

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

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 5PM Submit articles to newsletter@uusharon.org **FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** 10am Family Service and 10:30am Adult Service (while children are in RE classes)

#### Feb. 7

#### Voting Grounded in our UU Principles

We will not discuss specific candidates! We will remind ourselves of the justice values that all UUs try to live by and make decisions by. We will also touch base with the social justice issues that UCS advocates for, such as human rights, economic justice and climate change. Thank you to Ellen Davey-Fleming, Mia Joiner-Moore and Sue Mooney for sharing their messages to the congregation.

#### Feb. 14

#### **Coming to America**

We will hear two stories about immigrating from China to America. Lilly Zhou, UCS member, will share her experience and Jim Robinson will speak about a Chinese-American friend. We will celebrate some core spiritual values from Chinese traditions that enrich America.

## Feb. 21:Understanding Love: In Word and Song

Through special music and poetry we will explore various aspects of love. We say: "Love is the doctrine of this church." What is love? How do know when love is healthy and genuine, and not just attachment?

#### Feb. 28: Credo Sunday

This is a special annual service at UCS. Two members of our congregation will share their credos. A credo is a statement of the beliefs and values that guide our life. The service will stimulate your thinking about the beliefs and values that guide your life.

If you would like to gather with UU's from our 5 Point Cluster (UU congregations of Sharon, N. Easton, Stoughton, Foxborough, Canton), the next common worship Sunday is February 14<sup>th</sup> at the First Parish Universalist Church of Stoughton, 790 Washington Street, Stoughton, service starts at 10:30am.

## Weather Related Cancellations



Call the church at 781.784.3652 to learn whether services or other activities are canceled due to weather.



#### From the Minister

This church year we have made a commitment to understand racism and to work for change. We have had Sunday services on Black Lives Matter, White Privilege, Remembering Selma, Immigrant rights, and we hosted the ML King interfaith service. Our family service and church school has looked squarely at the issue. We have had workshops on racial injustice in the penal system (discussing the book "Just Mercy"). We have had movie nights dedicated to films exploring race relations in America. The Board of Trustees has placed a Black Lives Matter sign below our Wayside Pulpit. We held a vigil to support our Islamic neighbors and another in support of racial justice. We raised money for Equal Justice Initiative. At moments it can seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the depth of the problem. But we need to remember the words of our Unitarian ancestor, Edward Everett Hale (whose statue is in Boston Commons): "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do." I sincerely believe we can end racism in America, but only if we will talk about it, name it, and work on it, not just today, but for the long run.

Jim Robinson

#### **Presidential Ponderings**

I was just reading the January/February issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer*, a great magazine stuck with an unfortunate name they apparently thought was a satirical reflection on the National Inquirer many years ago. They try to be the exact opposite of the national supermarket magazine. It occasionally posts an interesting letter to the editor from Ken Olum but that isn't what I want to write about this month.

This issue there was an article on "Trends in Scientific Knowledge, Education, and Religion" by Charles Reichardt, a professor of psychology at the University of Denver. He compares ten years of the General Social Survey to rates of religious participation over the years. The ten questions in the survey aren't terribly difficult questions, for examples: true or false, a laser works by focusing sound waves or; true or false, the center of the earth is very hot. About 51% of the country gets the first one wrong and 17% get the second one wrong. What is interesting is that over this same ten years the country has become significantly less religious but the answers have not changed all that much. It wasn't the author's point but I had to wonder if the enemy of scientific understanding is not often non-liberal religion as some of my humanist colleagues believe. Perhaps it is something else or something else in conjunction with religion and we should figure out what it is. What do you think?

#### Jim Mullin



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Love is the doctrine of this Church The quest for truth is its sacrament And service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, To seek knowledge in freedom, To serve humanity in fellowship, To the end that all souls shall grow Into harmony with the divine: Thus do we covenant together.

- The Covenant of the Unitarian Church of Sharon

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

## From The Director of Religious Education

## Having "The Talk" with your child, Round 2

Many parents have received solid support from their UU congregation to find ways to communicate their values about sexuality with their children. How to identify a teachable moment. How to answer questions in a developmentally appropriate manner. How to make sure that the emotional tone, "the music," is positive and not emotionally fraught. How to find the balance between withholding helpful information and TMI.

