



THE GLEAM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield

January/February 2020 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

The hectic Christmas season is winding down. The gifts have been sorted. The gifts boxes, bags, ribbons and bows packed away for another 11 months. Leftover food organized and shared with still too many delicious cookies left to tempt the cookie monster in most of us.

The quiet, cold and dark is calling us to slow down, reflect and take stock. It has been a challenging year for our world, our country and our UU community. Here, we have experienced many losses. We found ourselves saying very sad good byes to Scott Doran, Mike Skeldon, Joe's mom Jean, Dan Winsor's mom Harriet, and Marjorie Hill-Devine.

"This year I do not want the dark to leave me. I need its wrap of silent stillness, its cloak of long lasting embrace.", the opening line to Joyce Rupp's poem Winter's Cloak. Winter allows us to slow our pace and think upon ourselves and our lives. Throughout the year and certainly during the holiday season, we spend much of our time and energy hurrying about. Winter's quiet and dark, offers a time to restore our emotional and mental strength. A time to reflect on what brings us joy and fulfillment; what soothes and restores us. What feeds and inspires us.

We may find some of that restorative energy within our church community, something this congregation strives to do with its music, social justice and welcoming ministries. The January 19th Cool Classic concert, or a monthly Rise Up Singing gathering or Linden Tree Coffeehouse concert may bring us joy; the music and inspiring sermon of a Sunday service may feed us. We may find fulfillment in volunteering with our monthly team at My Brother's Table or with another initiative by the Social Action Committee. Maybe just connecting with each other at the church pot luck and game night on Saturday, February 1st where we welcome all to join in. Whatever is it that calls and speaks to us, this is the time to listen to it.

As Rupp's poem continues "Too much light has pulled me away from the chamber of gestation. Let the dawns come late, let the sunsets arrive early, let the evenings extend themselves while I lean into the abyss of my being."

Whatever it is that feeds and restores us, let us embrace it. We will need the energy for the roller coaster ride 2020 promises to bring!

Janine

Church President

Table of Contents

Page 1: President's Piece

Page 2: Worship & Around the Block

Page 3: Ministry

Page 4: Sunday Volunteer Position and Activities: Meditation, UU Common Read, Book Group

Page 5: Church events and fundraisers, Church Mice, Property

Page 6: Musical events, Linden Tree Coffeehouse

Page 7-9: Social Action,

Page 10: Calendar

Page 11: Governance & Staff



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

January Services

January 5: Rob Kinslow ***Into the Silence***

The religious writer Karen Armstrong once said, "All religious language must reach beyond itself into a sort of silent awe." As a new year unfolds after a noisy old one, let's pause, see some magic, and welcome anew the silent wonder that enriches the centers of our lives. This will be a meditative service.
Sanctuary

January 12: Janine Fabiano - Letting Go - New Year's Fire Ritual- Each New Year offers the opportunity for "forgetting old wrongs" and making amends, then beginning afresh with open, loving and positive energy. This ritual will help enter 2020 free from a regret, a disappointment, a resentment, a hurt, a fear, a conflict, or whatever it may be weighing you down. Each person will be asked to write down what they want to let go of or atone for. Each person will then be invited to come forward, read it aloud if they so wish, and burn the paper to release the burden, lighten our steps into 2020, and begin the New Year afresh.
Sanctuary

January 19: Julie Lombard
Sanctuary

January 26: Worship Committee
The Third Principle
Chapel Service

February Services

February 2: TBD
Sanctuary

February 9: Rob Kinslow
Sanctuary

February 16: Jennifer Crawford
Sanctuary

February 23: Worship Committee
The Fourth Principle
Chapel Service

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.

Around the Block

The family of long time member, Gerry Lee has shared that her health is failing. She would appreciate cards but calls or visits would be too much for her.

