

The Chalice

**HERE'S JUST SOME OF
WHAT'S INSIDE....**

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAYS 10:15AM AND 7:00PM
CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Minister's Column
President's Column
Where is Louise?
Page 2

Jan. 1: A New Year's Service

This service is about letting go of what constricts us and moving forward toward our healthy dreams.

What's Happening in RE
Revels Thank You
New Life School
Page 3

Jan. 8: How We Can Age Well

There are definite values and attitudes which help us to age with dignity over a life time. Susan Edinger, who has had a distinguished career helping people age well, and Jim Robinson, will share the pulpit.

Gifts for Kids Thanks
REcycle Request
Conversations at the
MeetingHouse
Page 4

Jan. 15: Loving the Enemy

Drawing from the teachings of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, we will explore what it means to love our enemy in a way which is healthy and effective for social justice.

Stewardship
MeetingHouse News
Coffee House
Page 5

Jan. 22: Stress and Spirituality

What is "stress" and how can our spiritual or philosophical approach help us turn it from an obstacle into an opportunity?

Adult Programs
Page 6

Jan. 29: Wisdom from Traditional Chinese Religions

On the week of the Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon), we will reach for the essential wisdom in Taoism, Confucianism, and Chan Buddhism. Special music will be provided by traditional Chinese musicians playing the guzheng.

Long-Term Care
Insurance Discussion
Twelfth Night Open House
MMAS
Page 7

SNOW STORM NOTICE:

If the weather is inclement and you want to know if Sunday service has been cancelled, call the church office at 781-784-3652.

Social Justice
Page 8

Calendar
Page 9



Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
*A Welcoming Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist
Association*
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781/784-3652
www.uusharon.org

President

Philip Conover
President@uusharon.org

Minister

Rev. Jim Robinson
Office Hours
Tu W Thu Fri
9:00am – 1:00pm
(Day off is Monday)
781-784-3652 x2
RevRobinson@uusharon.org
Contact Jim for an evening or
weekend appointment

Director of Religious Ed.

Louise Marcoux
Office Hours
Tu W Th
8:30am - 2:30pm
781/784-3652 x3
DRE@uusharon.org

Administrative Assistant

Janet Mayo
Tu Th 9am-2:30pm
Fr 12-3pm
781/784-3652 x1
Admin@uusharon.org

Newsletter Editor

Janet Mayo
Newsletter@uusharon.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FRIDAY

JANUARY 27TH

5PM

Submit article to
newsletter@uusharon.org

From the Minister

A New Year: letting go, affirming, visioning, and moving on.

Letting go of a negative attitude or habit: What negative attitude or habit do you need to let go of?

Affirming our personal strengths: What are your core strengths that you are proud of?

Visioning about what our life could look like: How could your life blossom in a new way?

Moving forward with concrete commitments: Is there a commitment you would like to make to yourself as you begin a new year?

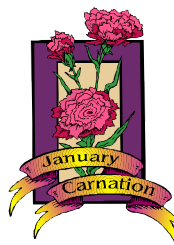
This is the spiritual work of ending one year and beginning another. I invite you, right now, to take a few minutes and think about these questions and your answers to them.

-Jim Robinson

From the President

This is a very practical time of year. Because daylight is short, because it is cold outside, because the firewood is stacked and the crops are in, the fire draws us to sit nearby. It is time to rest the body and exercise the mind. In particular we ask ourselves, *How did it go this last year, did I accomplish my goals?* Then, turning towards the future we ask, *Where do I go from here, what would I like to create this coming year?* And finally, *How will I know if I have attained what I set out to accomplish?* Yes, it can be a lot of work to answer these questions, but in the end the alternative can be even more burdensome. Where we sit depends on where we stand, so saddle up a chair and get the fire going.

-Philip Conover



Where is Louise?

Our Director of Religious Education, Louise Marcoux, is on a two-month sabbatical. Please contact Acting Director of Religious Education Kate Parker-O'Toole (kate.parker.otoole@gmail.com) or RE Committee Chair Pam Baker-Webber (bakerwebber@comcast.net) with any questions or concerns about the religious education program. Louise will return to church on March 1.

Religious Education News

What's Happening in Religious Education?

Preschool-Kindergarten - Our youngest explorers will celebrate all the things that they can do. Up this month: I can ask questions; I can share; I can help; and I can listen.

