

# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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PASTOR INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

**APRIL 2015**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 P.M.

PO 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, April 5

5:00 pm - Easter Sunday. "Turn to Life" with  
Pastor Inanna Arthen

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

### Monday, April 6

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

### Sunday, April 12

5:00 pm - Sunday Worship - Chalice Circle  
Service

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

### Monday, April 13

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

### Sunday, April 19

5:00 pm - Sunday Worship - Patriots Day

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

### Monday, April 20

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

### Sunday, April 26

5:00 pm - Sunday Worship - TED Talk Sunday

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

### Monday, April 27

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

### Thursday, April 30

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen Community  
Supper

### Sunday, May 4

5:00 pm - Sunday Worship - Chalice Circle  
Service

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

## From Your Minister

As I write this, it's snowing yet again, continuing what surely seems like the longest winter ever. A lot of snow has melted, but there's a lot more to go, and the only flowers and greenery in sight are the potted Easter Lilies at the supermarket. We are so ready for spring!

But despite the mountainous snow banks around the UUCW driveway, it's been business as usual at 126 Central Street! We launched the month on March 1 with a service on the theme of St. David's Day (the Welsh "St. Patrick's Day") and personal identity—how and why do our nationalities, affiliations, family trees and even fandoms define who we are as persons? UUCW member J. McCrohon gave a slideshow presentation on March 8 on "Gardens of the Enlightenment." On March 15, we shared a Chalice Circle service which continued the theme of identity, as we explored "Who Am I?" and what life experiences challenged or shaped our sense of self.

On March 22, we held a multigenerational service on the theme of folk tales, hearing three little-known folk tales from Asian and African cultures. On March 29, we shared a Chalice Circle service on "Circle of Healing," which included a guided healing meditation to music.

On Thursday, March 26, Our Neighbor's Kitchen served a hearty meal of corned beef, cabbage, roasted vegetables, salad, Irish soda bread and desserts for our annual only-slightly-late St. Patrick's Day dinner.

April is a month full of contradictions. Poet Robert Frost wrote,  
"You know how it is with an April day  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May."

But if you so much as dare to speak,  
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
A wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle  
of March."

We tend to associate April with warming temperatures, soft rains, baby animals, and flowers bursting out everywhere. Maple sugaring season turns into mud season and from the squishy ground the heads of crocuses and daffodils push out toward the sun, while massive tangles of forsythia are suddenly as brilliant yellow as earthbound fireworks.

And yet, April can also be a violent month. I remember Aprils with wild floods as heavy winter snows melted under days of pounding rainstorms. Out in the midwest and deep South, they're already on the alert for destructive thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Animals and birds square off over territory as they court and nest, and we may be startled awake at night by the noise they make outside. Wild turkeys, their population booming, sometimes chase people or their cars, much to the shock of our civilized selves. We expect wild animals to be a little more deferential. But there is nothing deferential about spring. It explodes with all the power of life created anew, and even as it revivifies and awakens us, we occasionally have to get out of the way.

There are several holidays during April, the most universal of which is Easter, the central holy day of the Christian faith. The solemn Jewish holiday of Passover occurs at about the same time. April is also marked by Earth Day, on April 22, PanAmerican Day on April 14, and everybody's un-favorite, Tax Day on April 15.

But we have a holiday here in New England that is less well known: Patriots Day, April 19.



## **Spiritual Calendar**

April 1: **Veneralia (Roman)**. Festival of Venus, goddess of love, death, sexuality, orchards and water. Roman women washed images of the goddess in rivers or lakes and adorned them with new robes and finery. Incense was burned to the goddess with wishes for love, joy and good fortune.

April 2: **Maundy Thursday (Christian)**. Marks the "Lord's Supper," the Passover meal in which Christ addressed his disciples for the last time before his arrest.

April 3: **Pesach or Passover (Jewish)**. Begins at sunset. Beginning of an eight-day commemoration of the Jewish people's deliverance from slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses. Observed with a solemn ritual meal in which family members have specific roles, Pesach recalls how the Jews were "passed over" by the avenging angel.

**Good Friday (Christian)**. Traditionally a day of prayer, fasting, and mourning to mark the crucifixion of Christ. Some churches draped their altar or images of the cross with black or purple shrouds, which were removed on Easter morning.

**Mahavir Jayante (Jain)**. Festival honoring the birthday of Lord Mahavira, the founder of Jainism. The faithful visit shrines and reflect on Jainist teachings.

April 5: **Easter (Christian)**. The greatest holy day in the Christian calendar, Easter marks the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter are observed a week later in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

**Festival of Kwan Yin (Chinese and Japanese)**. Dedicated to Kwan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy, the Great Mother of China, and "The Lady Who Brings Children." Celebrated with offerings of incense and visits to Kwan Yin's shrines.

April 13: **Cerialia (Roman)**. A celebration in honor of Ceres, the goddess of bread and grain, "the staff of life." Bake bread today!

April 14: **Baisakhi (Sikh)**. Hindu New Year Celebration.

