# the chalice

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#### **JUNE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

June 7: 10am Family Service and 10:30am Adult Service: Rainbow Sunday

Our annual celebration of diversity and love will be led by our LGBTQ task force. We will focus on the debate now raging in America between "religious liberty" and full civil rights for LGBTQ persons. Please wear a shirt or blouse with a color of the rainbow for our annual UCS rainbow photo after service.

June 14: 10am Family Service and 10am Adult Service: **Beyond Our Walls** 

This service will travel beyond our UCS walls to discover what Unitarian Universalism is like regionally, nationally, and internationally. It is inspiring to learn about Unitarian farmers in India, factory workers in Romania, village churches in Kenya and New England, Unitarians speaking dozens of different languages and belonging to all social classes, united in a uniquely free form of religious faith.

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:15AM THROUGH AUGUST

June 21: 10:15am: Celebrating!

This intergenerational service (adults and children together) will celebrate the close of the formal church year. We will welcome new members, say farewell to a graduating senior, experience our annual flower communion ceremony, and enjoy a lively service to celebrate our spiritual community. After the service we will gather on the front lawn for our annual Fathers Day Picnic.

June 28: 10:15am:

**Saying Goodbye** 

How do you say goodbye? Though we often resist it, saying goodbye is a precious opportunity that can offer joy, healing and transformation. In his final service as ministerial intern, Chris Scheller will preach on the ministry of saying goodbye, and offer his own goodbye, with gratitude, to the congregation.

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Unitarian Universalist
Association
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781/784-3652
www.uusharon.org

#### President

Jim Mullin President@uusharon.org

#### Minister

Rev. Jim Robinson
Office Hours
Tu W Thu Fri
9:00am – 1:00pm
and by appointment
(Day off is Monday)
781/784-3652 x2
RevRobinson@uusharon.org

#### Director of Religious Ed.

Louise Marcoux
Office Hours
Tu W Th
8:30am - 3:00pm
Sunday 8:30am-1:00pm
and by appointment
781/784-3652 x3
DRE@uusharon.org

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Janet Mayo Office Hours Tu Th 8am-1:30pm Fr 8am-10:30am 781/784-3652 x1 Admin@uusharon.org

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Janet Mayo Newsletter@uusharon.org

#### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH 5PM

<u>Submit articles to</u> newsletter@uusharon.org

#### From the Minister

June is the final month of the regular church year. It has been an active and dynamic year at UCS in worship, religious education, social justice, adult programs, and in our sense of community caring and sharing. Every member and many friends have pitched in to make this year so vibrant. Thank you to everyone!

Some random notes: Please try and attend our UCS annual meeting on Friday June 12 at 7:30pm (preceded by a pot luck supper at 6pm). Our summer service program will begin in July on the theme of "Sources of Inspiration," A schedule of the summer speakers will be in next month's Chalice newsletter. Chris Scheller completes his two year Ministerial Internship with his final service on June 26. Chris has grown in his ministerial identity in a wonderful way while with us. He will remain on as our Youth Coordinator. I will be on vacation from June 23 to July 9. Appleseed and I will be staying with friends in London, England. It is our first visit back since we left five years ago. I will be working then for the rest of July and August.

May your summer be blessed!

-Jim Robinson

# Presidential Ponderings

Well, it's finally time for the Annual Meeting which will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup>. I hope you can come. Although the quorum is only 20% of the Congregation there have been years when we were calling people at home. We needed more members to attend to meet the quorum! This was in my earlier years with the Church and I was one of the people who got the phone call that year.

The next day is the Boston Pride Parade which has my vote as possibly the best parade around. If you want to march in it see the notice by the Social Justice Committee. I've gone several times and have actually missed it on the years where I didn't. There's a fantastic service at the Arlington Street Church beforehand which is also worth attending.

Soon the Summer Services will start. These have proven to be very interesting and popular. Although I used to enjoy it when we had the summer off (no services!), I feel drawn to these services with membership speaking on specific topics. Check them out.

Whatever you do, have a great summer,

-Jim Mullin

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

# From the Director of Religious Education

## **Dance Like Nobody's Watching**

Several years ago, I started dancing every Friday morning. As evocative music played, my NIA dance teacher encouraged us to "move from the inside out" – to allow our bodies to move in the ways they wanted to move. This was hard to do. There were other people in the room who would see all my clumsy, silly lumbering and thrashing about. How totally embarrassing. And then she told us how to keep our minds from getting in the way: dance like nobody's watching.

