

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

121 North Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 502, Amherst Massachusetts 01004

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Important Information

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The Rev. Cynthia Frado

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Judy Mitrolka

413-253-2848 (office) or office@uusocietyamherst.org
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NEWSLETTER

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Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.

Please sign submissions, so we may reach you if we have questions. Submit entries one of two ways:

1. Email it to jsgray@crocker.com.
2. Mail it to 219 Wendell Road, Shutesbury MA 01072.

Please limit entries to 500 words (100 for the "For Your Information" section). Submissions may be edited to save space or to maintain a consistent style. Thank you!

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Schedule of Services

Sunday, March 4, 10:30 A.M. – *Embracing Today's Abundance to Empower Tomorrow's Possibilities*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

Today's sermon is about playing to our strengths to empower what we want to create in the future. Too often we focus on what we are lacking, rather than capitalizing on the abundance that we already have. Today marks the kick-off to this year's annual stewardship appeal (**everyone's favorite service**), and it is really about SO MUCH MORE than money. It is about the passion and compassion and dedication of the people who call this community home. It is about what we each bring to the table, and how that empowers us to build upon that foundation as we move into a future of immense possibilities.

This is a WONDERFUL and INSPIRING day to join us in the Meetinghouse! Great music, great energy, great community!

Sunday, March 11, 10:30 A.M. – *Choir Sunday*

This year for our annual Choir Sunday we will be presenting music by Randall Thompson: his famous and gloriously beautiful *Alleluia* as well as some music from his lesser-known oratorio *The Peaceable Kingdom*. We will be joined by a quartet of solo vocalists and a string quartet. Bring your family and friends for a musical treat!

Sunday, March 18, 10:30 A.M. – *Boundaries of Perception*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

Today's sermon will reflect upon a quote by Albert Einstein that explores the complexity of our humanity and questions what it means to be truly human. It is also a prelude to today's workshop, immediately following this morning's worship service, presented by Cindy Beal (CB), former RE Director at the UU Society of Northampton and Florence. To quote CB, [*If we can better understand gender identity*] *we can better be the Beloved Community, an open community of justice, equity and love, for all.* This is bring a friend Sunday.

Today is our Dedicated Offering Sunday

Sunday, March 25, 10:30 A.M. – *The Promise of Passover*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

Next Friday night many of us will be remembering the ancient liberation story of the Jewish people from Egypt through a ritual Seder dinner. Today, we will be exploring liberation in general, and the human journey in particular. Liberation sets us free from what is holding us back, and a chosen destination is our ultimate goal, but perhaps it is the journey that is our greatest gift (and sometimes our greatest challenge). This is a fabulous Sunday to join us in the Meetinghouse!

Sunday, April 1, 10:30 A.M. – *Hidden in Plain Sight: Resurrecting the Human Jesus*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

Reading between the lines, who was Jesus of Nazareth? What inspired his ministry, and what did he see that others failed to notice? How did he walk his talk? On this Easter Sunday, as Christians around the world celebrate his divinity and resurrection from the dead to join the three-in-one Godhead, join us as we consider resurrecting the message of his life and how it can inspire our own.

Many sermons and readings are posted on our website, www.uusocietyamherst.org. Click on the "SERMON ARCHIVE" button on the right side of the home page, and then on the title of the sermon you wish to read.

An Offering from the Interim Minister's Inkwell

Spring, Stewardship, and Search, Oh MY! Yesterday morning I awoke to the most precious sound of two birds singing. For a brief moment it was a reminder of the promise of spring. It is still a little too soon to be doing the daffodil dance, but in the not-too-distant future new life will be emerging and our world will be exploding with new possibilities.

The same can be said for life at UUSA. The Search Committee is busy in their final phase of interviews, and the Board, Stewardship Committee, staff and congregation are busily *preparing the soil* for a new settled ministry to take root and flourish.

What many people do not realize is that we each have an important role to play in the search process. Our commitment to UUSA, its Principles and community, thru gifts of self, service, and financial support, all contribute to the strength, vitality, and potential (the humus) of this congregation as it prepares for a new settled ministry to take root.