But "The Talk" that I'm talking about isn't about sexuality. It's "The Talk" about race and injustice. There are many parents who have this talk with their children from a very early age. In fact, their children's survival may depend upon having this talk. In order to develop a healthy self-concept, black children need to know from a young age the difference between who they are inside and how they may be perceived by others. For parents of white children, there is less urgency because their child is not likely to be on the receiving end of racially-related odd or mean comments, angry or fearful glances. And teachable moments may seem fewer and farther between – or possibly harder to recognize. Where do you start? And how young?

The *Our Whole Lives* program has reinforced my belief that in every waking moment of my child's life, whether or not I am saying anything, I am sending her messages about who she is and about the nature of the world she lives in. The older she gets, the more complex and challenging her questions get. My conclusion: with complex topics like sexuality and race, it's worth starting the conversation with your young child, when the questions at least seem simpler and you have more time to think about how to answer.

This month, I hope to launch a discussion group for parents who want a deeper conversation with their child about race and injustice. If you're wondering where to start, are concerned about what's developmentally appropriate, feel strongly about the emotional tone, or aren't sure how much information is too much (or too little), you'll be in good company. We'll start with our deeply-felt questions to discover where to begin.

Blessings,

Louise



**Coming of Age Meetings** 

February 2; 7:30 pm – Youth only February 23; 7:30 pm – Youth and Mentors

#### Parents as Racial Justice Educators

Wondering how to talk with your child about segregation, the civil rights movement, or Black Lives Matter? Not sure how? This group will explore how we can share what we know with our children in meaningful and developmentally appropriate ways.

We'll meet Sunday, February 28, from noon to 1. Childcare and snack will be provided. Questions? See Louise Marcoux.



# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS, Continued**

## **Upcoming RE Field Trips – SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday, March 6, will feature field trips for two RE groups.

*Junior Youth* will gather at church at 10 am to travel to Temple Sinai to learn more about Judaism from Jewish children and adults. The group will return to the church parking lot at 11:40 am.

*Grades 3-4 children and their families* are invited to caravan to the Ilse Marks Food Pantry in Stoughton. Henrietta Polanzak will provide a complete tour of the food pantry and answer the children's questions. We'll leave the church parking lot at noon. Tour starts at 12:30.

Permission slips will be emailed out soon. Please return completed permission slips by March 6.

## February in Religious Education

This February our RE classes will be filled with themes and activities promoting open minds and hearts!

Our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will begin the month of February learning about Chinese New Year and making their very own dragon! They will make valentines for their families while learning about expressing love and friendship. Then the children will spend two sessions exploring families; celebrating different types of families, and talking about the benefits and responsibilities that are associated with being a part of a family.

The **Grade 1-2** class will also be talking about families as they continue their OWL sessions. They will create a mural reflecting different types of families, explore the emotions associated with being a part of a family, and discuss the arrival of a baby to a family through birth or adoption. The class will share a special session on February 14 joining with Grade 3-4 to make cards for the ill and home-bound members of our congregation.

In addition to their shared session with their younger RE friends the **Grade 3-4** students will be learning about the First UU Source; our shared sense of wonder. They will learn through a story and craft project that faults can be turned into strengths and blemishes into beauty. In another session they will explore the idea of loving others as we love ourselves while working on expressing their emotions and building awareness of gender bias. The students will wrap up the month with a session that aims to deepen empathy for all living creatures and engage the students in a game that gets them thinking about animal communication.

The **Grade 5-6** students will participate in a lesson about communication that explores both how they communicate and how their communications are received by others. They will also spend one week discussing service in terms of occupations that are difficult and sometimes even dangerous yet crucial to the functioning of society. Another session will teach about privilege and aims to show that it is most valuable when shared. The students will also have a shared session on February 14<sup>th</sup> where they will create cards of condolence for a lost loved one or pet, as well as for coming of age events.

The **Grade 7-8** class will join with grade 5-6 for their February 14<sup>th</sup> card making session. The class will then spend the rest of February furthering their study of world religions with this month focusing on Judaism. The students will also attend the church's Credo service on February 28th.

