



Universalist Society of Strafford

Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

March 2019 Newsletter

"To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides." David Viscott

Worship Services

Sunday, March 3rd, 10am - *Music and Spirituality* led by musician and educator Emerson Adrian Gale. Emerson Gale will be leading a experiential service on Music & Spirituality. Emerson will offer a combination of ecomusicology reflections and immersive Nada Yoga sound therapy exercises. The program will include a piano opening by Jeffrey Gale and various music-philosophy-themed hymns led by the new UU South Strafford band!

Sunday, March 17th, 10am - *Exploring Our Roots* led by Rev. Telos Whitfield. March is Women's History Month so we will honor and celebrate some of the bold, brave and creative women who have shaped history, influenced our faith and our lives.

Sunday, March 24th, 10am at United Church of Strafford - *Community Worship Service to Honor Rev. William Sloane Coffin.* This service will feature a filmed or audio sermon by Bill, some of his favorite hymns, anthems and piano pieces. After refreshments: A Circle Conversation, open to all, expressing what we appreciate and remember about Bill and also asking, *"What would Bill do in our day and what does his spirit call us to do?"*

Message from our Minister

"You are the fountain of life. You are a resilient river that travels long distance. Carrying everything on her shoulders but finally reaching her destination. Women have strengths that amaze us. She can handle trouble and carry heavy burdens... She holds happiness, love and opinions...!"

Who are the women who have inspired, challenged and cared for you in your life? Those dear ones, mothers and daughters, sisters and friends, grandmothers and more who have helped to navigate life, who have made us who we are. And the women we look to as leaders of neighborhoods, countries and movements across the world, today and throughout history. March is Women's History Month, a time to honor and celebrate women throughout our histories that have offered challenge and learning, and moved our world toward equality, care and compassion. There have been innovators and pioneers, resisters and poets, workers and women on the backstreets and front lines of every family, and every movement for change. Sixteen women have won the Nobel Peace Prize, from *Jane Addams* in 1931, founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; *Betty Williams* in 1976, founder of the Northern Ireland Peace Movement (later renamed Community of Peace People); *Shirin Ebadi*, the first Iranian to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to ensure human rights for women and children; and in 2011, *Ellen Johnson Sirleaf* who became President of Liberia, and *Leymah Gbowee* whose common goal together was peace for Liberia. And finally, the youngest person to receive the award at only age 16, *Malala Yousafzai*, with *Kailash Satyarthi* for her work against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education. Each woman that I learned about left me in awe. What an amazing variety of women from around the world who have faced incredible challenges and exhibited courage, fighting for human rights, equality, justice and peace.

ALL ARE

WELCOME!

Services

**1st and 3rd Sundays
at 10 am**

***Childcare and
spiritual exploration
offered for our
young ones.***

***Coffee &
Conversation
following services***

We hold our
Summer Services
in our Church at
2 Justin Morrill
Highway, Vt. Rte. 132
in South Strafford.

**Fall and Winter
Services** across the
street at Barrett Hall.

Contact Information

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2018-2019

Church Officers

Moderator – John Freitag
Assistant Moderator –
Marissa Mazzucco
Treasurer –
Suzanna Liepmann
Secretary – open
Trustees – Katy Botsford
Andrew Lane and
Lee Funston

They were called to the work, they had vision, and they stepped into their power as individuals. And these are just a few women who have received the Nobel Peace Prize and have gained global attention. We know there are millions of people dedicated to working toward their vision whose names won't be known, but whose work and lives are laying the foundation for a more peaceful and compassionate world. It is inspiring...! *"The 2019 theme of the Women's History Alliance is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence." This year we honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society. These Honorees embraced the fact that the means determine the ends and so developed nonviolent methods to ensure just and peaceful results. For generations, women have resolved conflicts in their homes, schools, and communities. They have rejected violence as counterproductive and stressed the need to restore respect, establish justice, and reduce the causes of conflict as the surest way to peace. From legal defense and public education to direct action and civil disobedience, women have expanded the American tradition of using inclusive, democratic and active means to reduce violence, achieve peace, and promote the common good. From women's rights and racial justice to disarmament and gun control, the drive for nonviolent change has been championed by visionary women. They have given voice to the unrepresented and hope to victims of violence and those who dream of a peaceful world."*