The dream time of winter is beginning to transition into the action time of spring. So, UUSA, how do you want your garden to grow? The possibilities are limitless when you feed and water and nurture your vision.

In the meantime, please take note of all the events happening in the meetinghouse this spring. Especially, I hope you will consider joining us for the March 18th workshop after the service called: *Mind Your Ts and Os: An Introduction to Radical Welcome of Trans, Non-Binary, GenderQueer, and Gender Non-Conforming Folx.* It is a follow-up to *Beyond Categorical Thinking* and is also part of our Welcoming Congregation pledge for educational renewal.

May there be peace and sunshine and crocuses in the valley...

Rev. Cindy

Dedicated Offerings

Dedicated Offerings provide a way for our Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst community to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles.

On one Sunday every month (except for June, July, and August) we schedule a Dedicated Offering (DO), recognizing that our Society needs our support on the other Sundays of the month. Dedicated Offerings are suggested by both individuals and committees of the Society, and the program is managed by the Minister and the Dedicated Offering Committee. Our goal is to cover a wide range of areas of need in our area and in the larger world, including these categories: local, regional, national, international, environmental, medical, educational, animal rights, arts/music/culture, and different ages and genders. Recipients for FY18 have been chosen. Forms for suggesting recipients for next year are available in the Meetinghouse office.

Thank you for showing your support for the Dedicated Offering program, not only with your contributions to the DO recipients themselves, but also with your contributions to the Society on other Sundays when our budget counts on those receipts. Remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients – this is a voluntary initiative.

The February Dedicated Offering raised \$1385 for CoolCap — but if you missed it, read on . . .

*Message from **The Reverend Cynthia Frado**: Greetings all! On Sunday, February 11th we had our monthly Dedicated Offering for CoolCap, a charitable organization founded by Roger Bird, husband of UUSA member Rachel Peterson. Although the weather was cold and rainy, it was sunny inside as Roger told us about what he is doing to help move farmers out of poverty in Kenya by bringing them mechanization with his pay-as-you-harvest financing, and how grateful he has been and is for the continued love and support of the UUSA. In case the weather or other factors kept you away and you wanted to learn more about CoolCap, you can check out the website, www.CoolCapFund.org, and make a donation on their donate page directly!*

The Dedicated Offering on March 18 will be for **Voices from Inside**.

Voices from Inside (VFI) helps women in Western Massachusetts who are currently or formerly incarcerated to make changes in their lives and engage positively with their communities through creative workshops, facilitator training and public performances and readings. For more than 10 years, VFI has served more than a thousand incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women – women who would not otherwise have access to a sup-

portive environment where they could increase literacy, learn about positive self-expression and often for the first time, simply be listened to with respect, attention and appreciation.

Participation in VFI workshops has often inspired women to further their education. Participants have gone off to community colleges as well as four year universities, including Ivy League colleges. One VFI alum is now getting her Masters in Social Work and another is a published playwright about to graduate from Smith College.

Please make checks payable to “UUSA” and write “Voices from Inside” in the comment section. Thank you for your generosity!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
AN IMPORTANT WORKSHOP
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 18, FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

As a follow-up to our Beyond Categorical Thinking program, this workshop is also part of our Welcoming Congregation educational renewal pledge. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Pizza and salad will be served preceding it.

Mind Your Ts and Qs: An Introduction to Radical Welcome of Trans, Non-Binary, GenderQueer, and Gender Non-Conforming Folx.

This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about gender diversity and support people whose gender is not what our society has taught us to typically expect. Participants should be willing to explore the ways our own experience of gender isn't the only experience of gender. This workshop is especially for people who might not even be sure we know what all those words in the title mean or why they are spelled that way! Cindy Beal (CB), our facilitator, will create a space in which people can be curious and brave to ask questions and explore gender and gender identity in new ways so that we can better be the Beloved Community, an open community of justice, equity and love, for all.

