

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954 Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



Volume 62 Issue 10

REV. INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

JUNE 2018

SUNDAY CIRCLE MEETING 11:00 A.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, June 3

11:00 am - Sacred Circle Meeting
12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Mtg.

Monday, June 4

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, June 5

6:30 pm - Recovery Support Group

Sunday, June 10

11:00 am - CHURCH ANNUAL
MEETING
12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Mtg.

Monday, June 11

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, June 12

6:30 pm - Recovery Support Group

Thursday, June 14

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Homemade Pizza

Saturday, June 16

8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Summer Solstice Fair

Sunday, June 17

11:00 am - Sacred Circle Meeting
12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Mtg.

Monday, June 18

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, June 19

6:30 pm - Recovery Support Group

Wednesday, June 20

7:00 pm - UUCW Governing Board
Meeting, UUCW Parish Hall

Sunday, June 24

11:00 am - Sacred Circle Meeting
12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Mtg.

Monday, June 25

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, June 26

6:30 pm - Recovery Support Group

Thursday, June 28

5:30pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Barbeque Summer Ribs

Sunday, July 1

11:00 am - Sacred Circle Meeting
12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Mtg.
2:00 pm - Winchendon Winds Concert -
"America!"

Monday, July 2

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, July 3

6:30 pm - Recovery Support Group

From Your Minister

It's June, the month of graduations, weddings, getting out the lawn chairs and grill, planting gardens, navigating around road repair work large and small, and for many people, planning moves. Packing, downsizing, house-hunting, signing leases, moving out of dorms...the whole world is in constant motion. I'm concluding my fifth year as your minister at UUCW, but "the end of the church year" isn't what it used to be. We no longer take a break over the summer as UU churches commonly do. I'll be leading Sacred Circle Meetings on Sundays, Our Neighbor's Kitchen will stay on the same schedule, weekly meetings and groups will march right on, and we'll be hosting Winchendon Winds band concerts in July. But when you have a beautiful church and grounds like ours, it seems silly to take a break during the nicest time of the year, doesn't it? After all—in summer, we don't have to turn on the heat! And our Parish Hall downstairs is naturally air-conditioned.

We had a very interesting month of May at UUCW as we began our new Sunday morning format, holding

This Month in UU History

June 20, 1743: Unitarian and highly regarded poet Anna Laetitia Aikin Barbauld was born in Leicestershire, England. Anna built a successful writing career in an age when women were rarely published writers. She was also a religious Dissenter and politically involved. She had a brilliant mind and her mother bragged that she was reading by the age of two. Anna herself claimed she had no young girls to play with and was surrounded entirely by boys. She was an avid student who pestered her father to teach her the classics, and received a full education typical of the time, including Latin and Greek. She published her first book of poetry in 1773 at the age of 30. She collaborated with her brother, John Aikin, on a book of essays that were compared with Samuel Johnson's. In 1774, Anna married Rochemont Barbauld, a Dissenting minister and teacher. When the couple could not have children of their own, Anna persuaded her brother (after much argument) to allow them to adopt one of his large brood of children. Anna and her husband both taught at Palgrave Academy for eleven years, building its enrollment from eight boys to forty and completely revolutionizing its curriculum and modes of discipline. As the years passed, Rochemont's mental health deteriorated badly. He served as minister for two (covertly, as it was still illegal) Unitarian churches, but became prone to violent episodes—on one occasion Anna jumped out of a window to escape being stabbed. Anna remained devoted to her husband, and when he drowned himself in 1808, she was overcome with grief. Anna's writing had become more radical, often with biting sarcasm, during the French Revolution. She wrote a scathing piece defending a bill to give religious Dissenters full civil rights after it was defeated three times in Parliament. She was a harsh critic of the slave trade and Britain's involvement with it. In 1812 she went too far, publishing a poem titled "Eighteen Hundred and Eleven" criticizing the government for the Napoleonic wars and predicting that Britain would be eclipsed by the United States because of its moral failings. Britain was losing the war at that time and Anna was viciously attacked for her poem. She never published her writing again, and died in 1825. Long after her death, she was again recognized as one of Britain's best poets and most brilliant minds.

Sacred Circle Meetings at 11:00 a.m. We've started out well, with a small core group of attendees, and we're actively promoting our meetings and doing outreach to those who would be interested. Please don't be shy about joining us any time! And do pass on the word to anyone you know who would be interested in this style of spiritual practice.

On Sunday, May 6, we launched our new format with a discussion of the direction we would like to see the group take and things we're planning for future meetings. On Sunday, May 13, we celebrated the New Moon in Taurus, blessing seeds and plants we'd brought in, and extending our blessing outward to our gardens at home. On Sunday, May 20, we did a personal ceremony of protection and blessing for everyone present. Each person was anointed with blessed oil and "smudged" (that is, blessed with incense smoke) with sage and sweetgrass. On Sunday, May 27, we planned a celebration of the Full Moon in Sagittarius.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen served three delicious meals to near-capacity attendance in May (we're close to having to set up a fourth row of tables!). On Thursday, May 10, I and my dauntless assistants tried out a new dish: Meatballs Stroganoff, with noodles, roasted

vegetables and pastries donated by the Winchendon CAC for dessert. On Thursday, May 24, Dave Faucher and assistants cooked a four-course baked ham dinner with salad, bread, vegetables, potatoes and donated pastries for dessert. It was our turn to take the fifth Thursday this month, so on May 31, I and my dedicated assistants turned out an ONK favorite: meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, bread and brownie bites for dessert. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers who pitch in to help with cooking, setting up tables, serving and clean-up, especially as our attendance continues to increase—we couldn't do it without ALL of you!

