

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Volume 58 Issue 4

INANNA ARTHEN, M. DIV., MINISTER

CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

January 2014

WORSHIP SERVICE 5 P.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**



Calendar of Church Events

- Sunday, Jan. 5, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Jan. 5, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: A Humanist Look at Worship; John White**
- Sunday, Jan. 5, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**
- Monday, Jan. 6, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting,**
John White's. Church members invited
- Monday, Jan. 7, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Jan. 8, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Sunday, Jan. 12, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Jan. 12, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: Ms. Arthen**
- Sunday, Jan. 12, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**
- Monday, Jan. 13, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Friday, Jan. 17, 7PM. Toy Town Tunes
- Sunday, Jan. 19, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Jan. 19, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: Chalice Cir-**

(Calendar, Continued on page 3)

NOTE ABOUT CANCELATIONS

Generally church activity cancellations are announced by emails from Dave Faucher. Anyone who is not on the list and is in doubt about whether a service or activity is being held should give Dave a call at 978-632-5588.

FROM YOUR MINISTER

Welcome to 2014! It's the start of a new year, all fresh and shiny. I'm sure many of you have made some New Year's resolutions. The most common resolutions have to do with improving health and finances. We resolve to lose weight, start an exercise program, quit smoking, manage stress, and drink less. When it comes to money, the most popular resolutions include finding a better job, saving more, reducing debt and getting more education. (If you'd like to see a list of popular resolutions with some links to resources for helping you achieve them, go to <http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/New-Years-Resolutions.shtml>). A couple of my resolutions are related to art. I'd like to write my fourth book this year and play more music.

But I have some resolutions for the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Winchendon, too. There are so many things I'd like to help the church be and do in this coming year.

I'd like to see more people joining us for Sunday service, both new folks and members who I haven't seen in church lately—some of you I still haven't even met! I want to hear what the church can do for you. I want to know what I can do for you as your minister. I want to know how we can be there for you, not just on Sundays, but at all times. A church doesn't just exist for Sunday services. It exists to support its members through life passages, crises, joys and struggles. I want to know what kind of worship experience would fulfill your needs. I want to know what other activities you'd like to be a part of.

I'd like to see the UUCW continue to collaborate and network with other UU churches in our regional

(From Your Minister Continued on page 2)

(From Your Minister Continued from page 1)

cluster. I'd like to see us sharing joint services and working together on projects and events outside of Sunday worship time. Four of our churches will be working together toward recognition as Welcoming Congregations. The UUCW will share educational events with the Athol, Fitchburg and Ashby UU churches (see the article below about the Welcoming Congregations process for more information). Sharing goals and work enriches all of us.

I'd like to see the UUCW continue to coordinate with other churches in Winchendon to serve the needs of everyone in the community, not just our own members. There is more need than any one organization can meet. When we join hands across the table, we can reach farther and be more effective than if we work in isolation.

The UUCW will continue to host Our Neighbors Kitchen community suppers, with the gourmet menus cooked by our chef Dave Faucher and all his hard-working assistants, including those who help serve the food and hand-wash all the dishes afterwards. We're discussing other community-wide events that can utilize our beautiful and historic building. For example, Toy Town Tunes is organizing concerts for the town's younger people in our parish hall, and we're developing some other ideas, for people of all ages and interests, including musical presentations. Our flea market/tag sales will return in the spring, and we'll be participating actively in Winchendon's 250th anniversary celebrations. The UUCW, standing in the center of Winchendon, has been vital to its history and culture since 1866.

The New Year is more than just a date on the calendar. It's a turning point, a moment in time when we stand at a crossroads with many potential directions to choose. From the most ancient days, the moment when the new year began was believed to be magical and perilous, a time to tell fortunes and write down dreams, a time to make plans and decide how to act on them. Calendars are arbitrary, of course, but we give these moments power because we all share them. The turning of the year impacts us not because the numbers change on a clock, but because we are all watching those numbers change together. To make New Year's resolutions and act on them is a tradition older than any surviving religion or culture. It is almost as old as humanity itself.

