



## Monadnock Interfaith Project

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

WWW.MIPNH.ORG

MonadnockInterfaith@gmail.com

[Click here to view this eNews in your web browser.](#)



## April 2024

**Such an abundance of activity this month!  
Read below for details of the following events:**

- 4/03 - Ordinary Citizens, Extraordinary Leaders, w/ Cambodian author Luong Ung
- 4/10 - Witnessing in Empathy, w/ Dr. Len Fleischer
- 4/14 - Climate Cafe, an interfaith panel and discussion  
- Mak'hela, Jewish chorus of Western Massachusetts
- 4/15 - Interfaith Passover Seder, w/ Rabbi Dan Aronson & Laine Ginsberg
- 4/30 - Housing is for All of Us, w/ Angela Pape & Tom Julius

And Save the Date... June 2 MIP Faith Festival!

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### **Ordinary Citizens, Extraordinary Leaders: Creating Change Through Activism and Volunteerism**

**Featuring author, Luong Ung**  
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 5:30 PM  
KSC Student Center Mabel Brown Room



With over three decades of experience as a student activist, a professional agent of change working on campaigns to end violence against women, landmines, and child soldiers, Loung will explore how we can all lead in our daily lives to make a difference in our world.

A limited number of seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, hosted by the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. You may register to watch the livestream of this event by visiting:

<https://giving.keene.edu/2024-gal/>



Covenant Living of Keene and MIP recently held a book discussion about Loung Ung's bestselling memoir, *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*.

Co-hosted by Revs. Becky Poor and Cindy Bagley, we explored Long Ung's story of her family's tragedy and resilience when Khmer Rouge soldiers stormed into her native city of Phnom Penh.

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### **The Light Inside the Dark: Witnessing in Empathy**

# at Auschwitz

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 5:30pm  
Keene State College Mason Library, Room 240  
Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide  
Studies Auditorium



*Please note this is a change from the original location.*

MIP Guiding Councilor Dr. Len Fleischer recently took part in an international group focused on “The Legacy of the Holocaust for Germans and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians” focusing on trans-generational and collective trauma.

After Len shares photos and reflections about his experiences, there will be time for questions and dialogue with the audience. The event is free and open to all, and light refreshments will be provided. For those who can not be present this event will be live-streamed at: <https://vimeo.com/event/4145032>

This event is co-presented by the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Monadnock Interfaith Project, and the Truth, Reconciliation, and Equity Collaborative (TREC) at Keene State College. For more information click here: [The Light Inside the Dark: Witnessing in Empathy at Auschwitz](#)



## INTERFAITH CLIMATE CAFE

*“In virtually every transformative movement in human history, people of faith have been at the center of the action. Catalysts. Laborers. Visionaries. Now, as we confront what is arguably the greatest challenge in human history, God is calling us all to step up once more. To love the world – and put our love into action.”* Matthew Myer Boulton

In this spirit, please join us for a time of conversation and learning as we explore how different faith traditions inform one’s understanding of the climate crisis and identify the passions we share.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

3:00 – 6:00 P.M.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

23 CENTRAL SQUARE

KEENE, NH 03431

*Reception to Follow*

Free Parking and Fully Accessible

Please RSVP by email [jwhite@ucckeeene.org](mailto:jwhite@ucckeeene.org)

or phone 603-352-4136.

This event is sponsored by The Keene Clean Energy Team, The United Church of Christ in Keene, and the Monadnock Interfaith Project, with speakers from the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Indigenous, and Buddhist communities.



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This gathering includes time for personal reflection and discussion about how we are feeling and processing climate change. There will also be a panel of speakers who bring perspectives from several religious, spiritual, and cultural traditions:

**Buddhist** - Michael Ciborski, MorningSun Mindfulness Center

**Roman Catholic** - Julia Steed Mawson, NH Interfaith Power and Light

**Jewish** - Rabbi Daniel Aronson, Congregation Ahavas Achim

**Muslim** - Dr. Mohammad Saleh, Monadnock Interfaith Project

**Pennacook-Abenaki** - Denise Pouliot, Cowasuck Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki Peoples

**Protestant** - Marge Shepardson, NH United Church of Christ Environmental Ministries Board

RSVP for the Climate Cafe to [jwhite@ucckeene.org](mailto:jwhite@ucckeene.org) or 603-352-4136

**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 first a few liturgical gems in Hebrew, which will be followed by lively music by famous

Jewish **BROADWAY** composers!

*If "you've got rhythm," you'll want to tap your toes and sing along!*

**Free and open to the public.**

Spread the word!