Winchendon Recovery Group meeting continues on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Indivisible Winchendon has been convening at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays to discuss local, state and national issues and news, candidates in the upcoming primaries and current events.

Like many others, UUs affirm that a person's spiritual or religious beliefs are entirely a matter of individual conscience. We don't dictate what anyone should believe, although we do have standards for ethical and civil behavior. But in being so urgently non-invasive,

Spiritual Calendar

June 9: St. Columba of Iona's Day (Celtic Christian). Also known as Colmcille (Irish for “church dove”), St. Columba (521-597) is credited with bringing Christianity to Scotland, then occupied by the northern Pictish kingdoms. Colmcille was a colorful character, described as very tall and strong, with a voice that could be heard from one hilltop to the next. He was educated in numerous Irish and Welsh monasteries, where scholarly study of Latin texts and theology was highly developed. Colmcille was said to have provoked at least two pitched battles leading to multiple deaths—one over a psalter which was borrowed for copying and not returned, and one over violation of sanctuary. Colmcille was given the choice of excommunication or exile. Guilt-ridden over the deaths on his conscience, he chose exile, determining to save as many souls as he could. He founded a monastery in Iona, (in Scotland) which became a center of learning for centuries. A story told about his miracles suggests that he banished a predatory water beast to the River Ness and therefore created the Loch Ness Monster. His biography, *Vita Columbae*, still exists, as do several hymns he wrote. He is one of the three main saints of Ireland.

June 15-17: Eid al Fitr (Islam). An important holiday for Muslims, marking the end of the month of Ramadan. It is the only Islamic holiday on which Muslims are forbidden to fast (since it concludes the fasting period preceding it). Muslims are required to “pay the Zakat al-Fitr,” that is, make a specified charitable gift to the poor and needy, before performing the Eid prayer. Following the observances of prayer, sermons and charity, many Muslims hold large communal celebrations to honor the ending of Ramadan.

June 21: Summer Solstice / Litha (Pagan). Midsummer celebrations are found almost everywhere in Europe, almost always involving bonfires in some fashion. Fortune-telling was a common tradition in many places, and in Celtic regions, Midsummer was believed to be another time when the barrier between the everyday world and the otherworld relaxed, so that spirits of the dead or fairies might be encountered by those walking alone at night. In Scandinavian countries, “maypoles” are traditionally set up and decorated at Midsummer rather than May 1st. The Christian calendar set the feast day of St. John the Baptist on June 24 and most countries simply moved their Midsummer traditions to St. John's Eve. Modern Pagans celebrate Midsummer in various ways, often with bonfires outside if practical. Some Pagans have adopted the German name Litha for the Midsummer holiday.

I wonder if we're dodging an important question: can spiritual practices have an impact on the world around us in more ways than the practical help we give others in service, and our own inner development?

It's a question worth considering. Most spiritual paths, ancient and new, take as a given that what we do spiritually has a concrete effect on the world. If we indulge in negative emotions and hatefulness, we know it affects our own health and happiness, and that of people close to us. But many would also say that we literally poison the world when we wallow in strong negative thoughts and feelings.

On the other hand, many of us believe that when we consciously act out of love, joy, hope, courage and optimism, our actions, thoughts and feelings have effects far beyond the direct ones. We earth-centered people call this making magic, creating an energy form that gets filled in by reality.

But you have to DO something for this to work. Practical action must be combined with the right attitude—what we call “Intention.” We're learning

to be skeptical of legislators who offer “thoughts and prayers” to survivors of disasters without committing to legislation to help them, or prevent more such things from happening. Yet many “spiritual” people are guilty of something similar.

I'm often haunted by a repeated line from the movie *The Untouchables*. Do you want to see real change in the world?

Then what are you prepared to *do*?

Rev. Inanna Arthen

Church Annual Meeting June 10, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

UUCW's Annual Meeting will convene in the UUCW Parish Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 10. There will be no Sacred Circle Meeting that day. We cordially invite and encourage all UUCW members to attend this important meeting to vote on administrative business for the coming year.

Sacred Circle Meetings

We are now holding Sacred Circle Meetings on Sunday mornings. These are quite different from traditional church services. We meet in a circle of chairs, so that everyone is equal. We begin by creating a sacred space, and we light our UU Chalice to honor Unitarian Universalism and our UUCW congregation. But from there, we do a variety of things depending on the needs of the group. We'll be doing meditations, we'll be doing healing work, we'll be honoring and celebrating the cycles of the seasons and the greater powers that give us life, love and all the myriad blessings we so often take for granted. When we have a discussion, it is part of our sacred space and structured so that everyone's words and thoughts are valued and heard. It is a time to spiritually renew ourselves for the coming week.

