

# the chalice

Published by the  
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*A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**  
**5PM**  
Submit articles to  
**newsletter@uusharon.org**

## NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**10am Family Service**

**10:30am Adult Service** (while children are in their  
religious education classes)  
Childcare provided

### Nov. 6 **The Syrian Crisis**

(Please note that Daylight Savings Time ends on November 6th.)

This service will take the sadness, horror, and anger we may feel about Aleppo, the Syrian Civil War, and the millions of displaced refugees and turn it into concrete action. The service will be led by two members of the Syrian-American Medical Association, