

# The Gleam

June 2019 Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield



from  
out  
interim  
MINISTER

I first planned to write a “goodbye” reflection for the summer newsletter. Much better to write it here, in late May, in the middle of things, while spring has not yet completely sprung.

I am honored to be your interim minister. I came here to serve you in a transitional role, in-between Maddie Sifantus (who clicked with this congregation in so many ways) and your next minister who will, it is hoped, play a key role in revitalization and spurring new growth. I come pre-fired, so to speak. I have always been psychologically prepared to leave.

Still, this is a time of letting-go. Three and a half years (January 2016 through June 2019) is a significant chunk of time in my life, and yours. I have gotten to know many of you, your distinctive personalities and gifts, and the hopes that inspire you. We have walked a spiritual path together.

The Flower Communion speaks of the ongoing cycles of change: we bring our unique individualities to this church. We share what we have. We influence one another’s experience and become part of one another’s memories; and we are changed in the process.

I came to you *in medias res*, in the middle of things, stepping into the river as it flows. I will be leaving the same way, with “thank you” on my lips – a fitting subject for my final reflection in the summer Gleam.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Taylor".

Rev. Bruce Taylor

 Discover UU  
searching for truth and meaning

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## Important Dates for Your Calendar

**Sunday, June 9**

**End of the Church Year Picnic & RE skit, after service**

**Friday, June 21**

**Rise Up Singing, 7:30pm**

**Tuesday, June 25**

**LT Coffeehouse, Lower Common, 6:30pm**

**Sunday, August 25**

**Meditation Practice Group, 4pm**

**Sundays June 16 thru Sept 1**

**Breakheart Walks, 9am, meet at NE Vocational School/Wakefield entrance**

## June Services

All Sunday services begin at 10:30AM  
Music by Alla Vishnevetsky starts at 10:20AM

### June 2: Chapel Service led by Jackie Millinor *The Spiritual Significance of Islamic Fasting* Social Hall

As the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close for Islam, we welcome Nichole Mossalam, Executive Director of the Islamic Cultural Center of Medford, to share the meaning of Ramadan and her thoughts on the importance of fasting for Muslims.

### June 9: Rev. Bruce Taylor *Flower Communion & "The Inner Work of Change"* Sanctuary

The seasons turn; our life circumstances change. But the events that signal these changes are just the "tip of the iceberg", the visible parts of a deeper process. Today, we will explore the inward, spiritual work of change that makes it possible for us to grow as we engage major milestones and new opportunities.

## Our Church's Mission:

*We gather in faith to  
Welcome with open appreciation,  
Worship together in community.  
Walk a path of truth, and  
Work with love for a better world today.*

## Summer Service Hiatus

During the summer months starting on Sunday, June 16, Sunday services are suspended until Sunday, September 8th. Church leaders and committee members will continue to communicate through the church administration email, Facebook and the website. Please reach out to the church as needed via email: [admin@wakefielduu.org](mailto:admin@wakefielduu.org).



## Minister's Availability and Office Hours



I respond promptly to emails and cell phone messages (603-233-3554) between 9:00am and 9:00pm, Tuesday through Sunday. (Monday is my Sabbath). For pastoral emergencies, please call me anytime and I will respond as soon as I can. During the month of June, I plan to be in my office on the following days.

Tuesdays 6/4 & 6/11 from 1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.  
Thursdays 6/6 & 6/13 from 10 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Since these hours may change due to unforeseen circumstances, I encourage you to call ahead.

## Summer Sunday Morning Walks



Sundays, June 16th thru September 1st, members and friends will meet for the Breakheart Reservation walk starting at 9AM. Come once, come twice, or come every week—it's a great way to keep in touch over the summer, get some fresh air & exercise, and share in interesting conversations with new or "old" friends. Meet at the Breakheart Reservation, Wakefield entrance (N.E. Vocational School parking lot). Family, friends and dogs are welcome!

**Please bring a flower for our annual Flower Communion on Sunday, June 9th. During the service you will be invited to select a flower from the collection of flowers brought together by our church members & friends.**



## Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee has begun to plan for next church year and would love input from church members and friends. Several of the guest ministers have been booked for next fall and chapel services outlined. Do you have a favorite guest minister that you would like to see in the pulpit again next year? Is there a Sunday service element that you would like to see added, done differently or more often, etc.? Please contact Worship chair Jackie Millinor at [uumillijac@gmail.com](mailto:uumillijac@gmail.com) with any input. Thanks!

## Annual Potluck Picnic - Sunday, June 9

Church members and friends are invited to our traditional End of the Church Year Potluck Picnic immediately following our last church service on Sunday, June 9 before our summer hiatus begins.

Please bring an appetizer, salad or side dish to share. Also, the RE Program is planning a short, original skit as well!