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations are experimenting with new kinds of spiritual experiences. Many people are no longer fulfilled by the "sermon and hymn sandwich" model of service—but they're hungry for spiritual depth and a community to share it with. UUism overlaps broadly with earth-centered and other faith traditions (such as Buddhism). Respecting and celebrating these sources is a big part of being a UU.

If you're looking for something like this, you're invited to join us. If you have a friend, relative or co-worker who might enjoy this type of meeting, please pass this information on to them! We hope this change will mark a new stage in UUCW's long history as a vital part of Winchendon.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Rev. Inanna Arthen at iarthen@inannaarthen.com.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen

It's a busy month, with Annual Meeting and Summer Solstice Fair! But we have two great meals planned for June. Don't miss them!

On Thursday, June 14, Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants will try another new menu item: handmade pizza with homemade-from-scratch pizza dough and a variety of toppings (meat and veggie), along with salad and dessert.

On Thursday, June 28, chef extraordinaire Dave Faucher and assistants will present our ever-popular dinner of barbecued Summer Ribs, with homemade barbeque sauce, sides and dessert.

We can always use more volunteers. If you can help with food prep, contact the chefs for details on

their work flow for the night's meal and when help will be most needed, as this varies with the menu. If you'd like to help with set-up, come to the church between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. If you want to help with serving, come at around 5:15 p.m. so we can go over any special protocols for the night's menu. Clean-up starts around 5:45 p.m. and usually takes about forty-five minutes. Volunteers have a chance to sit down together to socialize and enjoy the meal.

On June 7 and 21, Immaculate Heart of Mary church (52 Spruce Street) will be serving "first and third Thursday" Our Neighbor's Kitchen dinners in their hall. Contact IHM for menus and details on volunteering.

This meal is sustained by gifts from the people who attend, the religious communities of Winchendon, the Winchendon Community Action Committee, The Winchendon School, and many volunteers.

Winchendon Winds Concerts at UUCW

Winchendon Winds is getting ready to start rehearsals in preparation for this summer's concert series, all to be performed in our sanctuary with its wonderful acoustics.

The three concert dates and themes are:

Sunday, July 1, 2:00 p.m.: "America!"

Sunday, July 8, 2:00 p.m.: "Greatest Hits of 1918"

Sunday, July 15, 2:00 p.m.: "Honoring Our Veterans"

This is the debut season for Winchendon Winds conductor James Chesebrough, who just retired from the faculty of Keene State College after a long and distinguished career as a conductor and music educator.

Winchendon Winds concerts are free of charge and open to all. UUCW plans to sell refreshments at some or all of the concerts; details are still being finalized. The strawberry shortcake we sold in 2016 was a big hit.

For detailed updates about Winchendon Winds, see:

www.facebook.com/WinchendonWinds or
winchendonwinds.org.

UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

2018 Summer Solstice Flea Market and Fair

We're gearing up for our annual flea market and fair in conjunction with Winchendon's 2018 Summer Solstice festival on Saturday, June 16, from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. If you're attending, remember that Central Street will be closed for the main part of the day for the road race and Solstice Parade. UUCW's front and side lawns will be packed with vendor booths offering crafts, food, artwork, flowers, used books and more—come support local organizations such as the Friends of the Library and the Winchendon Garden Club, as well as local crafters and businesses. UUCW will be running our famous concession tables all day, with hotdogs, homemade chili, baked potatoes, chips, and beverages.

If you're a vendor, and would still like a space on our lawns, please get in touch with us right away. You can email Rev. Inanna Arthen at iarthen@inannaarthen.com (recommended), or leave a message at church, 978-297-0554.

Saturday Yard Sales Discontinued

We've had a few inquiries about the biweekly Saturday Yard Sales we've hosted for the last few years. After much consideration, we decided this spring that we will not be running Saturday Yard Sales for the foreseeable future. We had not been getting a worthwhile return on our investment of time and work—so many people are now "freecycling" instead of yard saling. We are talking about a bigger, one-off, flea market/fair event later in the summer. Watch our website and Facebook page, or make sure you get our weekly emails, for updates.



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 978-297-1730 (home) or 508-572-1624 (cell).

Winchendon Recovery Support Group at UUCW

A support group for all those in recovery meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in our Parish Hall. This is an open meeting, with free discussion, information, support and sharing. If you're in recovery or would like to be, you're welcome to join us. This is not a 12-step group, but a group for peers to help each other in the day-to-day work of achieving and maintaining sobriety. The facilitators are Winchendon residents.

June Birthdays

Heather Mahoney	June 2
Pauline Michalewicz	June 6
Jill Sackett	June 10
Inanna Arthen	June 20
David Faucher	June 28



(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 or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

Contact Information

Minister: Rev. Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Phone: 978-297-1730

Cell: 508-572-1624

Email: iarthen@inannaarthen.com

Musician: Lucinda Ellert

Phone: 781-944-7254

Email: lucindajellert@gmail.com

Governing Board Chair: David Faucher

Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Rev. Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

Sexton (Custodian): Sue Faucher

Phone: 978-632-5588

Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com