



Monadnock Interfaith Project
Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community Understanding and Social Justice

WWW.MIPNH.ORG

MonadnockInterfaith@gmail.com

April 2023

Dear Friends,

We celebrate with everyone whose lives are enriched during this season of reflection and renewal:

Christian Lent, Feb 22- April 6 & Easter April 9

Islamic Ramadan, March 22 - April 20

Jewish Passover, April 5- 13

Buddhist Theravada New Year, April 6

We encourage being joyfully present to all of these beautiful expressions of spirituality and add to that richness with MIP!

Consider joining in our different ways of service and community organizing. By coming together with others, you will have connecting conversations across traditions and tangibly feel how you are part of positive change.

This month we have our region's first interfaith Seder, important Keene housing meetings, Monadnock Covenant Church community food drive, a restorative justice event, and a concert by the Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts.

So many ways to come together for community, understanding and social justice!

Join us for an Interfaith Seder!

**KSC Alumni Center
April 27, 6pm
RSVP below**



One of the joys of MIP is the opportunity to learn about other faith traditions.

On Thursday April 27, 6-8pm MIP will host an interactive ritual meal modeled after a traditional Jewish Passover seder at which we will tell the Exodus story. **You can register [here](#).**

Our seder will be co-led by Rabbi Daniel Aronson of Congregation Ahavas Achim in Keene and Reverend Sandra Whippie Minister Emerita of the Walpole Unitarian Church.

First time participating in a Seder? Not sure what a Seder is?

This short [video](#) provides a sense of the Passover Seder traditions and what we will do together. Please note, our seder will substitute grape juice for wine.

Families and people of all faiths, ages, and backgrounds are encouraged to join us as we build community around shared values of memory, renewal, justice, and freedom. There will be open seating to encourage making new friends across faith traditions.

The menu will include symbolic foods such as parsley to dip into salted water, bowls of charoset (a sweet paste of chopped apples, grape juice, and walnuts), hard boiled eggs, horseradish, baby carrots, grape juice (we'll drink four cups!), and, of course, matzah (unleavened bread, like a cracker). Additionally there will be vegetarian soup, matzah balls, gefilte fish on a bed of romaine lettuce, and dessert.

[Register](#) by April 16! **Seating is limited.** The event is free with donations gratefully accepted to defray costs and support MIP's work.

We hope you can join us and look forward to being in communitytogether.

City of Keene Meetings on Housing

**Joint Planning
Board/PLD, 4/10
City Council, 4/20**



Keene Housing Needs Assessment

Join us April 10, 6:30pm, when the City of Keene Joint Planning Board and Planning, Licenses and Development Committee will discuss the recent Housing Assessment conducted by consulting group Camoin Associates. The final report is expected to be presented to the Keene City Council on April 20, 7pm. This report will inform important housing discussions for the city and the region going forward.

Housing Development Fund

MIP leaders continue to work with local stakeholders moving forward the development of a local Housing Development Fund. These Funds provide important resources, whether through low interest loans or grants, to housing developers to create affordable housing. It is an important tool as we seek to expand housing options in our region.



Monadnock Covenant Church Food Collection Drive for The Community Kitchen

During the pandemic, families and individuals received additional Food Stamp assistance, which Congress ended in February. As a result, The Community Kitchen expects to see increased need for food assistance.

One of the traditional Lenten disciplines is almsgiving. The Monadnock Covenant Church (MCC) Outreach Team invites you to join with them in donating food to The Community Kitchen during the Lenten season.

While any unexpired, non-perishable food is appreciated, at this time The Community Kitchen is asking for some items to supplement children's meals and snacks, and the pre-Easter pantry.

Their wish list includes:

- Shelf-stable yogurt (e.g. GoGo Squeez Yogurtz)
- Shelf stable milk
- Canned meals for kids, especially ones with meat
- Juice boxes
- Granola bars
- Jello mix
- Pudding mix
- Maple syrup (any kind)
- Canned pineapple
- Canned chicken
- Coffee (ground)
- Cooking oil

Donations may be made at MCC, 90 Base Hill Rd, Keene, in the blue bin at the Connect Center near the door of the ministry center, Mondays 11-1, Tuesday/Thursday 10-2.





2023 Genocide Awareness Lecture

(with Omar Ndizeye) will take place on Wednesday, April 12, from 5:30-6:30pm. The title for this year's talk is "Memory, Culture, and Emotional Expression in Post-Genocide Rwanda" and attendees can either come in person or watch via Zoom webinar. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. More info and link to registration: <https://giving.keene.edu/2023-genocide-awareness-lecture/>

As a follow-up to Omar's lecture, the Cohen Center is partnering with a number of local groups and organizations to offer an event called "**Becoming a Restorative Community**" on Thursday, April 13, from 11am-1:30pm. The event will focus on Omar's experiences with restorative justice in Rwanda and will also provide attendees with the chance to see community building circles in action. This event is free and open to all, but there are only 75 seats available. Registration is required. More info and link to registration available here: <https://tinyurl.com/33e7c5bn>

Mak'hela The Jewish Chorus
of Western Massachusetts
מקהלה

Mak'hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western MA is coming back to Keene!
Conducted by Dr. Elaine ("Lainee") Ginsberg, Mak'hela will present
liturgical gems in Hebrew, original compositions, and toe-tapping
Klezmer-inspired musical delights.
The concert is part of the Nathan E. Cohen Lecture Series and is
free and open to the public. Spread the word!



Sunday, April 23, 2023

3:00 p.m.

**Congregation Ahavas Achim (Keene synagogue)
84 Hastings Ave., Keene, NH**

Know someone interested in interfaith efforts? Forward this email.

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**In faith, hope, and love,
Monadnock Interfaith Project
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