Our workshop leader: Cindy Beal, MDiv (CB) is an educator, consultant, writer, lecturer, and performer who grew up on a small farm, went to college (where she was the fastest dishwasher and short order cook in the world) and seminary. She was an educator and activist in Philadelphia in the 1980s, and a researcher and educator in western Massachusetts from the 1990s to the present. She lives and works in a rehabilitated mill building, where she photographs shadows thrown by the sun throughout the year. She loves good coffee and vodka, at the appropriate times of day, and geeks-out talking to people about how they want to grow as a person or group.

Ministerial Search Committee

We're getting closer! We're now in the midst of the pre-candidating weekends. You'll recall that in January we were immersed in reading ministerial records and profiles and watching online sermons from an initial pool of 20 ministerial candidates. Last month we culled the list to 10 potential stars, conducted Skype interviews with each of them, called references, and then selected four highly qualified finalists to become "pre-candidates." Once we chose our pre-candidates, the UUA sent additional summaries of these ministers for our review.

On four separate weekends, each of the final candidates meets with the Search Committee in person. The weekends include a relaxed dinner with the Search Committee at one of our homes, an intensive interview the next morning, a tour of our building, time off in the afternoon and evening for the candidate to meet with a real estate agent, tour the area, and enjoy other activities in the area. The following morning they preach at another congregation, similar to our own but not in our immediate area, followed by lunch. These weekends during which committee members and pre-candidates have asked questions, listened, laughed, shared, discussed and sized up our mutual "fit" have been enriching and spirited. It is a privilege to engage at such length with people of such depth.

We've set the bar high in considering the minister's skills and strengths and are keeping all of you in mind as we go through this process, guided by what you told us in the cottage meetings and survey – what you most love about our Society, the qualities you wish for in a new minister, and your hopes and dreams for our congre-

gation. Our finalists represent a spectrum of backgrounds and ages, life experiences and interests. They all would bring significant gifts to our congregation, and as we would expect, their strengths, their areas for growth, and gifts differ one from the other. As we've said before, no one candidate will possess every skill or quality we would like. We do know that whomever we present to you for a vote will embody the best of our faith tradition and will be someone we are confident will be a good match now and over the next many years.

We will extend an offer to our first choice candidate at noon on March 29. This timeline is part of the overall UUA search process: across the country, all the search committees will be extending their offers at noon on that day. Candidate details will be shared with you as soon as we have acceptance confirmation from the candidate and UUA. Once the minister accepts our offer we will set up our Candidating Week when the minister will come to our Society for a week of meetings and daytime and evening social gatherings bookended by sermons by the minister. Following the final Sunday service our congregation will vote. Stay tuned in April for details about the many opportunities you'll have to get to know the candidate.

Many thanks for the trust you've placed in us and for your love and support along the way. We look forward to presenting our candidate to the congregation in April!

Ministerial Search Committee:

Carolyn Cave (chair), Jenn Chylack, Lisa Cyr, Mary Herman, Anne Perkins, Steve Rice



Religious Education Ministry

The RE program is going strong!

- We should all be thankful for **Jacy's** strong preschool program because we are seeing some very happy little ones joining on a regular basis.
- Our elementary program has a consistent crowd and we are focusing on the concept of LOVE. Love is all around us. Many of us are sorry that there isn't more love being shown to people and the environment, but we can not just sit and be sad. We need to act with love and hope that our acts of love and kindness will encourage more good acts.
- Our 6th, 7th and 8th graders are visiting their last community faith and then will spend some days developing a worship service for our congregation, which will be based on their Neighboring Faith experiences.
- High School OWL will complete their last session out of 14 total! Thanks to the parents and the youth for their consistent attendance, and to **Mary Cornell** and **Karen Fisk** for making the class happen.
- High School Youth Group has been meeting occasionally to talk after services. We had an excellent conversation with **Glen Bertrand** last month about "providing sanctuary," and I am hoping we can continue this model.

Want to share a talent and or your time? Think about volunteering for the RE Program!

YoUUrs,

Rebecca Fricke,

Director of Religious Education

For **Mindfulness** see page 9

American Unitarianism, 1620-1860

The six-part documentary series from the UUA, *Long Strange Trip*, continues on March 25 with Part 3, "American Unitarianism." Come join us at noon downstairs in Classroom A for a viewing and refreshments.