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



Service Guests for January & February

Rob Kinslow has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1995. He currently serves as vice president for life sciences at KHJ, a Boston marketing agency. He is also preparing to become a Unitarian Universalist minister and currently attends Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley, California. He serves as an itinerant preacher for area UU congregations, including First Parish Church in Taunton, where he is finishing a 2-year ministerial internship. Rob lives in Medford with his wife, Janice Zazinski. He is the father of two grown sons, Jay and Dan, who live in Quincy and Tewksbury.



Jenna Crawford, a native of North Reading MA is currently a UU seminarian at Boston University's School of Theology. This summer, she worked as a chaplain intern at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Jenna aspires to integrate creative, wilderness, and interfaith ministries into her ministerial journey.

During this interim period of having no congregational minister, our neighboring minister is available for pastoral care for our church members and friends. Please contact Janine Fabiano, church president and Joe Cresta, board member if you would like to talk to the minister .



The Theme for this year's chapel services is the Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to **affirm** and **promote**:

The inherent **worth** and **dignity** of every person;

Justice, equity and **compassion** in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to **spiritual growth** in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for **truth** and **meaning**;

The right of **conscience** and the use of the **democratic process** within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of **world community** with **peace**, liberty and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of **all existence** of which we are a part.



Ministerial Search Committee

The committee continues its directive of finding a new 3/4 time minister who is the best fit for this congregation. This is not a process that we want to rush. We strive to find a minister who will inspire us, complements our values and lead us toward our congregational and personal goals. Please share any thoughts you may have on this process with any one of the search committee members.

Fern Barkalow
Joe Cresta
Janine Fabiano
Jackie Millinor
Sheila Moran



Sunday Morning Volunteers

The following volunteer positions are available each week. Please consider helping out on a weekly, monthly or occasional basis:

Coffee hour: Set-up, clean-up, or provide baked goods, fruit, cheese or juices.

Greeter: Starting around 10:15am, greet and distribute the Sunday order of service in the foyer.

Heat: Open the sanctuary radiators and make sure heat is working early Sunday mornings.

Trash & Recycling: Take a bag or two of trash or recycling away to discard through home pickup. Check in with Joe on Sunday mornings to help out.

If you are available to help with any of these Sunday morning duties, please send an email at admin@wakefielduu.org or call Joe Cresta at (781) 640-2619 with task and available dates.

Worship Associate: Set up sanctuary for service, make announcements and light & extinguish chalice. Training is provided. Contact Jackie Millinor at uumillijac@gmail.com or (978) 886-7792 to volunteer.

UU Common Read

This year's Common Read is An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

Joe will be taking orders for the book until January 10, 2020. We will discuss the book on either the fourth or fifth Sunday in March. The price of the book is \$13.00. Email j7cresta@comcast.net if you want a copy.

Meditation Practice Group — The Silent Pause led by Joe Cresta



The monthly meditation group will meet on Sunday, January 26 and February 23 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.

With Mugs, Red Means Go...and introduce yourself!



We invite our guests and visitors to use our red mugs at coffee hour, so we will know who is new to our church. Please look out for the RED mugs and take a minute to say "Hi" to our guests and visitors. If you are a guest or visitor, or have been away for a while, please use one of our RED mugs.

UU Book Group



The Book Group will meet on January 26, 2020 at noon. Our theme for January is new beginnings.

Anyone who likes talking about books is welcome whether you have a book to discuss or not. In February we will meet on Sunday, the 23rd. We will pick a theme at the January meeting. In March we will discuss the UU Common Read with the rest of the congregation. This year's selection is An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015).

How about some fun and games?

Join our Winter Pot Luck and Game Night on Saturday, Night, February 1st, starting 6pm in the Social Hall. We will dine on the always delicious selection of potluck dishes provided by our members and friends followed by yummy dessert and fun games.

Please come, and bring a dish or dessert to share. If you have a particular game that you think the group would like to play and is easy to learn, please bring that too.

If you have a chance, please RSVP Janine at j9fabiano@yahoo.com with the number of people in your group attending and what food item you (and others in your group) plan to bring to share. It is helpful to have head count for set up and an idea of what food we will have. Beverages will be provided.

