



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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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

Saturday, May 4, 7 PM. North County Sustainability Center meeting, parish hall

Sunday, May 5, 10 AM Morning Worship — Putnam Alliance Commemoration Sunday; Inanna Arthen preaching; coffee hour follows.

Monday, May 6, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 PM Brownies

Sunday, May 12, 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM. Welcome Table Breakfast: Specials for Mom

Sunday, May 12, 10 AM Morning Worship — Mothers' Day— Chalice Circle service; coffee hour follows.

Monday, May 13, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 4:30 PM Brownies

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, John White's. Budget meeting; Church members invited.

Saturday, May 18, 7 PM. North County Sustainability Center meeting, parish hall

Sunday, May 19, 10 AM Morning Worship

Sunday, May 19, 11:15 AM. Church Annual Meeting; pot luck luncheon follows

Monday, May 20, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 4:30 PM Brownies

Sunday, May 26, 10 AM Morning Worship — Welcome New Minister; coffee hour follows

Tuesday, May 28, 5 PM. June newsletter material

Thursday, May 30, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen.

Menu: Chicken Teriyaki. (low price meal – everyone invited)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 11:15 AM. in the Parish Hall of the Church. The business will include hearing reports of officers and committees; adoption of a budget for FY 2014, the election of officers, and confirmation of the Search Committee's choice for new minister. As usual, a pot luck luncheon will follow the meeting.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Where has this year gone? It seemed like only yesterday that we were starting out on our new church year. We've had lots of wonderful events and plenty of fun along the way this year. Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive, movie nights, potlucks, game days, a Mitten Drive, Our Neighbor's Kitchens, Welcome Table Breakfasts, Earth Day Clean-up, and planning in the gardens all brought us closer together as a community of seekers. We asked that you give of your time, effort, and gifts. You did what was asked and what was needed. We stood up; you stood up, to work to help our community and each other in a multitude of ways. Over the last several months a new energy breathed into our community setting a revived fire of commitment in all of us, young and old. Our fire is going to continue to build

(From the Board chair, Continued on page 2)

RE NEWS

(From the Board chair, Continued from page 1)

as we vote on accepting a new minister at our next Annual Meeting coming on May 19th.

All of us are stewards of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon. We all do our part: Religious Education Teachers, Piano & Organ Players, Ushers, Bell Ringers, Chalice Lighters, Students, Singers, Lay Leadership, Committee Members, Fellowship Hour Coffee & Snack Makers, Worship Leaders, Hymn Number Changers, Movie Watchers, Recyclers, Order of Service Makers, Sound System Operators, Cooks, Cleaners, and Dishwashers. We all contribute. We are stewards not just of our community, our town, our world; we are stewards of a faith where everyone is loved and accepted in a time when politicians and pulpits incite fear of those people who don't fit nicely into their particular view of the world. Our pluralistic faith reminds us that Love is an action word. Only through the Love we show each other, and ourselves, can we make this a better place for all.

It's also important to remember that stewardship is an opportunity for you to use the gifts you've been given to do what we each are called to do. It's your opportunity to say "This is what I value." It's an opportunity for you to help make a difference in ways that can only be done when we pool our resources together, choose a path, and follow it.

For the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1st our community depends on your willingness and ability to give generosity of your time, talent, and money. Your much appreciated Stewardship contributions will determine our goals and plans at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon for the coming church year. We have 148 years of history of our community's stewardship gifts that brought us to today. Imagine what we can accomplish in the next 148 years.

Our bright future begins with your generosity, today.

With shared hope, faith, and peace,

Dave Faucher

We have been busy! It was great for our children to experience RE with other UU children on Association Sunday in Leominster. We are fortunate to have such friendly neighbors with whom to collaborate.

Fifteen of us enjoyed each others' company on April 20 as we ate lunch, played games, and watched "The Lorax".

Some of us helped out on Winchendon's Clean-Up Day by picking up litter along the streets behind Belletete's. It wasn't long before several large trash bags were full and the area was cleaner. Let's hope it stays that way!

Have you seen our new garden bed behind the equal access entrance? A huge THANK YOU goes out to J and Allen for building it, and to Patti for adding compost. The compost is made of leftovers from coffee hour, Our Neighbor's Kitchen, and Welcome Table Breakfast. We are all a part of the interdependent web! Peas and sunflowers have been planted and more veggies will be planted soon. These are the kinds of activities that bring us closer together as a church family.



The children and adults of RE are preparing for RE Sunday. Please join us on June 2 as we reflect upon and celebrate the Religious Education program here at UUCW. This is an important part of our church life and, of course, there's ice cream afterward! This will also be my last RE Sunday as DRE.

Adult RE... Occurring between spring and summer, Beltane is a Pagan fire festival that celebrates the fertility of the coming year. It is a Celtic word which means 'fires of Bel' (Bel was a Celtic deity). Fire is seen as having purifying qualities which cleanse and revitalize, and fire is also thought to increase fertility. Celebrated on May 1st, some people leap over the Beltane fire to bring good luck, fertility (of mind, body and spirit), and



(RE News Continued on page 3)

(R E News Continued from page 2)

happiness through the coming year. In the past, cattle were often passed between two fires to ensure the fertility of the herd. Some rituals involved dancing around trees, which may have led to dancing around the May Pole.

Holy History... Judith Sargent Murray was born on May 5, 1751, in Gloucester, MA. She wrote the first Universalist Sunday school book in America in 1782. On May 5, 1819, William Ellery Channing preached the "Unitarian Christianity" sermon (Baltimore Sermon). Due to bad acoustics, only people in the first three pews could hear the 1½ hour sermon famous for uniting Unitarians. It was translated into 7 languages and spread to many countries. On May 15, 1961, the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America joined to form the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Best Wishes,
Tracy Gambill, DRE

Would you like to ring the tower bell? How about light the chalice? Or could you even dazzle everyone with you coffee making skills? Try something new, show us all one of your skills, or try something outside your comfort zone. Sign-up on the bulletin board by the kitchen for any of the tasks that make our community work each week. Only 5 weeks left!

June 15th 2013 is Summer Solstice our largest event of the year. So big we cancel services for a month after it to recover. Well it's true we don't have services after that again until July. Depending on who you ask there may be other reasons for that; still you get the idea. It's a big deal. Contribute to ideas, rent a table, volunteer for setup or help out on Saturday. There is plenty to do. This year we will have many more vendors, a children's train in the street in front of the church, live music in the sanctuary and more. Be a part of this town wide event. See sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the kitchen or talk to Dave Faucher about what skill, talent, or time you could lend to the event.

Contact Information

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BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Cindy Malley	May 9
Erika J. Gambill	May 20
Julia F. Cardinal	May 28

Do you have Email?

If you have email and are not receiving this newsletter electronically, please send us the email address so we can send it that way and save on paper and postage. The environment will thank you. Email whites573@verizon.net

Or if you change your address

If you do change your address, either U. S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email whites573@verizon.net or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thank you.

CARING CONNECTIONS

UUCW is a caring congregation. We reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each others' joys and concerns. Please let a member of the Governing Board 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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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Winchendon, MA 01475

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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