Channing, Priestley, and others based their Unitarian beliefs on their interpretation of the Bible. Transcendentalists Emerson, Fuller, and Parker offered a radical departure from Bible-based Christianity. Do the theological conflicts within 18th- and 19th-century American Unitarianism matter to us today? Why or why not? What, if anything, can we learn that is relevant for our own time from this history? After the video, you are welcome to stay, if you can, for a discussion of these questions and more using a study guide by the UUA.



Music Notes

Notes from the Choir Loft: SUNDAY MARCH 11 is our annual CHOIR SUNDAY at the UUSA. This year we will be presenting music by Randall Thompson: his famous and gloriously beautiful *Alleluia* as well as some music from his lesser-known oratorio *The Peaceable Kingdom*. We will be joined by a quartet of solo vocalists and a string quartet. Please mark the date on your calendars and make sure to join us on Sunday March 11 at 10:30. Bring your family and friends for a musical treat!



Fundraising

CALLING ALL ART LOVERS! Save the date and mark your calendars for UUSA's fundraiser **Gala Art Sale** on **Friday, June 8, 4:00-8:00 P.M.** Come join us for an elegant evening of fellowship, art, live music, and wine and cheese.

CALLING ALL ART DONORS! Over the next three months, your Art Gala Committee will be collecting your donated works of art in all media — painting, photography, sculpture, ceramic, textiles, mixed media. Keep your eyes open for the flyer in the order of service and in the emailed announcements with details and information about how to donate to make this event a big success!

Social Events

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant (314 College Street, Amherst). Contact **Michael Sussman** at msussma@music.umass.edu for details.

The Women's Lunch Group meets every other Thursday for conversation and local, inexpensive cuisine. The next luncheon is Thursday, March 8 at La Veracruzana, 63 S. Pleasant St. Amherst. We welcome every woman, whether new to our Society or a longer-time member or friend. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Janis Gray** at 413-259-1584 or jsgray@crocker.com.

Do you paint? If so, come to **UUSA's Open Studio** in the Social Hall. Paint from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., then a bag lunch and friendly critique from 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. Fridays March 9 and 23.

- Email SusannePersonette@gmail.com to say you are coming or with questions.
- Bring **\$5 cash** to help the cost of heating the space.
- Bring **plastic shower curtain(s)** to protect floors and tables.
- Bring **your own paints**, etc.



Social Action

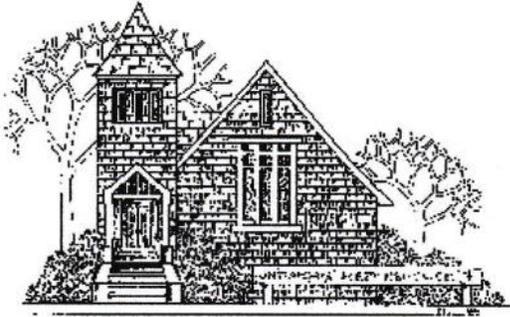
Just One Thing On March 11, the second Sunday of the month, a collection for the Amherst Survival Center will occur. A basket is placed in the foyer for these items. This month protein rich foods are especially needed. Suggestions are meat soups and stews, canned tuna and beans. As always, anything you give is most appreciated. Thank you for your generous support of community people in need. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894.

Not Bread Alone On Saturday, March 31, eight UUs are needed to create and serve lunch to a room full of hungry eaters. We always have fun as we chop what seems like tons of vegetables needed for soups, salads and entrees. No experience needed as the kitchen crew chiefs directs us on what to do. We work in shifts: cooks (9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.), servers (11:45 a.m. -1:30 p.m.), clean-up crew (12:00 - @2:30 p.m.). NBA is located in the lower rear of First Congregational Church with access off the Spring Street parking lot. If you can help in any way please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894. THANK YOU!!

Green Sanctuary

Look for the Green Sanctuary Committee's Action Table in the Social Hall on the second Sunday of every month. We will provide information on an environmental issue and a way for members of the congregation to contact legislators or other key people. We want to make it easy for you to take action on critical is-sues. Please visit us!

