



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

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## February 2024

Much of nature rests during the chilly month of February, seeds and bulbs dormant, many animals sleeping during winter's break. We too are happy when we can be cozy on long dark nights. But like the birds that visit our feeders, we are staying busy, too!

Read below to find out about an upcoming book discussion group opportunity, collaborating with The Community Kitchen, MIP on the radio educating about the housing crisis, and clergy connecting with local crisis intervention providers.



### MIP Collaborates with The Community Kitchen at January Gathering

Connecting across differences, listening, and involving people who are closest to our community's challenges, these are important values of MIP.

At our January 24th Gathering we had a rich discussion about ways the interfaith community can build on each of our individual congregation's food security efforts.

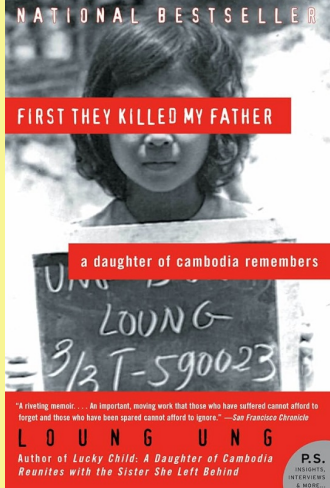
We generated the following ideas to build on our relationship with The Community Kitchen:

- Eating with guests at The Community Kitchen, listening and building relationships.
- Sharing hobbies and interests with guests during meals, such as music, arts and crafts, etc.
- Increasing access to food in rural towns and coordinating across the region.

**Interested in getting involved?  
Do you have other ideas?  
Click and complete this brief Google Form:  
[Partnering with The Community Kitchen](#)**



***First They Killed My Father:  
A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers***



Author, Loung Ung is a childhood survivor of the Cambodian genocide under the regime of Pol Pot. This is a riveting narrative of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her family, and their triumph of spirit.

**MIP Book Discussion Group**  
**March 18, 10:30am-12pm**  
**Covenant Living of Keene, 95 Wyman Rd**

Copies of *First They Killed My Father* can be obtained at Toadstool Bookshops, online, or by emailing: [rpoor@covliving.org](mailto:rpoor@covliving.org).

A film screening and in-person lecture by the author are also scheduled. See details in the upcoming events section below.

**MIP faith leaders meet with Mick Hirsch new Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention Executive Director**



MCVP is a community where interpersonal violence is replaced by equality, empowerment, emotional and physical safety.

Through crisis intervention, peer counseling, education, and a 24-hour crisis line, MCVP responds to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in our community by providing a care and support system for survivors.

MIP clergy welcomed Mick Hirsch to his new position and discussed many ways for congregations to support and engage with MCVP including:

- Volunteering for shifts MCVP's 24 hour/365 days a year crisis line.
- Partnering with MCVP for events during April's Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Find out more about the work of MCVP at: [mcvprevention.org](http://mcvprevention.org)



**Addressing the Local Housing Crisis**  
**WKBK Saturday Morning Radio Show**  
**with Raleigh Ormerod**

Hear stories of local people and strategies for making more housing available:

- [Hour 1 featuring MIP's Angela Pape & Tom Julius](#)
- [Hour 2 featuring Paul Roth of Cheshire Medical Center and MIP's](#)



## Nelson Congregational Church Awards Garrett-Larsen Social Justice Grants



The Social Justice Fund was created in 2019 to honor former Nelson pastor Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen.

\$1,250 was given to the Fall Mountain Weekend Food Backpack Program, a community effort that provides free breakfasts, main meals, and snacks on weekends and school vacation weeks to many students in the towns served by the Fall Mountain Regional School District.

\$1,000 went to Feeding Tiny Tummies, a Keene-based, all-volunteer nonprofit that provides fresh produce, bread, milk, and nonperishables to schools, day cares, and individuals in the Monadnock region.



**HUNDRED NIGHTS**  
*Reaching for the Warmth of Home*  
Cold Weather Shelter & Open Doors Resource Center

Providing shelter and crisis related services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

### Hundred Nights is looking for volunteers to help with weekend meals... February 24.

There is also a need for Vitamin C packets, DayQuil and NyQuil, Mucinex, herbal teas for cold, respiratory, throat and digestive health, individual chicken broth or chicken soup, insulated gloves, men's jeans, sweatshirts, long and T-shirts, winter jackets and boots for men and women.

Check the Hundred Nights website: <https://hundrednightsinc.org>

## Upcoming events

In collaboration with the [Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies](#)

- **March 07**, Film Screening: *First They Killed My Father*, Huntress Auditorium, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St, Thursday, • 6- 8:15pm
- **March 18**, MIP Book Group, *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung, Covenant Living of Keene Community, 95 Wyman Rd • 10:30am-12pm
- **April 3**, Genocide Awareness Lecture featuring Loung Ung KSC Mabel Brown Room or Livestream • 5:30pm

- **April 10**, Special Event - "The Light Inside the Dark: Witnessing in Empathy at Auschwitz" featuring Dr. Len Fleischer, KSC Alumni Center - Norma Walker Hall • 5:30pm
- **April 17**, MIP Interfaith Passover Seder, KSC Alumni Center - Norma Walker Hall • 5pm

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## February Spiritual/Religious Holidays

Visit [Interfaith Calendar 2024](#) for a detailed list.



February 1 – Imbolc

Pagans and Wiccans celebrate this festival as the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, honoring light, fire, and the return of life.

Feb 8 – Lailat al Miraj

Muslims remember Prophet Muhammad's pilgrimage from Mecca to Jerusalem on this holy day. After his arrival, he ascended to Heaven.

Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday

Marks the start of Lent, 40 days of fasting and prayer for Christians before Easter.

Feb 15 – Parinirvana

Known as Nirvana Day in Mahāyāna Buddhism, this day honors the death of Buddha and his attainment of final nirvana.

Feb 26-29 - Ayyam-i-ha

This Bahá'í celebration and period of fasting celebrates giving back to the community and gifts to loved ones, honoring the Divine Essence of God.

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**In faith, hope, and love,**

**Monadnock Interfaith Project, PO Box 161 Keene, NH 03431**

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