Family and friends of all ages are welcome!

Annual Auction again, fun & successful!

Thanks to all donors, bidders, attendees, and workers at our 17th Annual Auction held on Saturday, November 9th in the church social hall!

The final auction results show we had another terrific auction with the profit at \$6920, just a bit off from last year's \$7051.

Thank you to our dedicated auction team, a supportive local business and church communities for many awesome donations, and of course, the wonderful high bidders in attendance at the auction, we again had a very successful auction.

The silent auction bids and live auction bids are posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall for your reference. The 2019 auction financial report is posted as well. Thank you all!



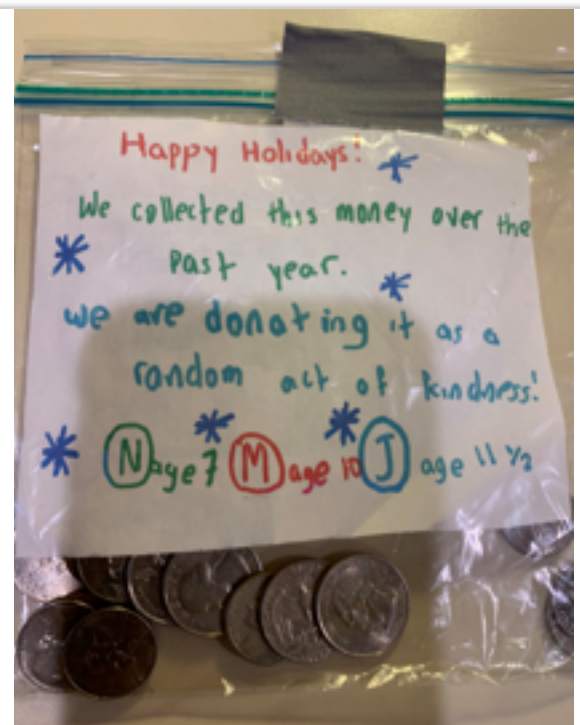
Church Mice Night! Thursdays, January 9 & February 6, 7- 8:30pm

A small colony of "mice" gather monthly when possible to dust, vacuum, and wash floors in the sanctuary, social hall and gathering room. Thursday, January 9 & February 6 are the next opportunity for people to the clean the rooms in the church together. Typically, the Church Mice Night is the first or second Thursday of the month, 7pm-8:30pm.

Please join us!



This **Random Act of Kindness** was discovered on our capital campaign sign board totaling \$2.80:



See something that needs to be repaired in or around the church building?

Talk to a Property Committee member, Matthew Lowry or Joe Cresta, or email admin@wakefielduu.org

Musical Notes & Events



Cool Classics from the Nissitissit String Quartet

Please support the church by attending a concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, January 19 at 2pm: 'Cool Classics from the Nissitissit String Quartet'. Net profits from the concert benefit the operating budget. This is Peter and John's new string quartet, recently formed by long-time colleagues and friends who migrated from the Boston area to northwest Middlesex County. According to Peter, "the ensemble was formed out of a mutual desire for a fresh and fun performance experience, one generated from musical treasures arranged for string quartet collected over the years, gems from genres jazz, Latin, Broadway, classical, fiddle/folk, pop/rock and more."

Tickets are \$25/\$20 for seniors 65+ and students.

They are available here: [https://](https://www.ticketpeak.com/res/sro)

www.ticketpeak.com/res/sro

Opening with a seasonal favorite, Vivaldi's Winter from The Four Seasons, the program will cover jazz standards by Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and others, a fiddle set with Irish and Scottish songs that features Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz, a Beatles batch with original arrangements by quartet members that are otherwise unavailable, some hot Latin tunes, and a TV theme song set, also original, each accompanied by a trivia question.

Rise Up Singing

Rise Up Singing is 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 and join in! Rise Up Singing is held on the 3rd Friday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Social Hall. The January session will be on Friday Jan 17th. The February session is on Friday Feb 21st. Free Will Offering (\$5 suggested donation). Please consider bringing a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry.