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet on Thursday, March 22, 7:00 P.M. at the home of Gordon and Mary Wyse, 219 Lincoln Ave., Amherst.



**The Unitarian Universalist
Society of Amherst**
121 N Pleasant St, Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 253-2848

A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

AN EXCITING OFFER TO MATCH YOUR PLEDGE INCREASE!

Dear UUSA community,

One of our UUSA members (who wishes to remain anonymous) has made a very kind and generous offer to match your pledge increase for this year **if it is at least 18%**. For example, if you pledged \$1000 last year and increase your pledge by 18% this year (\$180), this member will match your increased pledge amount of \$180. The “match” will go into a **Support the Future Fund** for next year to help cover any additional costs associated with a new settled ministry. The money in that fund would then be distributed by the Board of Trustees for “non-budgeted” items and needs.

This benevolent donor will match the increased pledge amount **for every single increased pledge of at least 18%**! This is an incredible offer and opportunity, and I hope that it will inspire you to increase your last year’s pledge as much as you are able.

I am very excited for the future ministry at UUSA, and I know that the creation of a **Support the Future Fund** will be a tremendous resource alongside a strong operating budget. At UUSA, every member counts. Now, thanks to a generous and kindhearted member who loves this community and the Principles for which it stands, every dollar from your increased pledge of at least 18% will count twice!

In faith, hope, and gratitude...

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado
Interim Minister
UU Society of Amherst

“Only when we invest in what we love will we be able to benefit from its ever-expanding possibilities.” ~ CAF

MARCH

30



COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

UUSA Sanctuary
5:30pm

Join us for the first night of Passover! We will share a traditional seder ritual and meal, telling the ancient story of the journey from enslavement to liberation. Our Haggadah is a chorus of contemporary voices that connects us to ancient wisdom while guiding us through the challenges and spiritual struggles of today. It is a gathering of the generations, with food, song, and storytelling at its very best. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Table in the Social Hall or call Rev. Cindy at 413-253-2848 Ext. 2.

Scenes from our lively February 10 UUSA Contra Dance,
with calling by Anne Louise White and music by the Grosslein family!



Our Caring Ministries



Hello, Dear Friends! As we emerge into the waxing light of this brand new springtime, we offer this beautiful meditation for your enrichment and joy by the Rev. Victoria Safford.

You know, we do it every day. Every morning we go out blinking into the glare of our freedom, into the wilderness of our work and the world, making maps as we go, looking for signs that we're on the right path. And on some good days we walk right out of our oppressions, those things that press us down from the outside or (as often) from the inside; we shake off the shackles of fear, prejudice, timidity, closed-mindedness, selfishness, self righteousness, and claim our freedom outright, terrifying as it is—our freedom to be human and humane.

Every morning, every day, we leave our houses, not knowing if it will be for the last time, and we decide what we'll take with us, what we'll carry: how much integrity, how much truth-telling, how much compassion (in case somebody along the way may need some), how much arrogance, how much anger, how much humor, how much willingness to change or be changed, to grow and to be grown. How much faith and hope, how much love and gratitude—you pack these with your lunch and medications, your date book and your papers. Every day, we gather what we think we'll need, pick up what we love and all that we so far believe, put on our history, shoulder our experience and memory, take inventory of our blessings, and we start walking toward morning.

— The Rev. Victoria Safford, in *Walking Toward Morning: Meditations*

Our Caring Circle Coordinators are **Catherine Porter** and **Clare Bertrand**. Please contact one of them or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, Carolyn Cave, Sue Kelly, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman** and **Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Pete Rogers** and **Mary Wyse**. Other members are **The Reverend Elizabeth Alciade, Charlie Atwood, The Reverend Cindy Frado, Rob Fuderich, Bo Mack, Fran Plumer,** and **Libby Walton-Stanforth**. Please contact one of them for your more complex or personal needs.

We send loving thoughts to **Charlie and Judy Atwood, John and Susan Barbaro, Jan Cole-Stryker, Vicki Hinson-Smith, Warren LaRoche** and **Barbara, Millis Mershon, Brenda Miller, Mary Wyse** and to all those who are caregivers.