April 22: **Festival of Ishtar (Babylonian)**. Celebration of the central goddess of Babylonian religion--Ishtar was a goddess of love, the moon, fertility and war.

April 30: **Walpurgisnacht/May Eve (Celtic Pagan)**. The corresponding holiday to Halloween or Hallows, the eve of Beltane celebrated the return of summer. Pastoral peoples moved their herds and flocks to summer pastures at this time, while farming societies finished plowing and planting. May Eve was marked with great bonfires (often on hilltops), fortune-telling, feasting, dancing, and wishes for a prosperous and abundant year to come.

Not to be confused with the anniversary of 9/11 which was christened “Patriot Day” by President George W. Bush, Patriots Day commemorates the first open conflict in the American Revolution: the battles at the Concord Bridge and on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775, between Colonial militias and British soldiers. Patriots Day was proclaimed as a civic holiday in Massachusetts by Governor Greenhalge in 1894. Maine established it as a holiday in 1907. In Wisconsin, April 19 is a school observance day.

In 1971, when I was a teenager in high school, my family moved to Acton, Massachusetts from Washington State. Acton takes Patriots Day very personally, because, as we quickly learned, one of the first American Colonists killed at the Concord Bridge was the captain of Acton’s Minutemen, Isaac Davis. Famous for pronouncing, “I haven’t a man who is afraid to go,” he may not have been exaggerating as the Acton Minutemen ended up front and center when the British fired their muskets. Captain Davis is buried beneath the Revolutionary War monument in Acton Center, not far from the homestead, which is still standing and occupied, from which he marched away never to return.

Residents of Acton re-enact the march to the Concord Bridge on Patriots Day, and I participated in this march several times, including in 1976, the year of the Bicentennial. President Ford spoke at the Bridge with a lack of security that in retrospect, seems breathtaking—especially since a 60s-like group of protesters were attempting to hijack the march and heckle the President.

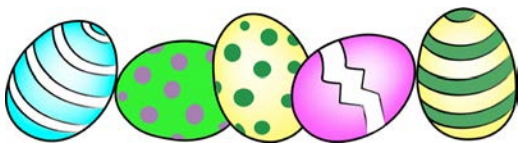
The march starts in the pre-dawn hours. In the 1970s, various companies of Minutemen from area towns assembled in front of the Davis homestead. After some ceremonies, the Minutemen led the hundreds of

marchers on a route that approximated the one taken by the company in 1775, as a descendent of Isaac Davis, dressed on Colonial costume, waved good-bye from the steps of the house.

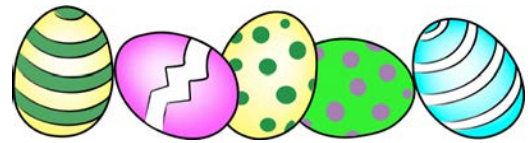
The walk took us along back roads and trails through the woods, sometimes to the drum beats of the Minutemen’s drummers and sometimes (when the ground was rough) in silence. A few people in shorts and expensive shoes ran the whole seven miles, but most of us arrived weary and footsore, glad to sit down on benches or in tussocky grass and listen to the speakers and ceremonies and musket volleys that concluded the Bridge part of the march. Buses were available back to Acton, but one year, for reasons I don’t now recall, we walked almost all the way back.

You might ask why we would do this. Yes, visiting historic sites and watching ceremonies and re-enactments is a way of showing respect for history, but getting up before sunrise and walking seven miles first takes a bit stronger sense of the significance of the date. We walked those miles because something in us wanted to attune to the experiences of those long past ancestors, those “patriots” as we called them. Even though we faced no challenge to life and limb at the end of our journey, even though the Redcoats’ muskets in 1976 fired only noise and smoke, there was still a certain sense of mission, of tense anticipation. Perhaps that feeling has soaked into the very ground here in New England.

Patriotism, and who can consider him- or herself a “patriot,” has become a fierce and contentious issue since the 1970s. I think this often happens when our nation is going through real change. Certainly, in 1775, both the Colonists fighting for independence and the Tories loyal to the British Crown considered themselves passionate “patriots”—and they were both right.



## RE News



Spring is hopefully not far away from us, though the snow on the ground means that our annual Easter Egg Hunt will happen inside this year. While we hoped that we could perform this outside, it looks like that just won’t be possible...but we’ll have a wonderful time anyway! We’ve spent some time this month in learning more about our Unitarian Universalist ideals (based on our Purposes and Principles), and have enjoyed having good weather to be in fellowship and community with one another. That’s something that is as important to our children as it is to adults. We hope you’ll consider having your children join us!