Grades 1-2-3 - will spend more time thinking about their friends in Primary 2 at the New Life School on January 8. They'll return to *Love Will Guide Us to learn more about the sources of our beliefs as Unitarian Universalists with explorations of science and reason (focused on the discovery of dinosaur bones) and Judeo-Christian heritage.*

Grades 4-5 - will continue their exploration of the meaning of covenant by considering how "service is our prayer." What can an individual do to make a difference in our world? What is leadership and how can we be leaders? Then they'll start a 6 week unit exploring what it means to "dwell together in peace" with sessions on non-violence and community.

Junior Youth - will be finishing up their exploration of Coming of Age in a variety of religious traditions. The group will conclude by creating greeting cards honoring a participant in each ritual. Social justice becomes the topic for the rest of the church year. The group will start by crafting their perfect society.

And A Revels Thank You to:

Laurie Wallace and Rebecca Kinraide for coordinating Santa Lucia;
Beth McGregor for leading the Lucia Bun baking activity yet again;
Kate Parker-O'Toole and Dia Cheney for their work with the puppeteers;
Yvonne Marcoux and Lucy Jones for being "gofers" and keeping the puppet theatre upright;
David Nelson for his creative focus in crafting the wheel of the year program by Grades 1-2-3;
Chris Just and Teresa Tapper for their work with the drummers;
Bob Schleinig for re-writing the Preschool-Kindergarten curriculum and for help backstage;
Esther Whitfield and Pearl Schleinig for helping the P-K group do their best on Revels Sunday;
all the Religious Education teachers who worked with the groups in November.

We have once again lived out our belief that it takes a village to raise a child.

Grades 1-2-3: connecting with our friends at the New Life School

In late October, the children in Grades 1-2-3 received a special delivery from Uganda: a poster of greetings from many of the children in the Primary 1 class at the New Life School. This beautiful poster has been mounted on foam core and can usually be found in Program B.

In November, the children in Grades 1-2-3 decided to help out their friends in Primary 1 with their school fundraiser. The children made holiday ornaments on Sunday mornings during coffee hour and even on a Saturday afternoon. They are so thankful that so many grown ups from their church bought their crafts at the Revels Bazaar. The children earned \$218 for their friends' school.

In December, the children also began working on letters and pictures for their new friends. These will be carried by hand-courier to Uganda in early January. And so our adventure together continues!

BRIGHTER HOLIDAYS FOR KIDS THANKS TO UU GENEROCITY

The annual Gifts for Kids Program was very successful this year, thanks in good measure to the generosity of many UUs who sponsored children in need during this past holiday season. Across the region, the Gifts for Kids program served over 970 infants, children and teens who benefited from elves who shopped or made donations on their behalf. Here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, our community sponsored over 60 kids to help make their holidays brighter.

Thanks go out to those of you who found time to made a difference in a child's holiday season. Plans are already in the works for next year's needs, and anyone is welcome to make a cash donation to support this vital program which was founded 21 years ago by our own Pat McDougal. Send tax deductible donations to Gifts for Kids, Inc., P.O. Box 464, Sharon, MA 02067.

Request to All REcyclers:

Thank you so much for your generous donations of egg cartons, paper towel tubes, and glass jars to the RE Program. You have given new life to used products and provided raw materials for many RE projects, including the Revels Bazaar.

The good news is that our coffers are now full! We request that you recycle your jars, egg cartons, and paper towel tubes at home. (Please note that if you already have a stash of items ready to bring to church, we will gratefully accept them during the first 2 weeks of January).

Conversations at the Meetinghouse, Friday January 6th 7:00 PM.

"Will Shad Run in Lake Massapoag Again?"

Ian Cook, Director of the Neponset Valley Watershed Association.

Ian will discuss water quality, restoration of the Neponset River watershed and related topics. Prior to the settlement of Massachusetts by the English, the river system supported the migratory shad that traveled from Boston Harbor to Lake Massapoag.

Free and open to the public.

About the Series: In Colonial times, The Meetinghouse was the political, social and religious center of the community. In the 21st Century, we are a diverse community with diverse interests and activities. This series of presentations and discussions by members of the larger Sharon community will make The Meetinghouse function again as a place for interesting people to have a conversation about a subject they care about

Join us the first Friday of the month at 7 PM for "Conversations at The Meetinghouse."



Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee will begin its planning for the annual Pledge Campaign scheduled to take place in March. This event reaches out to all members and friends in the church, providing a vision for the programs and initiatives that the church hopes to undertake in the fiscal year beginning July 1st.

If you would like to be part of our committee as we facilitate this process, come to our next meeting at the church on Tuesday Jan 3rd at 7pm.