Turns out she was right. It works. When I dance like nobody's watching, I do move from the inside out. And so do the people around me. And the dance that we do together is amazing and beautiful, because it is each of our own dances, weaving and intersecting with each others', creating a representation of authentic human expression.

Being authentic is really hard. In our social-media-driven world, we are encouraged to curate careful representations of ourselves – sharing images of beautifully plated restaurant meals, selfies at famous landmarks, and the milestones of our children's lives. The highlights. All the good stuff... Where's the harm in that?

In her recent blog post, Be Instead of Brag, <a href="http://www.brainchildmag.com/2015/04/be-instead-of-brag/#">http://www.brainchildmag.com/2015/04/be-instead-of-brag/#</a>, Elizabeth Richardson Rau explores the downside of our social media representations of ourselves and our children. She thinks back to her comparatively anonymous childhood – during which no one but her family members knew how she was doing in school or what activities she was involved in. And she considers what it's like for children now – in a world in which children's activities and achievements are often shared widely.

I felt challenged by this blog post. And I reflected on all the pictures of my children that I've posted on face-book: prom, graduation, vacations, etc. Was there a possible downside to what I had been doing? Had I taken away some of their anonymity – some of private space that they needed to be themselves to try and fail and try again? Did my posting decisions send them the message that only their accomplishments mattered or that in some part my self-esteem was based on what kind of person they grew up to be?

Rau concludes: "Teaching children to value themselves for their successes and *be real about their struggles* might be healthier than advertising partial truths. Perhaps the time has come to place value where it should really be: who we are as human beings instead of what we are achieving. Isn't being—not bragging—the foundation of good self-esteem?"

I want my children – and really all children – to have a space in their lives where they can dance like nobody's watching. Where they can try and fail, try again and possibly fail again, and learn from what didn't work out. Where they can experience -- each in their own way -- the unfiltered joy of being alive.

Parenting is such a challenge. How lucky we are in this community to have one another to share the highlights AND the lowlights of our parenting journeys with one another.

Blessings,

Louise

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS, Continued

# What's Happening in Religious Education

June has snuck up on the RE classes and only two sessions remain to complete this year's explorations and activities about themes including our natural world, and promoting goodness and justice.

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will have a session appreciating the wonder and beauty of flowers. This will include learning about the life cycle of a flower and planting some seeds. They will also have a session about giving thanks which will demonstrate how expressing gratitude can make someone feel good. They will create some necklaces to share as special "thank-you" gifts.

The **Grade 1-2** students will enjoy two sessions about UU superheroes. In the first they will learn about Pete Seeger, folk musician and social justice and environmental activist. They will experience some of his music while learning how he shared his passion and fought for change. Their final session will explore the life of Norbert Capek who brought the Unitarian Universalist church to what is now the Czech Republic. This session points out how one's religious views may change over time and explains the origin of the Flower Communion. The students will have their own Flower Communion.

The **Grade 3-4** students will begin the month discussing courage and perseverance. They will hear stories that illustrate the importance of persevering, and how kind actions can inspire others. The students will then use the stories as inspiration to create hero comic books. The class will also have a session about the importance of working together. One of Aesop's Fables will illustrate how individuals gain strength when they join together. A class activity will get the students thinking about how they can solve a problem using both their individual and group strengths.

The **Grades 5-6 and 7-8** classes will both be covering a session about persistence. The story of Phoebe Hanaford, who worked for over 60 years for women's suffrage, will promote a long-range, patient view of working for justice. And the students will try an art activity which requires slow and careful persistence. The final session for both groups will be about the importance of gathering information and sharing it with others. It will promote learning about all aspects of a problem and the people involved in order to take effective actions. The groups will learn about our local water supply and brainstorm and share ways of protecting it.

Happy summer everyone!



# <u>Register Now for 2015-16</u> <u>Religious Education Program</u>

Parents are encouraged to register their children (ages 0-18) in next year's RE Program. Forms

are available on the RE bulletin board in the vestry. Online registration is available at <a href="http://www.uusharon.org/religious\_education/">http://www.uusharon.org/religious\_education/</a> registration/#form.