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# FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Book Group – Feb. 3, Wed., 7:30pm, discussing "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Potluck Supper – Feb. 5, Friday, 6pm: Bring a dish and enjoy the company.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse - Feb. 5, Friday, 7pm

Professor Rebecca Kinraide will speak on "Eureka! A Brief History of Science." She will talk about the key moments in the history of science that shaped the way cultures understood and interacted with knowledge of the natural world. Childcare will be available during the presentation.

**Meditation Group** - Meets on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:30pm and Tuesday Feb. 23 at 7:30pm. New comers always welcome. We alternate times of sitting and walking meditation for one hour.

**Movie Night** – Feb. 12, Friday, 7pm. We will view and discuss an award winning Japanese animated film entitled "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind", about a young princess struggling to bring peace to a warring world. The popcorn is free!

**Men's Group** – If you are interested in joining a men's support group contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharon.org.

**Women's Group** – If you are interested in joining a women's support group contact Kathleen Guilday at k.guilday@comcast.net.

**Covenant Group** – If you are interested in joining one of our covenant groups that meet on Sunday evenings contact Jim Robinson at revrobinson@uusharon.org. A covenant group is a small sharing circle which focuses on key moral and spiritual themes.

Let's Laugh Today is on Saturday, February 13th, 11am-noon in Program Rooms A/B. See how contagious laughter really is by attending a FREE Laughter Yoga session. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PAN-TRY. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. New laughers are always welcomed! See more information at www.letslaughtoday.com

**Couples Enrichment Group** – Meets Feb. 18, Thursday, 7:30pm. All personal sharing is only done between partners. A fun evening to explore and deepen an aspect of your relationship. Led by Jim and Appleseed Robinson.

**Children's Choir** meets on Tuesdays at 5:30pm-6:30pm (pizza included). If would like more information contact Forbesy Russell at forbesyrussell@hotmail.com.

**Children's Theatre and Drama Group** meets on Wednesdays, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24, from 4:15pm to 5:15pm. If you would like more information contact Alice Springer at melalice15@gmail.com.

**Writer's Group** – UCS members share their original poems and prose in a supportive atmosphere, which leads to in depth discussion. The group meets on Sunday, Feb. 21, 12noon to 1pm.

Adult Choir – Always open to new singers. If you want more information contact Jennifer Spencer at nifandi@comcast.net.



## FEBRUARY PROGRAMS, continued

## <u>NOT JUST ANOTHER COFFEE HOUSE</u> Saturday, February 20 at 7pm KC Moaners: A Jug Band



We are please to welcome back New England's most popular jug band. Jug Band music began in the 1890's when groups formed making music from common household items. The sound caught on and travelling bands were popular. The KC Moaners try to stay as close to the traditional sound and energy as possible. They are lively, joyful, and highly entertaining. The ticket price is \$15 or whatever you can afford that evening. And of course enjoy our home made desserts and free trade beverages.

#### SUPER BOWL CELEBRATION Sunday Feb 7 @ 6pm



Come socialize at the Drisko home (105 Beach Street, Sharon) and enjoy the festivities that accompany the NFL's season ending game. We are all hoping for a repeat of last

year's thriller. Cost per person is \$5 and can be paid at the door; food and beverage will be provided. Betting squares are available in the church vestry for \$5 each starting Sunday Jan 24th; see any member of the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund to participate.

Fred Bramhall; Lindsay Drisko; Rory McGregor; Raquel Ripley; Jeff Rose; Frank Salvatore, Chair

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#### <u>The Return of</u> Family Game Night

Mark your calendars, the Membership Committee is preparing an encore edition of its midwinter event for fans of board and group games, singing,

laughter, painting, and pizza. The free, all-ages gathering will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. March 12, and will feature an array of attractions that may include a singalong with the children's choir, favorite games and activities, cupcake decorating, and creating placemats for residents of the Epoch Center senior facility, with a break for pizza to keep our strength up. We hope to see you there!

