

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954

Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



PO Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475

Church Telephone: 978-297-0554

Volume 64 Issue 11

JULY 2020

This is the Church of the Open Mind
This is the Church of the Loving Heart

This is the Church of the Helping Hands
This is the Church of the Caring Community

Calendar of Church Events

Thursday, July 9

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Salad Trio (Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, July 19

2:00 pm - UUCW Governing Board
Meeting, Home of Jill & Joe Sackett

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meetings on hold

Thursday, July 23

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Chili (Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Saturday August 1

10:00 - 3:00 pm - UUCW Lawn Fair

From Your Editor

As I am writing on this very warm summer day, my spinach is already starting to bolt and I have a pea-size tomato forming. One advantage to spending so much time at home is the increased attention my yard has received! My usually-modest vegetable garden has swollen to three times its normal size, and I am hoping that I will have a bountiful harvest to share at a future Our Neighbor's Kitchen meal. We can certainly count on the zucchini.

There is a resurgence of home gardening this year. Perhaps it is avoidance of grocery stores or concern for prices or availability. Perhaps it is more time on our hands. Perhaps it is reclaiming the simple joy of watching something grow from a seed in ground to a lush green plant producing food we share on our table. Let's hope this "trend" continues...and stays with us beyond this single summer.

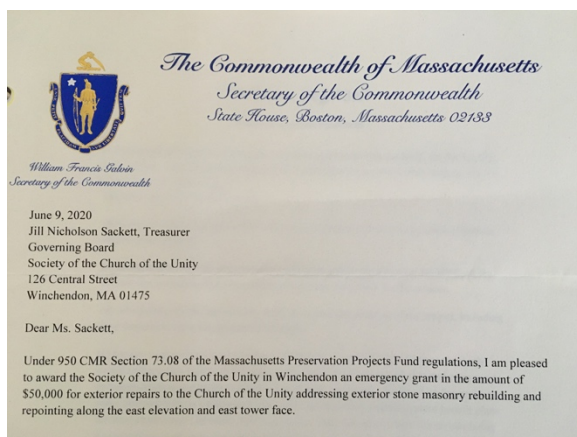
"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it is our garden that is nurturing us." -Jenny Uglow

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Set in Stone Awarded Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund State Grant

Last April, we reported on our first-ever application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for special funding to continue our Set in Stone masonry repairs. MHC oversees the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF), a state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant program established in 1984 to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites (cultural resources) listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

This year, MHC received 33 applications with requests totaling nearly \$2 million. UUCW's application was one of only three applications that were pulled early and selected for emergency funding, based upon our compelling case and "high potential for loss."



Our \$50,000 MPPF grant, plus a matching grant received from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, will enable us to begin urgent "Phase 2" masonry repairs on our bell tower.

This is the beginning of our preservation journey. Last fall, we completed "Phase 1" emergency repairs to our front entryway, and were able to halt water seepage and plaster deterioration of the interior plasterwork. "Phase 2" will focus on the East face of the bell tower. Our tower is in the worst state of disrepair, and these funds will go a long way to address those deficiencies. Overall, we are looking at phases of work spread over several years, for a total project cost that may approach \$1 million. When complete, this building will be reinforced for many years to come.

Follow our progress on our dedicated website: set-in-stone.org. If you are interested in supporting our preservation efforts, please contact us. We will certainly have a role for you!

UUCW Summer Fair to Proceed August 1

The Summer Fair has been running at the UUCW since the 1860s, when the first summer flea market was held to help finance the construction of the building. It has run almost every summer since then and is our biggest fundraiser of the year. In recent times, the Summer Fair has run in conjunction

with the Clark Memorial YMCA annual Summer Solstice festival, the third weekend in June. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of Summer Solstice along with many other public events.

As Massachusetts cautiously “reopens” and we see events such as the Rietta Flea Market resume, we are pleased to announce that our Summer Fair will proceed, albeit slightly later this summer.

Join us on the church lawns on Saturday, August 1, from 10:00 am – 3 pm and peruse a wide variety of wares, ranging from yard sale items, crafts, retail items, and food. We will be spacing our vendors at generous intervals and encouraging social distancing practices.

Interested in renting a space? For a modest fee you can rent a generous stall space on our front or side lawn. Download an application form with information from our website: uucw.ncmuuc.org.

Highlights From Our Annual Meeting

UUCW holds their annual meeting in June to review our past year, elect officers and set our budget for the coming year. This year’s Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, June 28. Highlights from the meeting follow below.

We presented a Congregational Report that reviewed our past fiscal year. While we saw the departure of our minister, Rev. Inanna Arthen, we focused on our community service activities such as Our Neighbor’s Kitchen suppers, free concerts, tours and two lay-led services. We continue to retrench and consider new directions we can take for service to ourselves and our community.

The Treasurer’s Report showed that UUCW kept a balanced budget last year despite challenges from COVID-19 closures and a failing boiler. Our new stove, installed last summer, consumed a fraction of our usual propane supply. We voted in a balanced, conservative budget for the upcoming year. This includes careful financing for a new boiler.

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen Report showed continual suppers and the launch of the “Pathway to Healthier Eating” project, interrupted only by COVID-19 shut-down. We resumed in late May with a very successful drive-through/take-out model and additional grant funding (see page 4).

The current slate of officers was renewed for the Governing Board: Jill Sackett Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Inanna Arthen – Clerk and Allen Gordon – General Member. Dave Faucher continues as an Our Neighbor’s Kitchen chef.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Receives COVID-19 Emergency Grant

UUCW has now served three Our Neighbor's Kitchen community suppers as a drive-through/take-out model. On June 9 the Sackett family prepared southwest pork over rice, with tossed ranch salad, corn bread and fresh fruit. On June 25 the Faucher family served up a summer classic: smoked ribs, corn-on-the-cob and pasta salad. In both cases we completely ran out of food, so we will be increasing our quantities!

The drive-through process is quite efficient. We call down "orders" to the kitchen and bring take-out containers right to the waiting cars. We also prepare extra packaged hot meals to hand-deliver to the police and fire department staffs on duty.



Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals are free to all, and while donations are gladly

received, they serve to cover only a fraction of the costs. The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts (CFNCM) stepped in to help our endeavor by awarding us a \$2200 emergency grant from their Critical Needs COVID-19 Fund. The grant will go directly to expenses such as groceries, take-out containers, and utility costs such as propane.

The CFNCM Critical Needs COVID-19 Fund is a temporary allocation that will support non-profits in North Central Massachusetts as they provide support to families and essential workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their priority is organizations providing essential services. For more information, visit www.cfncm.org

We will continue this drive-through model while indoor gatherings remain limited. Look for our lawn banners the week of our dinners, and find updates to our menus on our Facebook page.

UUCW Online

Main Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

Set in Stone Website: www.set-in-stone.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

Contact Information

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Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)