A \$10 discount is offered for all registrations received before July 1.

Scholarships are available: See Rev. Jim Robinson or Louise Marcoux.

#### What Do I Believe?

Next year our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be working with adult mentors from this congregation to explore such topics as "how can I find happiness?" and "good and evil" as a part of the Coming of Age program. Right now, youth are identifying which adults they might like to work with. Over the summer, the RE Committee will contact these adults about their availability to be mentors. The Coming of Age program will start in October.

#### JUNE PROGRAMS

**Meditation Group** - Meets Tuesday June 2 at 7:30pm and then breaks for the summer.

**Book Group** – Wednesday June 3 at 7:30pm to discuss Thomas Hardy's "Far From the Madding Crowd."

# Conversations at the Meetinghouse David Hagan, Pianist

Friday, June 5th at 7pm

David Hagan, Sharon resident, pianist and former faculty member at the New England Conservatory of Music will be making his third *Conversations at the Meetinghouse* with a presentation entitled "Song and Dance".

Mr. Hagan will discuss how music tend to be either lyrically or rhythmically based. By playing examples of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Gershwin, Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and Schubert, he will show how each composer has made the piano, essentially a percussion instrument,

sing



or dance.



**Covenant Group** – Meets Sunday June 7 at 7:00pm and then will break for the summer.

**Potluck Suppers** – This month we will have two potluck suppers, one on Friday, June 5 at 6pm (before the Conversations at the Meetinghouse) and one on Friday June 12 6pm (before the Annual Meeting). Bring a dish and enjoy the company.

# ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, June 12th, 7:30pm

A quorum of at least 20% of members of record is required to approve all articles. The Warrant will be mailed to all members and is also attached to this email.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Board of Trustees							
President	Jim Mullin	2014 – June 2016					
Vice President	Tim Theiler	2014 – June 2016					
Clerk	Carole McCarville*	2015 – June 2017					
Treasurer & Chair of Finance Cmte	Jim Schulz*	2015 – June 2017					
Trustee	Jessica Plumridge	2014 – June 2016					
Trustee	Chuck Bordman*	2015 – June 2017					
Trustee	John Kohler*	2015 – June 2017					
	* indicates new term						

# JUNE PROGRAMS, Continued

# **Not Just Another Coffee House**

Saturday, June 20 at 7pm Will McMillan



Our final coffee house for the 2014-2015 year will be cabaret style. Enjoy our homemade desserts and free trade beverages around tables as you listen to one of Boston's finest cabaret singers Will McMillan. A singer, songwriter, and founding member of the Boston Association of Cabaret Artists, Will has soloed for pop orchestras, numerous bands, and Capella groups. His first set will feature the works of the famous American composer Harold Arlen, and his second set the classic works of Cole Porter. It promises to be a delightful evening!

Men's Support Group – Meets Thursday June 11 and June 25 at 8pm. Open to new members.

**Women's Support Group** – Meets Thursday June 11 and June 25 at 7:30pm. Open to new members.

**Writer's Group** – Meets Sunday June 14 at 12pm in the church library. Bring an original poem or piece of poetry to share.

**Theist Sharing Group** – Meets Sunday June 14 at 5:30pm. A group for theists in the congregation.

Let's Laugh Today in Sharon is on Monday, June 15th from 7pm-8pm. Bring the whole family and get your giggle on by attending a FREE Laughter Yoga session. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. PLEASE BRING A CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. New laughers are always welcomed! www.letslaughtoday.com.

**Movie Night** – Meets Friday June 19 to view and discuss "Billy Elliot". The popcorn is free!



Annual end-of-summer Church Retreat will be September 4-6th (Labor Day weekend) at Ferry Beach in Saco, ME. Sign up in the church office, or contact Janet Mayo, the Administrative Assistant, at 781-784-3652 or <a href="mailto:admin@uusharon.org">admin@uusharon.org</a> and ask to have your name added to the sign up sheet. Also you'll need to register on-line at www.ferrybeach.org to reserve your lodging and meals. Contact Glenn Rivard for more information. Ferry Beach contact # is 207-282-4489.



# 3rd of July Sharon Fireworks at The Nelsons



Bring a picnic supper, stop by or linger, we'll be celebrating. Be aware Massapoag Ave. will be closed at 5 o'clock this year and we will not have the wide open, low lake, area like last year for fireworks viewing, but the rotary space is close by. Parking on the Lake side on Massapoag will start filling up at 4:30. We have driveway space for 8 cars. RSVP for parking and questions.