## Mansfield Music and Arts Society

Our next show at Mansfield Music and Arts Society is Dr. Ruth **starring Alice Springer** on Saturday, March 5. Everyone knows Dr. Ruth Westheimer from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist. Few, however, know the incredible journey that preceded it. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport and joining the Haganah in Jerusalem as a scout and sniper, to her struggles to succeed as a single mother coming to America, Becoming Dr. Ruth is filled with the humor, honesty and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became "Dr. Ruth", America's most famous sex therapist.

If we have enough people we will make-our-own reception at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$26.00 per person. Please email Pat McDougal if interested. We encourage new church members and friends to join us for a fun evening of socializing and entertainment. Checks should be made out to MMAS and sent to Pat at 40 Jordan Drive. Stoughton, 02072.

## Partner Church News

Last September we celebrated a new partnership between the Unitarian Church of Sharon and the John Pounds Memorial Unitarian Church of Portsmouth, England. At that service, members of UCS signed up to be internet pen pals with Unitarians in Portsmouth. The assignments have been made and our UCS members have been notified about their new Unitarian friend across the pond.

The longstanding partnership between UCS and the Unitarian Fellowship in Gyulakuta, Romania continues. We received letters of gratitude from the minister and several members for our financial help making an organist available for their services and the Transylvanian Unitarian magazine available to each member. We are also helping their one high school youth to attend school.

## <u>Five Point Cluster Potluck and</u> <u>Music Evening</u>

Held at the Unitarian Church of Sharon Saturday, Feb. 27 5pm supper and 6:30pm music

Our Five Point Cluster is composed of the UU Congregations in Sharon, Stoughton, N. Easton, Canton, and Foxborough. Bring a dish and enjoy meeting UU's from the five different congregations. Then at 6:30pm enjoy singing our favorite hymns and listening to live music provided by local UU's.



From our Partner Church in Transylvania

We are wish Happy New Year! Tokés Lóránt

## From the Larger community: Two Invitations to Help

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Sharon prepares fresh good for the Ilse Mark's Food Pantry. They are in need of help: volunteers who can give a few hours once in a while to chop vegetables, bake cookies, prepare soups, and make deliveries. If you can spare a few hours during the month, and would like to help out, contact Susanne Mullin at 781-784-2631.

THE SUSTAINABLE SHARON COALITION is Sharon's leading grassroots environmental group. One of their projects is working to improve how Sharonites recycle and dispose of trash. They are working to make fundamental changes in how trash is handled in Sharon in order to improve our environmental responsibility. If you would like to learn about this project and how you can help contact Ricky Stern at <u>drickystern@sternpert.com</u>.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - FEBRUARY 2016

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, members of the social justice committee will lead the worship service on "**Voting Grounded in our UU Principles**". We will not discuss specific candidates, but we will remind ourselves of the justice values that all UUs try to live by and make decisions by. We will also touch base with the social justice issues that UCS advocates for, such as human rights, economic justice and climate change. Thank you to Ellen Davey-Fleming, Mia Joiner-Moore and Sue Mooney for sharing their messages to the congregation.

February's **brown envelope offerings** will be donated to **UU Mass Action**. UU Mass Action provides timely and important information to all UU congregations in Massachusetts on social justice issues. It also collaborates with partners to organize workshops and teleconference meetings on climate change, immigration rights, mass incarceration and income inequality. UU Mass Action also hosts an annual advocacy day on capitol hill. The next advocacy day is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>. The work of UU Mass Action is invaluable to UCS' social justice committee's efforts in our congregation. For more information and to register for their email newsletters, see <u>www.uumassaction.org</u>

**UU Mass Action Teleconference on Climate Change and the Spectra Pipeline** reported by Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks)– On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 50 folks from across Massachusetts participated in a teleconference meeting to share the important issues being addressed today on climate initiatives. Interestingly, the Spectra Energy pipeline project dominated the agenda. People across the state are engaged in protesting and even doing civil disobedience. (Back in October two UU ministers and Chuck Collins, who spoke from our pulpit on economic injustice, were arrested for preventing pipeline construction.) In West Roxbury, daily and Monday night vigils are being held in protest. Additionally, multiple town meetings have voted in opposition to the pipeline.