If the weather cooperates, we will gather in the back garden.



## Rise Up Singing



Our next Rise Up Singing event will take place on Friday, June 21 at 7:30 PM in the Social Hall. It's an informal and spirited evening of shared music-making inspired by, but not limited to the *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* songbooks. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome! No auditions and no rehearsals – just come & join in. Free Will Offering (\$5 suggested donation). Please consider bringing a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry. The decision to hold Rise Up Singing during the summer will be discussed at the June session.

## Meditation Practice

Group—

The Silent Pause

led by Joe Cresta



The monthly meditation group will meet once during the summer on Sunday, August 25 at 4pm on the stage in the Social Hall. It is open to everyone, and there is no monthly commitment and no cost. Please allow about an hour, and bring your meditation cushion, if you have one, or you can sit in a chair. A free-will offering to benefit the ministries of the church is appreciated. For more information, call Joe Cresta at 781-640-2619 or email him at [j7cresta@comcast.net](mailto:j7cresta@comcast.net).

## Linden Tree Coffeehouse

Presenting the Finest of

Folk Music since 1985

Now in Our 34th Season!

**Local Freight**

(bluegrass)

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30pm

Free concert on

The Wakefield Common



For further information and updates:

[www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org](http://www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org)

[lindentree85@comcast.net](mailto:lindentree85@comcast.net)

Phone: 781-246-2836

## Around the Block

- Our member Marjorie Hill-Devine had a delayed and very severe reaction to the immunotherapy she is receiving, and she 'is working through it'. According to Marjorie, Glen is doing his best to be a good caretaker, though she's happy to be getting stronger so she can do things for herself.



- Congratulations to the following Wakefield High School students in our church community who are graduating this June: Katherine Maloney will be attending Merrimack College in North Andover, MA and Mason Parece will be going to Castleton University in Castleton, VT in the fall.

*Do you know of some news to be shared with our congregation? Please send it to [news@wakefielduu.org](mailto:news@wakefielduu.org), and it will appear in next Around the Block. Thank you!*

There will be no Church Mice Night for the month of June. Cleaning evenings will be planned for later this summer.





## President's Piece

Thank you for entrusting me with the position of your church's president. It is my honor to serve this congregation as its leader, partner, advisor and supporter. We may be a small church community, but we have much strength in our dedication to living and sharing our UU values within our congregation and beyond.

I begin this new term with a strong base created by the wonderful spiritual guidance of Rev. Bruce Taylor and church leadership of Joe Cresta. I thank you both! I will miss Rev. Taylor's thoughtful advice and wisdom. Joe is staying in a leadership position of Board of Management member and plans to focus on gathering the necessary information for the congregation to make a final decision on the steeple project in the fall of 2019. Of course, I'm sure you also will see Joe working in the kitchen on Sunday mornings!

Along with continuing the excellent church management and work set forth by Rev. Taylor, Joe and the prior Board of Management, I have a few specific goals to reach in 2019-2020. First, I want to work closely with the Board of Management and each committee to update our newly redesigned website with content to best highlight who we are and what our church has to offer new and current members & friends. Also, as both president and a member of the Ministerial Search Committee, I will strive to select a new minister who will best compliment who we are today and who, as our church vision speaks to, we want to grow to be. Lastly, I will provide this church community the strong and benevolent leadership it will need during this period of July through December that this church will operate without a minister.

As a congregation of caring, loving and dedicated individuals, we will continue to move forward in our mission, our vision, and our individual and collective goals. Please remember all church committees and board of management meetings are open to all church members and friends to participate in and attend. Please be and stay connected, and find *the love in the doing and being* at this church! This church - a free thinking, progressive treasure in our midst - belongs to all of us!

*Janine*



**Our 2019-2020 Stewardship Drive, *Joining Together as We Work with Love for a Better World Today*** is wrapping up. Plans are being made for next year's church year to provide our congregation's members and friends with meaningful, spiritual, thought-provoking and caring services, events and activities. This church wants to continue to offer connection with each other and our community to "work with love for a better world today".

Thank you so much if you have made your pledge for the 2019-2020 church year. If you have not had a chance to do so yet, please do - we need your pledge today! Unfortunately we don't have a trip to the Galapagos Islands as an incentive giveaway, but our congregation need your financial support! We have received pledges for \$32,990, 86% of our annual pledge goal of \$38,500 from the 28 pledge units that we have received to date.

Operating expenses continue to increase, and we would like to consider staff raises to reflect the quality work that our staff members do for our church. When you pledge, please consider increasing your pledge by 3-5% this year to help cover increased expenses and salaries. If you have not pledged before or in the last few years, please pledge this year. Each pledge of any amount greatly helps balance our church budget and supports our church's mission.