#### <u>MMAS</u>

It's not too early to reserve your ticket for Thursday, July 2 at 7:30pm for 1776. The show will be produced by MMAS and performed at the Bethany Congregational Church at 3 Rockhill St. Foxborough, It is not clear whether they will have a space for us to have a reception but this is a fabulous show with a great cast and not too be missed. It centers around John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Henry Lee, and Thomas Jefferson, follows their attempt to persuade the members of the second Continental Congress to vote for independence from the British monarchy by signing the Declaration of Independence. We

have a limited number of tickets so please email Pat McDougal at mcdougal.pat@gmail.com as soon as possible. Tickets are \$25.00.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and July 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm an original musical co-written by Mel Springer will be presented at MMAS in Mansfield. Get your tickets now from the MMAS!



# Thank You from the Ministerial Intern



As I am nearing the end of my ministerial internship with the Unitarian Church of Sharon, I want to say thank you to everyone in this community for all of your support and encouragement these last two years. I feel incredibly blessed to have been able to intern here, with such a vibrant and wonderful community. You have nurtured me in my growth as a minister and given me the opportunity to learn and improve where I needed to improve -- seeing in me and holding me to the minister that I can be. I am

especially grateful to all the members of the internship committee: Colleen Tuck, Ellen Davey-Fleming, Alison Reid, David Schoenfeld, and Liz Moore, for the generosity of your time through our regular meetings over the last two years. You have all contributed greatly to my ministerial formation. Thank you.

- Chris Scheller



# AIM II—We'd Like to Hear from You



We have reached the point in the AIM II project where we know what needs to be done. From the visioning session in March, we also have initial input from the congregation on what is important to you. Soon, we will receive from the architect a rough estimate of the overall costs so that we have a starting point for understanding what it might cost to accomplish our goals.

But, there is a lot of work left to do. While we have a list of what needs to be done, we still need to figure out exactly how we want it to be done. Over the next six months, we'll be in the design phase of the project where the focus will be on figuring out the "how" of what will be done and we are going to need your help.

There are a number of key areas that need to be addressed. Decisions in some areas will have an impact on other areas. Examples include:

- Accessibility This is a big question that involves how much to do as well as how to do it. It involves a decision on access to the stage, which is likely to impact the layout of what can be on the stage. It also involves positioning and layout of the pews. It includes a hearing assistance solution as well. Is there more?
- Energy Efficiency Do we need or want a different heating system? Do we need or want air conditioning? What to do about the windows? How should the walls and ceiling be insulated?
- Audio Visual System What, if anything, should we put in place to enable and enhance communication within the sanctuary (visual, aural, digital?) and with individuals or groups outside? Are there things we should do to enhance the space for performances? What should be done to wire the sanctuary for the future?
- Lighting With the maturity of LED lighting, what is possible with lighting and how it can be controlled has changed dramatically. Do we want LED "bulbs" in traditional glass fixtures, or do we want a more imaginative, flexible lighting system? Do we need to be able to darken the room for performances or movies?
- Ceiling It's not as simple as tin ceiling or plaster. The choice is likely to have bearing on energy efficiency and acoustic properties of the sanctuary. Our choice of lighting is likely to affect the ceiling decision and vice versa. Installation of a sprinkler system could also have bearing on the decision of how to finish the ceiling.
- Acoustics Your response to the visioning session made clear that we need to preserve the wonderful
  acoustics of our room. Whatever the final decisions on the items above, there will be change that could
  affect the acoustics. Acoustics need to be a driver at the start of the design process and not a result of
  construction.

If you have an interest or an expertise in a particular area, we would very much like to hear from you and get your input. We are blessed with a congregation of people that care deeply about all of these issues. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these topics, or if you would simply like to share your thoughts on them, please let us know preferably by sending us an email at <u>AIM2@uusharon.org</u>.

Jack Armstrong, Chair, Tom Kinraide, Edele Panessidi, Joe Rando, Gare Reid, Colleen Tuck

## SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - JUNE 2015

**Rainbow Sunday -** On June 7th, the Unitarian Church of Sharon will celebrate our annual Rainbow Sunday. The morning worship service will be led by the LGBTQ Equality focus group. The service will focus on "Religious Freedom". What does it mean? And, how are pending legislation in several states promoting "Religious Freedom" actually discriminating against LGBTQ folks. Plan to wear a colored shirt of the rainbow for the annual UCS photo after the service.