Sincerely,  
Kirsty Erikson, Lead Teacher



## ***This Month in UU History***

- April 3, 1807: Unitarian Mary Carpenter was born in Exeter, England. She was well-educated at her father's school in Exeter, and went on to help run and teach at the "Ragged School" for the very poor. The physical development and nutrition of poor children concerned Mary greatly. She worked with Unitarian philanthropies to fight slavery, reform penal laws, feed the poor and provide reformatories (instead of adult prison) for children. She helped to write the Industrial Schools Act of 1857, which implemented education for street children.
- April 3, 1822: Unitarian minister and prolific writer Edward Everett Hale was born in Boston, MA. He served congregations at the Church of the Unity in Worcester, MA and South Congregational in Boston, MA. During the Civil War, Hale came to national prominence as the voice of the public conscience and a patriotic leader. He wrote the 1863 short story, "The Man Without a Country." He served on the Board of Directors of the Unitarian Sunday School Society. From 1903 until his death in 1909, he served as chaplain to the United States Senate.
- April 7, 1774: Abner Kneeland was born in Gardner, MA. He converted to Universalism from Baptist ministry. Kneeland promoted civil liberties, held several denominational positions, wrote tracts and sermons about Universalism and published 130 hymns. He translated the New Testament, leaving all passages about Hell, damnation and future punishment in the original Greek. In 1838, the Suffolk County Massachusetts Court convicted Kneeland of blasphemy for his Universalist (or "atheist") views, and he served 60 days in prison.
- April 30, 1771: Known as "the father of American Universalism," Hosea Ballou was born in Richmond, NH. He was brought up Baptist but converted to Universalism when he was 19. He founded the Second Universalist Society in Boston in 1817 and served as its first minister until 1846. Ballou eagerly engaged in religious debates and controversies, and edited the *Universalist Expositor*. His *Treatise on Atonement* framed universal salvation in the light of Unitarian divine benevolence rather than watering down Calvinist Trinitarianism.

Questions raised during the 1960s—is it more "patriotic" to support your country unquestioningly or to object when you feel our nation is doing things that are wrong?—have kept on erupting. We're now close to the level of internal dissent and divisions which led to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and we're still looking for leadership capable of guiding us through strife to harmony. Both of those conflicts tipped into violence in the month of April.

Well-known patriot John Adams, of course, opined that the United States would always be sharply divided and in conflict. As much as I admire Adams, this is one belief of his I'm reluctant to accept. But I consider myself a "patriot." I inherited, from a friend who passed away, a button that says: "I love my country all the time and my government when it deserves it."

I think that summarizes the feeling of a lot of Americans. But what makes a government lovable? Let's discuss.

(If you'd like to participate in Patriots Day events this year, you can find information at <http://www.battleroad.org/> ).

Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div

## **Let's Talk About Money!**

There's no point in being wishy-washy about bringing it up. We at UUCW love our members. We love you when you come to Sunday worship and share your energy, your thoughts, your joys and concerns, and your voices in song. We love you when you join us for potluck, with or without food to share. We love you when you help out with Our Neighbors Kitchen or other events. We love you just for being there, and it's always great to see you at the church, on Sundays or any time.

But we live in a world that runs on money. We need financial support to survive. We need it to keep our building properly maintained, lighted and heated.

We also need money so we can do good. Unitarian-Universalists are committed to community service and social justice. Insofar as UUs have a "creed," that's what it is. We at UUCW do as much as we can to help and support people in need around Winchendon. We want to do far more. We have lots of ideas. But helping people takes resources.

As minister, the most common requests for help I hear aren't "spiritual"—they're pleas for assistance finding housing or paying bills.

You'll be receiving our annual pledge letter soon, and when you read it, remember that UUCW values everything about you and every contribution you make. But we live in a society where financial contributions matter. We wish we didn't have to ask...but we do. And we're very grateful for anything you can spare toward our good work.



## **Yard Sale Season Will Be Here Soon!**

It's almost time for our ever-popular UUCW Yard Sales to resume for a new season! Due the extraordinary weather this winter, we haven't yet confirmed the starting date for this year. However, we plan to set up the yard sales on two Saturdays a month. Watch our website and/or Facebook page for announcements.

If you'd like to donate goods and materials for the Yard Sales, or have a table of your own, please contact the church or Sue Faucher (978-632-5588). Sue is also the person to contact if you'd like to be a vendor at the Summer Flea Market on June 20. Don't delay, as space fills up early!



## **Thursday, April 30 Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves Chicken Teriyaki!**

Join us on Thursday, April 30 at 5:30 p.m. for an elegant meal of homemade chicken teriyaki, complementary side dish, vegetables and dessert, prepared by our chef David Faucher and his crew of dauntless assistants. Volunteers for set-up, serving and clean-up always welcome!

### **Caring Connections**

UUCW is a caring congregation. We reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each other's 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 for Sunday services, offer a ride to church, or make any other "caring connection." Please let us know if you or someone close to you is in need of such a "caring connection" from us. You can call Inanna directly at 978-433-8866 (home) or 508-572-1624 (cell).

## **April Birthdays**

Wendy O'Brien  
Jon Nicholson

April 3  
April 19



**(If I'm missing any birthdays, please let me know!)**



## **Change of Address?**

We want to stay in touch! If you change your address, either U. S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email [dfaucher@on24seven.com](mailto:dfaucher@on24seven.com) or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thanks!

## **UUCW Online**

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/uuwinchendon>

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