Also, thank you for your previous year's pledge. If you have not had a chance to fulfill that pledge yet, please do so by June 21st, so we can have a full accounting for the end of the church fiscal year's June 30th report.

Any questions, please contact me at [j9fabiano@yahoo.com](mailto:j9fabiano@yahoo.com) or 781-245-0631.  
Janine



## The Ministerial Search Committee

Over the summer and into the fall, this committee of four, Joe Cresta, Sheila Moran, Jackie Millinor and Janine Fabiano will focus on its directive of finding a new 3/4 time minister who is the best fit for this congregation. There is room for one additional committee member if anyone else may like to be involved. Please contact Janine Fabiano at [j9fabiano@yahoo.com](mailto:j9fabiano@yahoo.com) to discuss your interest.

## Social Action Corner

### UU Annual Food Drive Update

In addition to the many (heavy) bags of donated items collected in April, we also collected \$250. Since every \$1 donated to the Wakefield Food Pantry buys \$4 of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank, this monetary donation equals \$1000 of food. We are a small congregation making a big difference!



### My Brother's Table

Our next service date at My Brother's Table is **Saturday, July 27, 2019**. Everyone intending to help prepare and serve dinner will meet in front of the Wakefield UU Church on Saturday afternoon at noon for carpooling to Lynn. Food preparation is from 12:30pm to 2:30pm followed by serving the food. Clean up is over by 4:30pm at the latest. New volunteers are welcome!



On the 4th Saturday of every other month volunteers from the Wakefield UU Church join with other volunteers to assist with the preparation and service of meals at My Brother's Table (98 Willow St., Lynn), a soup kitchen serving the greater Lynn area for an average of 200 guests each day. Volunteers are encouraged to help for any part of the afternoon as schedules and stamina allow. Families with children are welcome to help. For more information, contact Laura Broding at [brodingl@gmail.com](mailto:brodingl@gmail.com), or 617-312-6718.



### The State of Hate in Massachusetts

At least six Wakefield UUs attended this community event, held on May 21st and hosted by the Wakefield Human Rights Commission. The proceedings were co-moderated by Pina Masciarelli-Patel, Chairperson, Wakefield Human Rights Commission and Heidi Hoffman, Chair, Metro North Advisory Committee, Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Introductory remarks regarding hate crimes in Massachusetts were made by Chief Smith. He encouraged us all to renounce hate, emphasizing the importance of taking a proactive role in educating and communicating with others in our communities in order to stop hate crimes before they begin.

Following Chief Smith was the featured speaker, Robert Testan, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Boston office. Testan gave a general overview of recent incidents of hate in Massachusetts and how they compare to national trends. He went on to explain how to differentiate hate incidents from hate crimes and why this is important. Inviting audience participation, Testan examined a few of the more recent local hate crimes including the recent arson at two Jewish Community Centers and Rabbi's homes in Needham and Arlington.



### Social Action Committee

The June meeting of the Social Action Committee (SAC) will be at the church on **Wednesday, June 12 from 7-8:30pm**. Because we have a rental using the downstairs on the 12th, the SAC will meet up in the Sanctuary. Taking a break from meeting in July, the SAC will meet on **Tuesday, August 20, 7-8:30pm** to begin planning for the 2019-2020 church year. The SAC is open to all, and we would love for you to join us! If you are interested in knowing more about this committee, please contact Laura Broding at [brodingl@gmail.com](mailto:brodingl@gmail.com), or speak with any of us at coffee hour: Laura Broding, Vicky Doran, Janine Fabiano, Sheila Moran, Eric Reid, MaryAdele Taylor.

As UUs we are guided and inspired to live by the words of our seven UU Principles. Through our work on the Social Action Committee we affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person,
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all

## Social Action Corner, cont.

### Community Social Action Events



**A Taste of Pride**  
Hosted by Wakefield Human Rights Commission  
Wednesday, June 12, 7 - 10pm at the Americal Civic Center

This 21+ event will have various beers and wines to taste along with raffles, food, music and a selfie station! Proceeds will be donated to the North Shore Alliance of GLBTQ Youth (Nagly). IDs will be checked at the door. Tickets can be purchased online until June 12th at noon for \$20. Price increases to \$25 for tickets bought at the door.



**Golf Tournament**  
Hosted by Mission of Deeds  
Monday, June 3rd at Woburn Country Club  
<http://www.missionofdeeds.org/upcoming-events/bill-mulrenan-memorial-golf-tournament/>

**Volunteer Appreciation Diner**  
Hosted by My Brother's Table  
Monday, June 3, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
[http://www.mybrotherstable.org/funding\\_events.shtml](http://www.mybrotherstable.org/funding_events.shtml)



**Summer Party**  
Hosted by My Brother's Table  
Thursday, August 8, 7 - 9 PM  
[http://www.mybrotherstable.org/funding\\_events.shtml](http://www.mybrotherstable.org/funding_events.shtml)

### **Recycle Textile Goods and Support Wakefield Schools!**

Bay State Textiles has white bins at all of the schools in town, and they are here to stay. Put your old and worn clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, pocketbooks, any soft goods into these white bins at each school, and the Schools get money for each ton generated. You can go to Bay State Textile's website for more information <http://baystatetextiles.com>. In any condition, 95% of textiles can be recycled or reused.