Honoring LGBTQ Equality, the UCS Social Justice Committee has selected the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) as the recipient of June's "brown envelope" offerings. This is an organization of educators creating safer environments for LGBTQ students through training for school faculties and the formation of Gay Straight Alliances for the youth. For more information, please see <a href="https://www.glsen.org">www.glsen.org</a>.

**Thank you!** The Social Justice Committee is grateful to report that from June 2014 through mid-May 2015 a total of \$11,781 was donated to the following organizations and causes through "Brown Envelope" offerings received and supplemented with Fair Trade sales profits:

\$	988	UU Urban Ministry's Youth Summer Programs in Roxbury, MA
\$	981	Doctors Without Borders
\$	922	FAMM.org
\$ 1	1,241	Water.org
\$ 1	1,404	Home for Little Wanderers
\$ 1	1,200	Father Bills & MainSpring
\$	906	Centro Presente
\$	812	UU Mass Action
\$	1,106	Southern Poverty Law Center
\$	1,429	Neponset River Watershed Association
\$	792	UUSC – Emergency Relief Services in Nepal
\$	tbd	Sharon-Stoughton Food Pantry and The World Food Programme
\$	tbd	Gay Lesbian Straight Educators Network (GLSEN)
\$ 1	1,781	Total To Date

A breakdown of the reach of the support from the "Brown Envelope" offerings to date is: 15% for emergency relief efforts; 17% national organizations; 57% local organizations; and 11% international organizations.

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**Boston Pride Parade** – Don your rainbow colored shirts and bring out your drums and scooters to march in the annual Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13th. We will meet at the Sharon train station and ride the 9:08 AM train into Back Bay. We will then attend the Pride service at the Arlington Street Church at 11:00 AM. At noon, we will march representing UCS in the Pride Parade. Please join us! Happy Pride!

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**During the summer** – Canned food donations will continue to be collected at UCS for the Stoughton-Sharon Food Pantry. We will continue to make lunches for MainSpring House one Sunday a month. Shopping for Justice gift cards and Fair Trade items will continue to be available for sale during coffee hour on Sundays.

The focus groups and the social justice movie nights will resume in September. The social justice committee will next meet in August. However, comments, questions and suggestions to the committee can be sent to justicecommittee@uusharon.org. Have a most wonderful summer!

Upcoming Dates: Sunday, June 7th – Rainbow Sunday

Saturday, June 13th – ASC Pride Service and Boston Pride Parade Sunday, June 14th, Coffee Hour – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House



# June 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please go to  www.uusharon.org/calendars  to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar.  7 Family Worship Service 10am Adult Worship Service 10:30am Religious Education Program 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm	1 Women's Group I (Closed Group) 7:30pm  8 Finance Committee 7pm Building & Grounds Com-	2 Childrens Choir 5:30pm Meditation Group 7:30pm  9 Childrens Choir 5:30pm Sharon Drug Awareness Coa-	Rehearsal for Adult Choir 7:30pm Book Group 7:30pm 10 Caring Committee 6:15pm Board of Trustees 7:15pm Rehearsal for Adult	11 Personnel Committee 7pm Second Women's Group	5 Membership Committee 12pm Potluck Supper 6pm Conversations 7pm	Saturday 6 Committee Chairs 9am  13 Circle Suppers (offsite) 6pm
Covenant Group 7pm		, i	Choir 7:300pm	Men's Group 8pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Family Worship Service 10am	Let's Laugh		Rehearsal for Adult		Movie Night 7pm	Not Just Another
Adult Worship Service 10:30am	, ,	5:30pm	Choir 7:30m			Coffee House 7pm
Religious Education Program 10:30am	Women's Group I (Closed Grp)					. p
Writers group 12pm	7:30pm					
Senior Youth Group 5pm						
Theist/Jesus Study Group 5:30pm						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship Service 10:15am				Second Wom- en's Group (Open) 7:30pm	Newsletter Dead- line 5pm	
				Mens group 8pm		
28 Worship Service 10:15am	29	30				