With love from our Caring Circle, Pastoral Care Team, Small Groups and Minister.

Mindfulness Group UUSA member **Jessica Murphy** offers a mindfulness group to our UUSA congregation on Wednesday evenings. This month they are March 14 and March 28, 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jess at 413-575-1963 or jessica.mindfulness@gmail.com for details.

Membership

Getting to Know UU Are you new to us and curious about who we are? Come join us downstairs in the Conference Room on Sunday, March 11 at noon for light refreshments and a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the UU Society of Amherst. Bring your questions! What are you looking for — and what might we have to offer?



Do you remember Jeffrey Campbell? Jeffrey Campbell, African-American, was the minister at **The Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst** for seven years, 1967-1974.

Campbell, born in 1910, grew up in Nashua, NH, where he attended the Universalist church and decided to pursue a career in the ministry. The Nashua church, now UU, recently learned about Campbell's career and approached the **Rev. Cindy Frado** to ask about his service in Amherst, and Rev. Frado asked me to respond. I will be looking at our records to see what I can learn about his time in Amherst.

Very few of the present members and friends of UUSA were here at that time, but I would appreciate hearing from anyone who was here or has any knowledge about Campbell's service here. At that time, I have been told, we could only afford a part-time minister, and his major role was that of giving the sermon here while simultaneously holding a full-time teaching position at the Putney School in Vermont.

Apparently he did not have a happy relationship with the UU higher-ups in Boston and never was called to a satisfying full-time ministerial position. The UU congregation in Nashua recently held a service to tell Jeffrey Campbell's story. They are also raising funds for a marker for his now-unmarked grave in Nashua.

Please let me know if you have any information about Campbell's time in Amherst. For more information about the plans of the Nashua church or to make a contribution to the marker for his grave, visit their website: <http://uunashua.org/honor-legacies-of-campbells/>.

Thank you. **Bob Romer**, rhromer@amherst.edu, 413-253-7748.

Restoring the Soul after War: A Memorial Day Retreat for People in Military Service, Veterans, and Those Who Love Them.

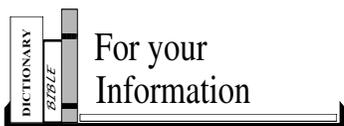
May 25-28, 2018, led by **UUSA's Ed Tick** and **Kate Dahlstedt** of Soldier's Heart, and held at the UU Rowe Camp and Conference Center.

Honoring the original meaning of Memorial Day, this is for all who wish to heal the effect of war on themselves, their families, and our nation.

All of us, especially our veterans and their families, feel the effect of war and need time, removed from life's pressures, to reflect and heal from our war wounds, losses, and concerns. Ed and Kate have worked with veterans and their families for nearly four decades. They invite you—whether you're a veteran, active-duty military service member, family member, helping professional, or other caring civilian—to join this Memorial Day intensive retreat. They'll introduce you to a pioneering method of healing, exploring the inner world of combat and the universal dimensions of warriorhood through storytelling, self- and family testimonies, history, mythology, cross-cultural ceremonies, and more. You'll practice guiding warriors and civilians on the journey to restoring wholeness, working together to help rebuild identities, shrink trauma, and bring meaning to tragedy.

Scholarships are available to veterans.

For more information and to register, visit <http://rowecenter.org/wp/events/memorial-day-retreat/>



End farmworker exploitation The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) aims to educate consumers on the issue of farm labor exploitation. Their Fair Food Program (FFP), an agreement between farmers, farmworkers, and retail food companies, aims to “ensure humane wages and working conditions for the workers who pick fruits and vegetables on participating farms.” On March 15, the CIW aims to secure the latest signatory of the Fair Food Program, Wendy's, by launching a march and rally directly outside of the hedge fund offices of Wendy's Board Chair and investor Nelson Peltz in NYC. Buses will bring folks from Boston, Providence and New Haven to NYC on the morning of March 15 and return that same night. Cost: \$54 (sliding scale based on ability to contribute). For more information, please contact Drew Fournier (drewschi712@gmail.com).