It is true and this month we can lift up the women whose names are known so well, and those dear ones who we know. Poet Muriel Rukeyser offers that *"for the despair that flows down in widest rivers, cloud of home; and also the green tree of grace, all in the leaf, in the love that gives us ourselves."* Let us remember and call out the names and memories of the women who have shaped our lives and revealed our beauty, who have shown us love and courage, helping us to become our best selves.

with love, Rev. Telos

Holy Days, Days to Remember

March 5th - Shrove Tuesday - Christian

March 6th - Ash Wednesday - Lent begins - Christian

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day - Christian

March 19th - St. Joseph's Day - Christian

March 20th - Spring Equinox - Ostara - Mabon - Wiccan/Pagan

March 21st - Norooz (New Year) - Persian/Zoroastrian

Naw-Rúz (New Year) - Baha'i*

Hola Mohalla - Sikh

*Magah Puja Day** - Buddhist*

Purim - Jewish*

*March 28th - Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zarathusthra)** - Zoroastrian*

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Our next meeting will be on **Wed. March 6th at 6:30pm**, most likely to be held at Lee Funston's home in Strafford. For any questions or more details, please contact our Board Members - John Freitag, moderator, Marissa Mazzucco, Suzanna Liepmann or a Trustee - Andrew Lane, Katy Botsford or Lee Funston, or Rev. Telos. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to be involved in the work and business of our congregation!

William Sloane Coffin Weekend Events, March 22-24 2019

Hosted by the United Church of Strafford



The Rev. William Sloane Coffin in the United Church of Strafford, circa 1983.

Photo by Jon Gilbert Fox.

Please plan to attend and help spread the word about this celebration of Bill's life, work and words. We will be keeping his legacy here alive and reflecting on how we are doing at fulfilling the prophetic role he modeled and called the church to embody. Here is the schedule so far:

Friday, March 22nd, 7:00 PM Bach Concert, Annemieke McLane, piano and Emily Taubl, cello

Saturday, March 23rd, 1:30 PM The First Annual William Sloane Coffin Address, The Rev. Jim Antal

The Rev. Jim Antal is a denominational leader, climate activist, author and public theologian. He serves as Special Adviser on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal's book, CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD, was featured on Earth Day 2018 in the Chicago Tribune. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President. In 2017, Yale Divinity School honored him with the William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice. Before leading the UCC in Massachusetts, for 20 years Antal was a local UCC pastor in Shaker Heights, Ohio and Newton, Massachusetts. In the mid-80s he served as Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA), an interfaith pacifist organization.

- **2:30-3:00 PM Reception**
- **7:00 PM William Sloane Coffin on Film** - Including showing of documentary film [American Prophet](#)

Sunday, March 24th, 10:00 AM Community Worship Service - Featuring a filmed or audio sermon by Bill, and a selection of his favorite hymns, anthems and piano pieces

- After Refreshments: A Circle Conversation, open to all, expressing what we appreciate and remember about Bill and also asking, *"What would Bill do in our day and what does his spirit call us to do?"*

Elegy in Joy by Muriel Rukeyser

We tell beginnings: for the flesh and the answer,
or the look, the lake in the eye that knows,
for the despair that flows down in widest rivers,
cloud of home; and also the green tree of grace,
all in the leaf, in the love that gives us ourselves.

The word of nourishment passes through the women,
soldiers and orchards rooted in constellations,
white towers, eyes of children:
saying in time of war What shall we feed?
I cannot say the end.

Nourish beginnings, let us nourish beginnings.
Not all things are blest, but thebut the
seeds of all things are blest.
The blessing is in the seed.

This moment, this seed, this wave of the sea, this look, this instant of love.
Years over wars and an imagining of peace. Or the expiation journey
toward peace which is many wishes flaming together,
fierce pure life, the many-living home.
Love that gives us ourselves, in the world known to all
new techniques for the healing of the wound,
and the unknown world. One life, or the faring stars.