Organizations like <u>350.org</u>, Mass Audubon Society, Conservation Law Foundation, etc., are lending their voice and expertise to promote sustainable environmental practices and legislative initiatives. Bottom line: Keep fossil fuel in the ground to minimize global warming; push against the big money of oil/gas industry; and promote supportive legislation for alternative energies.

After researching the pipeline topic, I placed a "No Spectra Pipeline" sign in my front yard. Spectra Energy has many recorded violations and accident records that would alone get my "No" vote. But, the real reason to oppose the pipeline is to support all efforts for sustainable and ecological practices. Learn more at <u>www.NoSharonGasPipeline.org</u>

"Brown Envelope" Collections from July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> donated \$6,631 to support nonprofit organizations locally, nationally and internationally. These donations are helping address homelessness, youth and family services, immigration rights, the refugee crisis, and climate change. In December, \$900 was donated to 350.org from the brown envelope offerings and \$1,300 was donated to MainSpring House from the Christmas Eve offerings.

Additionally, \$1,000 from **Shopping for Justice** is being donated to five local food pantries (\$200 each), and \$500 from the profits of the **Fair Trade** Sales are being donated to UUSC, Standing on the Side of Love, Friends New England, Out MetroWest and the Sustainable Sharon Coalition (\$100 each). Thank you for your abundant generosity!

**Uprooting Racism – A bi-weekly exploration** – Rabbi Randy Kafka is leading bi-weekly discussions of the book "Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice" (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) by Paul Kivel. The February meetings will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM at the Sharon Community Center. Copies of the book are in our library.

**Speaking Your Truth: The Art of Being a Voice for Justice** – Discover the power of your authentic public voice. This workshop will provide an opportunity to improve your ability to speak from the heart and encourage others to take action on the justice issues about which you are most passionate. The workshop will be held at the First Church in Belmont on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. See <u>www.uumassaction.org</u> for more information and to register. If interested in carpooling, please contact Mia at <u>lizandmia@aol.com</u>

**Social Justice Movie Night** – The next social justice movie night will be on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. Please watch your Sunday order of services for the announcement of the film and discussion. Plan to attend!

Upcoming Social Justice Activities:	Sunday, January 31 <sup>st</sup> , Noon – "Just Mercy" Book Discussion
	Sunday, February 7th, 10:30 AM – Voting Grounded in our UU Principles
	Tuesday, February 9th, 7:00 PM – Meeting of the Social Justice Committee
	Sunday, February 14th, 11:30 AM – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House
	Friday, February 26th, 7:00 PM – Social Justice Movie Night

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# February 2016 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Women's Group I (Closed Group) 7:30pm	5:30pm	3 Book Group 7:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	4	5 Potluck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meeting- house 7pm	6 Committee Chairs 9am
7 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am RE Classes 10:30am Youth Group 5pm	8	5:30pm Social Justice	10 Children's Drama Grp 4:15pm Board of Trus- tees 7:15pm Adult Choir	11 Second Women's Group 7:30pm Men's Group 8pm	12 Movie Night 7pm	13 Let's Laugh Today 11am
14 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am RE Classes 10:30am MainSpring Lunchmaking 11:30am Youth Group 5pm Covenant Group 7pm	15	16 Children's Choir 5:30pm	17 Adult Choir 7:30pm	18 Couples Group 7:30pm	19	20 Coffee House 7pm
21 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am RE Classes 10:30am Writer's Group12pm Youth Group 5pm Covenant Group 7pm	22	Children's Choir	24 Children's Drama Grp 4:15pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	25 Women's Group 7:30pm Mens group 8pm	26 Newsletter Deadline 5pm Social Justice Movie Night 7pm	27 5 Point Clus- ter Dinner and Hymn Sing 5pm
28 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am RE Classes 10:30am Parents as Racial Educators 12pm Youth Group 5pm Covenant Group 7pm	29			Please go to <u>www.uusharon.org/calendars</u> to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar.		

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 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT

 WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

 CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

 781/784-3652

 SEND AN EMAIL TO

 OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON 4 NORTH MAIN STREET SHARON, MA 02067

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