to simply sit and be in the moment, people sharing their personal miracles, and the children flitting about as critters in a touching story about animal friends making a tree's Christmas dream come true. Thank you Wendy, Dana, and Sue for your invaluable help in creating and directing the program!



**Come to Game Day on Saturday, January 22!** We'll start with a potluck, followed by fun & games. Please add your name to the list in the parish hall along with a dish you'd like to share. There will be a variety of games but you are welcome to bring a favorite with you. If you are not a game player, come anyway and route us on! The time will be announced soon in church announcements. Speak with me or a member of the REC if you have questions.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

The next REC meeting is after the service on January 9. Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

*Health & Happiness in 2011! Tracy*



### What Would Love Do?

*Martin Luther King, Jr. worked tirelessly for beloved community, a transformed community based on just relationships and a spirit of radical hospitality and love. In a month in which we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, we are called to answer "what would love do?"*

*How do we stand on the side of love with immigrant workers and their families?*

**The Reverend Martin Luther King Celebration** is being held at our church on Monday January 17, 7PM with reception to follow.

Everyone is invited (and please bring a friend) to this annual MLK day celebration held this year at UUCW. This is an ecumenical service with participation from a number of the Winchendon area churches. The main speaker is The Reverend Clyde Grubbs (see bio. below.) We will be offering a reception after the service (if you can help set up, cook, serve or clean up please contact Cindy Malley.) There is also a community choir being formed and the one rehearsal will be at our church on Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, lead by Kelly McGarry; choir director from the United Parish. Voices from UUCW would be a wonderful addition to the other singers. Please join us for this service and help us to welcome the town of Winchendon and friends and neighbors from the surrounding communities. This is a great opportunity to be a "caring community" and will also be a great "kick off" for our film series on immigration which is beginning on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner. For more information speak to any of the Governing Board members or Reverend Marguerite.

Our speaker: The Reverend Clyde Grubbs is a life time Unitarian Universalist who honors his Cherokee heritage and works for a genuinely multicultural United States. He has served churches in Massachusetts, Indiana, Quebec, Texas, Florida, and California. He has been active in many leadership positions in the Unitarian Universalist movement, including the UU Ministers Association Exec and he presently serves as Co-President of the Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM.) Clyde is minister at large

### Contact Information

Minister: **Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**  
Phone: 413-253-9938  
Email: msheehan222@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: **Tracy Gambill**  
Phone 978-297-0023  
Email: [tgambill@uuwinchendon.org](mailto:tgambill@uuwinchendon.org)

Board chair: **Cindy Malley**  
Phone 978-297-9562  
Email: b.charmer@verizon.net

Building & Grounds chair, treasurer, interim newsletter editor: **John White**  
Phone 978-297-0716  
Email: whites573@verizon.net

Putnam Alliance president: **Pauline Michalewicz**  
Phone: 978-297-9983  
Email: pmichalewicz@comcast.net

Sexton (Custodian): **Sue Faucher**  
Phone 978-632-5588  
Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com

### BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Carol Bramblett	January 14
Durrand Michalewicz	January 26
Jacob Elkins	January 30

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

January 2	Sue Faucher
January 9	Volunteer needed
January 16	Volunteer needed
January 23	Volunteer needed
January 30	Wendy O'Brien

### GREETERS

No one has signed up.

---

with the Tuckerman Creative Ministries for Justice and Healing, a community ministry with which he is collaborating with his partner the Reverend Michelle Walsh

## Film & Discussion Series on Immigration

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner are presenting a film and discussion series on immigration beginning in January. Each session will include a movie, discussion, child care and light refreshments. Date, times, and locations for the three-part series are as follows:

**Sunday, January 23, 2:00-4:30 at UU Society of Gardner**

Film: *9500 Liberty*

The story of Prince William County, Virginia, which passed a law just like Arizona's SB1070 in 2007.

(snow date January 30)

**Sunday, March 13, 2:00-4:30 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon**

Film: TBA

(snow date March 20)

**Sunday, May 1, 2:00-4:30 at UU Society of Gardner**

Film: TBA

### CHALICE GROUP! EVERYONE WELCOME

Our first monthly Chalice Group will meet at 7PM on January 5. We will either meet in the social room or the ministers' study depending on our numbers. This is an open group gathering to have a quiet time as the New Year begins to reflect, to listen and to build fellowship. Please come and invite a friend. There is no preparation and no homework. Just come and be together. Reverend Marguerite will facilitate the first group.