Linden Tree Coffeehouse Now in Our 35th Season! Presenting the Finest of Folk Music since 1985

January 4: Southern Rail

Celebrating over forty years of performing, Southern Rail's performances are high-energy exuberant fun, with riveting harmonies, irrepressible humor and sparkling banjo, mandolin, and guitar solo work.

**February 8: Don White
with Mark Stepakoff opening
Shows at 8 pm
\$20 (under 18 \$10)
For further information
and updates:**



www.lindentreecoffeehouse.org
lindentree85@comcast.net

Social Action Corner

My Brother's Table

As many of you know, our congregation has served at My Brother's Table, a soup kitchen in Lynn on the 4th Saturday of the every other month for many years. A Wakefield



UU team led by Kristen Henshaw has been volunteering usually every 4th Saturday of the month. This team is joined with other area volunteers to assist with the preparing and serving of the meal for an average of 200 guests.

Our next service dates at My Brother's Table are Saturday, January 25 and Saturday, February 22. Anyone planning to volunteer and would like to carpool to Lynn, please meet in front of the Wakefield UU Church by 12noon. Food preparation is from 12:30pm to 2:30pm followed by serving the meal. Clean up is over by 4:30pm at the latest.

Volunteers may help with just the food preparation or stay to serve the meal as well. Families with children are welcome to help. New volunteers are always welcome!

For more information, contact Laura Broding at brodingl@gmail.com, or 617-312-6718 or Kristen Henshaw at motherkrez@hotmail.com, or 781-246-2387

Holiday Gift Drive

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our annual Holiday program for families in need through the Wakefield Salvation Army. This year we helped families with children who could not make ends meet. Your Donations have made a big difference to these children.

Wakefield Salvation Army Holiday program also extends their thank you to all who donated and helped five Wakefield children have a warmer and happier holiday.

This Salvation Army Unit functions independently, and services Wakefield families in need, providing assistance and support throughout the year. During the holiday time, this gift drive is greatly welcomed by these families, helping to bring some joy into the lives of their children, while coping with difficult times.



Mission Of Deeds Winter Coat Drive

Again this year, we have been gathering winter outer wear for Mission of Deeds in Reading. We are collecting donated winter coats that are in good, wearable condition. Be sure to cleaned out the pockets first! In addition, there is a need for gently used warm gloves and mittens as well as new hats for men, women, and children. Thanks again to all who have donated so far. We have delivered more than 20 winter coats to the Mission of Deeds already. This drive continues through February. All donations can be left in the Social Hall through February. Look for the Mission of Deeds donation box, or ask a member of the Social Action Committee where to leave your donation. Thanks to all!



Social Action Corner, continued

Guest At Your Table

The Social Action Committee kicked off this year's Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest At Your Table: Women, Leaders and Strong Communities during the November Chapel Service titled: Exploring the Second Principle, Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations .

The UUSC launched this exciting theme, converging women's leadership as it relates to strengthening our communities. The essence of many stories shared related directly to our second principle, Justice, Equity and Human Relations.

The Guest at your Table (GAYT) donations due by end of January. Donation envelopes for checks or cash, and boxes for coins are available in Social Hall. You may use either, and return to the church through the collection plate, give to a Social Action Committee member, or send directly to UUSC. . Please join us in supporting this excellent program!

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues.



The Social Action Committee (SAC) meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Gathering Room at 7-8:30 pm. The next two meetings are January 21 and February 18 . The SAC meets monthly to discuss and plan our many activities. 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, or speak with any of us: Laura Broding, Vicky Doran, Janine Fabiano, Sheila Moran, Eric Reid, Mary Adele Taylor, & Jackie Millinor.

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

This year's annual UU Mass Action Story Slam Fundraiser will be Saturday, Feb 8th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the Follen Community Church, 755 Mass Ave, Lexington

The all star line up of story tellers will be revealed next week! Last year's "Top Banana," Rev. Claire Feingold Thoryn, will return as this year's emcee. Join us for food, fun and fellowship, all while supporting UU organizing in Massachusetts

For tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-uu-mass-action-story-slam-tickets-85286266519>



Mark Your Calendars!