So join us at the UUCW in the new year, as the days lengthen and the sun grows stronger. It may be

RE NEWS

Sue Faucher has continued to lead the RE class in making seasonal crafts and learning carols for the Christmas Eve service. Some of our kids went to visit family for the holidays. Maddy and Katherine Faucher sang "Away in a Manger" during the Christmas Eve candle light service on December 24 and earned a round of applause. The RE kids helped to decorate the cheerful Christmas tree by the front doors of the church, beginning during the Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive on November 29, and continuing for the next few Sundays.

On Sunday, December 22, Winchendon visited the First Parish UU of Ashby for a multi-generational service. Winchendon kids participated in the service actively as Maddy Faucher served as the Chalice lighter. On Sunday, December 29, Dave Faucher led a multi-generational Fire Communion service in which the kids and adults all participated. We concluded by going outside to watch as Dave burned slips of paper holding things from the past year which we wanted to release.

Our RE class has grown in the past three months as several new kids have begun to attend church. We're planning more multi-generational services in the new year and more RE activities for downstairs. If you would be interested in leading an RE class or activity, please get in touch. We'd love to hear your ideas!

Inanna Arthen, M. Div.
Director of RE

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 Inanna 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.

storming and snowing as you read this, but spring is only a couple of months away. Come and help the UUCW start a new era of growth and action!

Inanna Arthen, M. Div.

Welcoming Congregation Workshops on January 26

The Unitarian-Universalist Church of Winchendon will begin working toward formal recognition as a Welcoming Congregation with the Unitarian-Universalist Association over the next eighteen months. We will start our process with two combined workshop sessions on Sunday, January 26, at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome—the more members of the congregation who participate, the more effective our process will be.

What is a Welcoming Congregation? A UU Welcoming Congregation is actively inclusive of people of all sexual and affectional orientations and all gender identities. A Welcoming Congregation accepts gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersexed individuals without qualification or condition. A Welcoming Congregation has taken time for reflection and learning on the challenges, concerns, needs and life realities of persons of alternate sexual identities. A Welcoming Congregation welcomes all persons because of who they are, not in spite of who they are. A Welcoming Congregation embraces diversity with joy and understands that persons who may still be treated harshly in our society need a safe haven, warm community and caring ministry. By embarking on this process, the UUCW is dedicating itself to meeting these needs.

We will be working from a UUA book, *The Welcoming Congregation Handbook*, but we'll be adapting it to our own experiences and learning styles. UUCW is working toward this goal in collaboration with three other churches in our local cluster: the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist of Ashby, First Church Unitarian of Athol and the First Parish Church of Fitchburg. Each of our congregations will be doing the first two workshop sessions in January, on individual schedules. In February, we'll meet together for a joint event. This pattern—individual workshops alternated with shared educational services, films, activities or speakers—will continue throughout the next year and a half. We all hope to

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.

Contact Information

Minister: **Inanna Arthen, M. Div.**

Phone 978-433-8866

Email: vyrdolak@bylightunseenmedia.com

Musician: **Lucinda Ellert**

Phone 781-944-7254

Email: lucindajellert@gmail.com

Board chair: **David Faucher**

Phone 978-632-5588

Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Board Members:

Allan Gordon, lilpun31@mass.rr.com

James McCrohon, jmccrohon@yahoo.com, secretary

John White, treasurer; whites573@verizon.net

Treasurer, interim newsletter editor: **John White**

Phone 978-297-0716

Email: whites573@verizon.net

Sexton (Custodian): **Sue Faucher**

Phone 978-632-5588

Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com

BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY

Carol Bramblett January 14

(Calendar, Continued from page 1)

cle; Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, Jan. 19, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper

Monday, Jan. 20, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Sunday, Jan. 26, 4 PM. Welcoming Congregation
Workshop**

Sunday, Jan. 26, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir

Sunday, Dec. 29, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper

Monday, Jan. 27, 5 PM. February newsletter material

finish by the spring of 2015.

I will be sending out some information and materials in advance of our workshop on January 26. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you're interested, you can read more about the Welcoming Congregation Program on the Unitarian-Universalist Association website at <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/>.

Inanna Arthen, M. Div.