If you prefer to discuss before coming, contact Rory McGregor by phone (781-784-6555) or email (rmcgregor3@aol.com).

Several families in the church are tight on funds and driving aging automobiles which are becoming unsafe. If you have a second hand car you have been thinking of doing without, would you consider helping another family in the church?

Contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

MEETINGHOUSE NEWS



- Congratulations to Ellie and Kelsey Leonardsmith as their Mod Squad team won the championship of the Roller Derby League and Ellie was named MVP of the championship match.
- We wish a creative, restful, learning two months of sabbatical for Louise Marcoux.
- Brett Knight is now attending the Sunday evening service rather than the morning service.
- Our sympathies are extended to Susan Nichamoff on the recent death of her mother, and of course to the whole family, husband David and children Anna and Sam.
- We are pleased to report that Jacob Trapper is back in the States after having been deployed in Iraq.
- Louise Chereski had successful surgery in December and after five days in the hospital returned home.
- Bill Fox had successful day surgery on Dec. 27th and is well at home.

NotJustAnotherCoffeeHouse

Not Just Another Coffee House presents
Don Bailey & Friends
on Saturday, January 21 from 7:00-9:00 PM.



Don and his musician friends will perform original and favorite songs from the blues, RnB, gospel and blues genres. Come together for another fabulous night of entertainment, coffee, home-baked goodies and community. Child care is available for children four and up with pre-registration. Call Jim at 781-784-3652. A \$5 donation per child is appreciated to cover costs. Tickets for the entertainment are \$10. We are wheel chair accessible.

Visit www.NotJustAnotherCoffeeHouse.org for additional information.

ADULT PROGRAMS IN JANUARY

Meditation Group meets each Tuesday evening, 7:30pm, in program space a/b. New comers are always welcomed to the group including people new to meditation.

Wednesday Book Group meets Jan. 4, 7:30pm in the library to discuss the classic novel “Catch 22” by Joseph Heller.

Long-Term Care Insurance Discussion: January 8th at noon. (Please see article on page 7.)

Sunday Book Group meets Jan. 15, 12pm, in the library to discuss “An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth” by Mahatma Gandhi. If you google the title you can read the book (or sections of it) on line or you can download the text.

If you would like to join a **Women’s Support Group** contact Louise at louisechereski@comcast.net

If you would like to join a **Men’s Support Group** contact Jim at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

Potluck Supper Friday Jan. 6, 6pm, in the vestry followed by **Conversations at the Meetinghouse** at 7pm in program space a/b. (See article on page 4 for more information about Conversations at the Meetinghouse.)

Movie Night will be January 13, 7pm, in program space a/b. We will view and discuss “The Visitor”.

A Day of Reflection and Celebration: A two-part event honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Sunday, January 15, 2012. Time: 2:00 pm Film and Panel; 5:00 pm Supper; 6:00 pm Performance. Location: UU Urban Ministry at historic First Church in Roxbury 10 Putnam St. Roxbury, MA 02119

NotJustAnotherCoffeeHouse presents Don Bailey and Friends, Saturday, January 21st at 7pm. (Please see article on page 5.)

MEMORY TEA – Sunday January 22nd 3:30pm – 5:30pm in the vestry. Sponsored by the Caring Committee, this has become an annual event at our church because it has meant so much to everyone participating. This is a time to remember a loved one (or a beloved pet) who has died. You are invited to bring a photo or memento to share. We will enjoy a delicious tea time as a way of affirming life, and then enter a sacred ritual space of sharing about our loved ones who are with us in spirit. We will close with the affirmation that our love is deeper than death, that our grief is an important aspect of our love, and that we honor our loved ones by living the best life that we can.

Contemplative Retreat will be held Saturday morning, Jan. 28, 9:30am – 11:00am, in the minister’s study. We will practice Lectio Divino – the contemplative reading of scripture or poetry. If you would like to suggest a particular passage in scripture or a favorite poem let Jim Robinson know ahead of time.

Writers Group will meet on Sunday, Jan. 29, 12pm in the library. Bring a piece you have written or a favorite piece by another author.

Long Term Care Insurance Discussion

We are blessed to be living in a part of the world with the means and the access to exceptional health care. There is good news and bad news: the good news is that we may live a long time after retirement. The bad news is that a long life expectancy increases the probability that we might need some sort of assistance or custodial care during our later years. Family may or may not be available. Unfortunately, long term custodial care is not covered by insurance and can be extraordinarily expensive. These costs can negatively affect your retirement and family goals.