## Fundraising News

### **Flea Market and Jewelry Sale A Big Thank You to So Many!**

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone involved with this year's flea market and jewelry sale: for the donation of a wide assortment of "fleas" and fabulous selection of jewelry, for the help with setup, sorting, cleaning and pricing, for the many sellers both inside and outside and the very helpful clean up crews. This year's sale netted \$1650, a very good year thanks in part to the increase in jewelry donations and sales. Last year's profit was \$1263.50.

The flea market does require a lot of helping hands, but while doing it, we are able to clear out stuff we no longer need or want in our homes and offer it at a very low price to others who do want or need these items, including our church community. Most of what doesn't sell is donated to other very worthy charitable organizations such as Mission of Deeds, Horizon House and the Friends of the Library, helping support their missions. The flea market also offers us an opportunity to interface with the local community, and a chance for the church members and friends to come together. All this while earning \$1650 to add to the church's operating budget income. That's a success to me!  
- Janine

### **Looking for Electric Lawn Mower**

Do you or a friend, neighbor or family member have a light weight electric lawn mower in good condition — the kind that is powered with an electric cord—that you could donate to the church? The Property Committee would like to have such a lawn mower at the church, so that the lawn mowing task can be shared by several people. Would you be available to mow the lawn once or twice a month when the church has a lawn mower on site? Please let Janine Fabiano or Matthew Lowry know your availability.





### Religious Education News

With just a few more Sundays remaining in our 2018-2019 church year, the RE Committee is finishing up this year's plans while beginning to look ahead to next year. Lucy and Vicky would love others in the congregation to join in the fun -- honestly, even the RE "work" ends up being fun! Don't be shy. If you have any interest, we'd love to hear from you. We have various organizing and preparing tasks that are carried out during the week in addition to working with the kids on Sunday mornings. We'd love to have more people join the RE Team.

### Religious Entertainment

At the end-of-year picnic the RE Program will present a short, original skit, created by Nick's daughter Miriam. The story, which will be narrated by Vicky, is about a polar bear (Miriam) who gets captured by an evil kidnapper (a Mentor) and taken to a sunny, hot location (TBD) where the poor bear is miserable. The polar bear is later rescued by a caring naturalist (Coralee) and returned home. The story is short and sweet. Please note that in keeping with UU Principle # 7, no polar bears will be harmed in the making of this production.

### Planning an Event at the Church?

**Please check in with Elizabeth Lowry, the shared-space coordinator, to schedule an event. We are transitioning to a new calendar system; at this point, only Elizabeth & Joe Cresta can edit the Google Calendar.**

The church leadership is conducting a review of how effective the Gleam newsletter is for sharing church news and information. If you have read this Gleam, please email Janine at [j9fabiano@yahoo.com](mailto:j9fabiano@yahoo.com) or leave a phone message at 781-245-0631 stating that you have read the June 2019 Gleam newsletter, and typically do or not read the Gleam newsletter. Thanks in advance!



### Church Officers and Staff

**Interim Minister** - Rev. Bruce Taylor  
(603) 233-3554 [bruce.carey.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.carey.taylor@gmail.com)

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[news@wakefielduu.org](mailto:news@wakefielduu.org)

**For "This Sunday & Beyond" Weekly Email  
or Other Submissions:** [admin@wakefielduu.org](mailto:admin@wakefielduu.org)

## We Are a Welcoming Congregation

Having fulfilled the requirements of our denomination to be a "Welcoming Congregation", the Wakefield UU Church is intentional about celebrating the presence and full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life. We also welcome all persons regardless of race, economic status, theological and political perspective, or other distinctions that keep us from embracing our common humanity. We acknowledge that we still have work to do and we welcome your advice about how we may be more welcoming. We want to say, truthfully, *"All are welcome here!"*



Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield  
PO Box 529, Wakefield MA 01880

**From Gleam Editor:** All submissions for the *Gleam* must be in writing - either email or paper copy. Please include the contact name, phone #, and/or email address for each article. Please send email submissions with the word "Gleam" in the subject line to: [news@wakefielduu.org](mailto:news@wakefielduu.org)

The next *Gleam* deadline is **August 21**

**Note: There will be no Summer Gleam**

Interim Gleam Editor: Janine Fabiano  
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Church of Wakefield!