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

**2:00 p.m.**

Congregation Ahavas Achim  
84 Hastings Ave., Keene, NH

**Join us for an  
Interfaith**

# Passover Seder!

**KSC Alumni Center, April 15**  
**5:30pm Social Time**  
**6pm Program Starts**



This interactive ritual meal is modeled after a traditional Jewish Passover seder at which we will tell the Exodus story co-led by Rabbi Dan Aronson and Dr. Laine Ginsberg of Congregation Ahavas Achim in Keene.

[Click here to RSVP for the Seder](#)

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.

First time participating in a Seder? Not sure what a Seder is? This brief [video](#) provides a sense of the Passover Seder traditions and what we will do together. Our seder will substitute grape juice for wine.

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.

**RSVP by April 8! Seating is limited.** Co-sponsored by MIP and the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, 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 community together.



**Housing is for All of Us**  
**with Angela Pape & Tom Julius**  
**April 30, 6:30pm**  
**Huntress Auditorium, Keene Public Library**

Featuring personal stories about housing challenges in the Monadnock region coupled with regional data, Angela and Tom will share a slide show illustrating how expanding housing options benefits us all. The presentation will be followed by audience discussion.

This program is free and open to the public. Your [RSVP here](#) helps anticipate how many will be participating. The presentation is supported by a grant from NH Housing and in collaboration with Southwest Regional Planning Commission.

To schedule an in-person or online session about housing tailored to fit your audience's schedule and needs contact Angela Pape, MIP Community Organizer: [angelapape.mip@gmail.com](mailto:angelapape.mip@gmail.com)

## Do you want to:

- give back to others who are in need of emergency support?
- make a lasting impact on your community?
- contribute your time and empathy to make a difference?

## Consider volunteering for MCVP's 24/7/365 crisis call line!

### The Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention is seeking volunteers who:

- Live within 30 minutes of Keene
- Kind, trauma-informed, non-judgmental, and empathic
- Ready, willing and able to accompany clients to emergency rooms or speak to law enforcement at all hours
- Complete a questionnaire, interview and background check
- Willing to be on call for 16-hour (4pm to 8am) shifts and/or 24-hour shifts on weekends and holidays.
- Complete our 40 hour training

*If that sounds like you please email:*

*[directservices@mcvprevention.org](mailto:directservices@mcvprevention.org) for more information*



24 Hour Crisis Line  
603-352-3782 or  
Toll Free 1-888-511-MCVP (6287)



## Creating Friendships for Peace Seeks Volunteer Host Families

Creating Friendships for Peace (CFP) is a volunteer 501(c)3 organization focused on peace and conflict resolution programs for youth ages 15-17 from divided lands. CFP students participate in a peacebuilding model emphasizing advanced listening skills and conflict resolution by sharing a room together in American households. Currently working in Cyprus and Israel CFP provides a summer capstone residency program in five different regions across the U.S.

**On July 23rd- August 15th, four pairs of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel, all girls, will be arriving in New Hampshire's Monadnock Region.**

**We are seeking host families and day long volunteers to would like the opportunity to join our all-volunteer community. CFP pairs girls from opposite sides of the conflict together in a homes of host families- one Jewish and one Palestinian girl living together in one home.**

To learn more about our history and what is involved for you and your family to become hosts to a pair of girls from Israel, visit <https://friendships4peace.org> or, reach out to: Anne Clifton-Waite, NH Area Coordinator, [Annec@friendships4peace.org](mailto:Annec@friendships4peace.org), 603-321-6447.

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## April Spiritual Holidays

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



### April 6 Laylat al-Qadr

The most venerated night of the Islamic calendar. During this night, Angel Jibril revealed the Holy Qur'an's first verses to the Prophet Muhammad.

### April 9-12 Eid al-Fitr

The end of Ramadan and the Festival of Breaking the Fast. A time to visit friends and relatives, any Muslims celebrate with their families for two or three days.

### April 19 - May 1 Ridvan

This Bahá'í 12-day festival commemorates the days Baha'u'llah spent on the banks of the Tigris River, during which he revealed the spiritual principles that are the foundation of the Bahá'í faith.

### April 22-30 Passover

This 7-day holy week commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Highlighted by Seder meals and retelling the Exodus story.



## 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, the following dates are currently available: April 20, 21, 27 & 28.**

And remember, you can always check for the latest needs on the website: [hundrednightsinc.org](http://hundrednightsinc.org)

*"Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it."*

- Father Greg Boyle, Homeboy Industries

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## SAVE THE DATE

### MIP Faith Festival Coming Soon!

June 2, 1 - 4pm  
Wheelock Park, Keene



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Know someone interested in interfaith efforts? Forward this email.

Visit our website [MIPNH.org](http://MIPNH.org)

**Follow us on [Facebook @MIPNH](#)**

Contact MIP anytime at [monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com)

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

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

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