One solution to the above problem is Long Term Care Insurance. Many people are curious about the product and ask questions like the following:

- What is Long Term Care Insurance?
- Who needs it?
- What does it cost?
- How will I choose the best policy for me?
- Won't Medicare or Medicaid pay for my long-term care needs?
- When is the best time to buy a policy?
- How do I get one?
- Are there other options?

Peter Raskin, Financial Planner and Amy Taylor, Registered Nurse/Certified Long Term Care Insurance Specialist, two members of our congregation, will present a 90 minute discussion on Sunday, January 8th at Noon, addressing these questions and others. Please mark the date and time on your calendar for this important and timely discussion.

*Beth and Rory McGregor
will hold their annual
'Twelfth Night' Open House
at 52 Upland Rd, Sharon
on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 5 to 9 PM.*

*All are welcome to stop by.
If you'd like, bring something to share for the table,
and bring a wrapped recycled gift if you
want to take part in the traditional "Yankee Swap."*

MMAS

Mansfield Music and Arts Society (MMAS) is presenting the musical, *Company*, and tickets have been reserved for our group for Saturday, February 4. at 8:00pm at \$20.00 pp. As always we will have the use of the adjacent room to make our own reception at 7:00pm and we come back to finish the refreshments during Intermission.

Company is a [musical](#) with a book by [George Furth](#) and music and lyrics by [Stephen Sondheim](#). The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won six. Originally entitled *Threes*, its plot revolves around Bobby (a single man unable to commit fully to a steady relationship, let alone marriage), the five married couples who are his best friends, and his three girlfriends. Unlike most [book musicals](#), which follow a clearly delineated plot, *Company* is a concept musical composed of short [vignettes](#), presented in no particular chronological order, linked by a celebration for Bobby's 35th birthday. It's a fun show with clever lyrics.

Please email (mcdougal.pat@gmail.com) or call (781-344-2102) Pat McDougal to reserve your tickets and then follow up by putting a check in the mail to: 40 Jordan Dr. Stoughton, 02072.



Happy New Year from the Social Justice Committee!

The “**Brown Envelope**” offerings for January will support the local food pantries in Canton, Foxboro, Norwood, Stoughton-Sharon and Walpole. Our monetary contributions will help them buy staples and other needed supplies. Food pantries report that donations are generous during the holiday season but drop off in January and February, yet the demand remains high. Further, current economic problems are driving a crisis in food insecurity that is broader and deeper than seen before in Massachusetts. Many citizens need help to cover the basics, including many who have never needed help before.

In addition to the “brown envelope” offerings, we ask you to continue to give can food donations for the **Stoughton-Sharon Food Pantry**. Please leave your can donations in the collection box in the building entrance and a SJC member will deliver them directly to the Food Pantry. Soups, vegetables, and peanut butter are food items that they report as always needed.

Thank you for your generosity! Through your contributions to the “**Brown Envelope**” offerings, other pledges and profits from Shopping for Justice, we have donated to date in this church year:

\$1,736	Partner Church in Romania
\$ 246	UUA Association Sunday
\$1,432	UUSC – Famine Relief in Somalia and East Africa
\$ 487	United Way – Vermont Flood Relief
\$1,086	Centro Present (Immigration Rights)
Tbd	New Life School in Uganda

\$4,987	Total to Date

MainSpring House – The next lunch making for MainSpring House will be on Sunday, January

22nd, during coffee hour. The next dinner to be served at MainSpring House will be on Monday, January 30th. If you would like to volunteer to help serve the dinner and/or make desserts, please send an email to lizandmia@aol.com.

Shopping for Justice – Would you consider a new year’s resolution to make the most impact with your purchasing power? Then stop by the Social Justice Corner in the Vestry during Coffee Hour and see if you can make this program a part of your shopping habits. The Social Justice Committee now has available grocery cards for sale from 5 vendors: **Big Y, Roche Bros., Hannafords, Stop & Shop and Shaws**. By purchasing these cards from the church, we raise important money for our collective efforts to end hunger and homelessness locally and around the world. We buy in bulk, get savings ranging from 2 to 6%, and sell to the congregation at full price. You get dollar-for-dollar value at the store, and the church is then able to fund a range of programs, like our monthly lunches and dinners for MainSpring House. Together, we can change the world.