### *CARING CONNECTIONS*

UUCW is a caring congregation. Along with our Putnam Alliance, we reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each others' joys and concerns. Please let Reverend Marguerite know if you would like to visit other members and friends, deliver flowers or an occasional meal, act as a greeter on Sunday services, offer a ride to church or any number of "caring connections" or if you are in need of a "caring connection" yourself at this time.

### Visit Our Church on the Internet:

[www.uuwinchendon.org](http://www.uuwinchendon.org)

Our newsletter is now being posted on our internet page.

### Do we Have Your Correct Information?

We try to keep our information on members of our church family up to date, but need everyone's help. Please advise the Church by mail or email if your email address, mail address, or phone number changes so that we can correct our records. Our volunteers are not omniscient! We do honor requests for privacy of information. Email address for changes: [whites573@verizon.net](mailto:whites573@verizon.net). Or mail to the church box, No. 218, Winchendon.

# Family Ministry

by **Deborah Levering**

Director of Faith Formation, Clara Barton District, UUA

*Reprinted from the District Newsletter*

We know that most Unitarian Universalist parents are eager to create a faith-rich home environment. Few, however, have the confidence or congregational support to do so. At no time of year is this more evident than in the holiday season.

This is a magical, crazy season for families. Children are silly with excitement, anticipating all the things the season brings. With Advent, Chanukah, Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa, there is plenty of room for frenzy and exuberance. Parents work very hard during December to find a balance between the consumer culture of "more and better" and their longing to share with their children the mystery and wonder that shimmers on the surface of this season. Long dark nights, the bitter cold, the magic of candles and tiny lights are all invitations for families to sit together in stillness, to slow down, to connect to mystery and the spirit of life. Does Unitarian Universalist faith help parents slow down with their children and consider what can be learned in these teachable moments?

Many parents and grandparents hope to build seasonal rituals to pass on the precious and most meaningful traditions of their own childhoods. They want to honor and celebrate the values they hold dear as a family. They strive to balance the traditions of their original and extended families with the unique family they are now. Does their Unitarian Universalist faith help them develop the spiritual tenacity to navigate the emotional pull of their family's multiple generations?

**Parents are the primary religious educators of their children.** However, Unitarian Universalist congregations sometimes unintentionally assume a parental responsibility by providing child-specific education programs without connecting those back to the home. A parent's active expression of their own UU faith will trump almost any experience a child has in the congregation. Yet, there is often little intentional strategy for faithfully supporting parents in their influential role in children's spiritual formation. It's hard being a parent in any tradition, let alone Unitarian Universalism! Unitarian Universalism invites families to live their faith in the world, but what about in the home?

I suspect some help would be welcomed.

Rev. Phil Lund, Prairie Star District Director of Faith Development, suggests that "while congregations need to support families as families, the number one priority for congregations should be helping families develop their faith." The emphasis on family faith formation is echoed in the Lifelongfaith.com article "Family and Household Faith Formation" which as-

## HELP NEEDED

We are passing on an appeal the Church has received from the Winchendon Community Action Committee (CAC.) The lingering recession (at least hereabouts) and its accompanying increase in unemployment has increased the demand for their services while decreasing the public money that they have received for support. They have more poor people in need of assistance and less to do with. In the past our church has collected non perishable foodstuff for their food pantry. We can do it again. Individual cash donations would also help.

serts that congregations

are called to nurture the faith of families throughout life, and empower and equip them to learn and share...faith, celebrate rituals and traditions, pray, and live their faith at home and in the world. [Congregations] are called to assist parents to develop the faith life of parents so that they develop the confidence, competence, and comfort to share...faith with their children.

Let's imagine congregations with a serious eye on families. In such congregations, parents are well equipped to be faith guides for their children. Family life is enhanced by life in the congregation. Families experience significant connections between church and home-based faith practice. Milestone ministry (rites of passage) is a joyful and reverent tradition in the congregation.

**Parents are the primary religious educators of their children.** Let's build and support powerful Family Ministry.

The district is in a process of discerning and planning how to build the capacity of congregations to engage in family ministry. Please stay tuned for more resources. In the meantime, please share your thoughts and ideas with me. You can reach me at [dlevering@uua.org](mailto:dlevering@uua.org) or 978-621-4525.

Many blessings in this season of ultimate possibility.

Faithfully,  
Deborah

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*

126 Central Street P. O. Box 218

Winchendon, MA 01475

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



For more information, service times, and past topics, please visit our website at

**[www.uuwinchendon.org](http://www.uuwinchendon.org)**

Please watch for updates, new sermons, and Photos of good times



*The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*

is a member of the

**Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**

<http://uua.org>