6th Annual Story Slam on Feb 8th!

JOIN US IN A 5-WEEK COURSE EXPLORING HOW
WHITE PEOPLE CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND AND
THEN DISMANTLE RACISM.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHITENESS

5 CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS

FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Unitarian Universalist Church
326 Main St. Wakefield, MA

The course is FREE!
But space is limited.

Advance registration required.
We expect participants
to attend all 5 weeks.

To register, contact Sue Herz
and Jen Boettcher at
[ConvosAboutWhiteness](mailto:ConvosAboutWhiteness@gmail.com)
[@gmail.com](mailto:ConvosAboutWhiteness@gmail.com).

The course is based on
similar grass-roots courses
offered around the country.

We know that fish don't see water. We know that birds don't see air. But we may not know that white people don't fully see our own whiteness.

With video clips, articles, and small- and large-group activities, Conversations About Whiteness brings people together in a safe setting to see how this came to be the case. Guided by two facilitators, we explore aspects of our culture that prevent us from seeing ourselves and people of color without deeply baked distortions.

During five weekly two-hour sessions, we will each see our whiteness in ways we never have before. We will reflect on unconscious biases, white privilege, race, and racism. We'll explore some ways racial divides are embedded in institutions; think about tools to interrupt these divides; brainstorm about collaborating with each other and with people of color; and individually plan for what to do with this new knowledge.



Church Officers and Staff

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For Newsletter Submissions:

news@wakefielduu.org

**For "This Sunday & Beyond" Weekly Email or
Other Submissions:** admin@wakefielduu.org

The Board of Management will meet Tuesday, January 14 and February 11 at 7pm in the Gathering Room. All members and friends always are invited to attend any board meetings.

Each board member is a liaison to one or more church committees. Here are the current liaison assignments. Please contact them for assistance with your committees or area of interest.

1. Administrative Tasks: Joe /Janine
2. Membership: Janine
3. Religious Education: Chris
4. Shared Space: Kurt
5. Finance/Fundraising & Trustees: Chris
6. Property: BOM
7. Safe Congregations: Joe
8. Worship & Music: Janine/Eric Reid
9. Ministerial Relations: BOM
10. Nominating: Kurt
11. Social Action: Eric/Janine

**On Facebook?
Please "Like" and
following us at
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Wakefield**



Planning an Event at the Church?

Please check in with Elizabeth Lowry, the shared space coordinator, to schedule an event or meeting in the church. We have transitioned into using a Google calendar. We hope at some point, we can link this calendar to our website for easier viewing.

January Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 LTCH 8pm
5 Service 10:30	6	7	8	9 Church Mice 7pm	10	11
12 Service 10:30	13	14 Board 7pm	15	16	17 Rise Up Singing 7:30pm	18
19 Service 10:30 Cool Classic Concert 3pm	20	21 Social Action Comm. 7pm	22	23	24	25 MBT depart @ 12noon LTCH 8pm
26 Chapel Service 10:30 Book Group 12noon Meditation 4pm	27	28	29	30	31	

February Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Potluck & Game Night 6pm
2 Service 10:30	3	4	5	6 Church Mice 7pm	7	8 LTCH 8pm
9 Service 10:30	10	11 Board 7pm	12	13	14	15
16 Service 10:30	17	18 Social Action Comm. 7pm	19	20 Gleam deadline	21 Rise Up Singing 7:30pm	22 MBT depart @ 12noon
23 Chapel Service 10:30 Book Group 12noon Meditation 4pm	24 Conversations About Whiteness 7pm (sign up required)	25	26	27	28	29

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!"**

From Gleam Editor: The Gleam is now a bi-monthly newsletter with 5 publications a year:

Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr & May/Jun.

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

The next *Gleam* deadline is

February 20

Interim Gleam Editor: Janine Fabiano
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