Join the Social Justice Steering Committee! If you are interested, please attend our next meeting on Wednesday, January 11th, at 6:30 PM. (This is a new meeting time.) Or for more information, contact the co-chairs, Gare Reid at (781) 492-4567 or Mia Joiner-Moore at (781) 784-0426. And, comments and suggestions to the committee can be sent to justicecommittee@uusharon.org

Upcoming Dates:

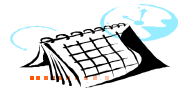
January 11th, 6:30 PM – Social Justice Committee Meeting (Note: new start time)

January 22nd, Coffee Hour – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House

January 30th, 3:30 PM – Serve Dinner at MainSpring House in Brockton



January 2012 Calendar



Sunday, January 1, 2012
Morning service 10:15am (Sanctuary)
Youth Group 5:00pm (Library)
Evening service 7:00pm (Vestry)

Monday, January 2, 2012
Women's Group I (Closed Mtg.) 7:30(Library)

Tuesday, January 3, 2012
Children's Choir 5:30pm (B)
Stewardship Committee 7:00pm (Library)
Meditation group 7:30pm (A/B)

Wednesday, January 4, 2012
Book group 7:30pm (library)
Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (Sanctuary)
Coming of Age 7:30pm

Thursday, January 5, 2012
Americans' Guide to the Future 7:30
(Sanctuary)

Friday, January 6, 2012
Potluck supper 6:00pm (Vestry)
Conversations in the Meetinghouse 7pm

Saturday, January 7, 2012
Committee Chairs Mtg 9:00am (Vestry)
English Conv. Class 10:30am (Library)

Sunday, January 8, 2012
Choir Rehearsal 9:15am (Sanctuary)
Morning service 10:15am (Sanctuary)
Long-Term Care Ins. Discussion 12:00pm
Youth Group 5:00pm (Library)
Evening service 7:00pm (Vestry)

Monday, January 9, 2012
2nd Women's Support Group (Open Mtg.)
7:00pm (Library)

Finance Cmt. 7:00pm (Treasurer's office)
Building and Grounds 7:30pm (A)

Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Children's Choir 5:30pm (B)
Meditation group 7:00pm (A/B)
Endowment Fund Board Mtg 7:30 (Library)

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
SJC monthly meeting 6:30pm (A)
Board of Trustees 7:15pm (Program A)
Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 12, 2012
Men's Group 8:00pm (Library)

Friday, January 13, 2012
Movie night 7:00pm (A/B)

Saturday, January 14, 2012
English Conv. Class 10:30am (Library)

Sunday, January 15, 2012
Choir Rehearsal 9:15am (Sanctuary)

Worship service 10:15am (Sanctuary)
Book group 12:00pm (Library)
Youth Group 5:00pm (Library)
Evening service 7:00pm (Vestry)

Monday, January 16, 2012
Woman's Group I (Closed Mtg.) 7:30 (Library)

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Children's Choir 5:30pm (B)
Meditation group 7:30pm (A/B)

Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (Sanctuary)
Coming of Age 7:30pm (A/B)

Thursday, January 19, 2012
Membership Comm Mtg 7:30pm (Library)

Saturday, January 21, 2012
English Conv. Class 10:30am (Library)
Coffee House 7:00pm

Sunday, January 22, 2012
Choir Rehearsal 9:15am (sanctuary)
Worship service 10:15am (Sanctuary)
Memory meal 3:30pm (Vestry)
Evening worship 7:00pm (Vestry)

Monday, January 23, 2012
2nd Women's Support Group (Open Mtg.)
7:00pm (Library)

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Children's Choir 5:30pm (B)
Caring Committee 6:30pm (Minister's Study)
Meditation group 7:30pm (A/B)

Wednesday, January 25, 2012
Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 26, 2012
Men's Group 8:00pm (Library)

Friday, January 27, 2012
Newsletter Deadline 5:00pm
CONstellations 7:00pm through Sat.

Saturday, January 28, 2012
CONstellations (cont.) ends at 5:00pm
Contemplative retreat 9:30am (Minister's
Study)

English Conv. Class 10:30am (Library)

Sunday, January 29, 2012
Choir Rehearsal 9:15am (sanctuary)
Worship service 10:15am (Sanctuary)
Youth Group 5:00pm (Library)
Evening worship 7:00pm (Vestry)

Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Children's Choir 5:30pm (B)
Meditation Group 7:30pm (A/B)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SHARON
4 NORTH MAIN STREET
SHARON, MA 02067



*A Welcoming
Congregation of
the UUA*

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
781/784-3652
SEND AN EMAIL TO
ADMIN@UUSHARON.ORG
OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.uusharon.org

JUST SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE!	
RE NEWS SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS ADULT PROGRAMS	NOTJUSTANOTHERCOFFEEHOUSE CONVERSATIONS AT THE MEETINGHOUSE

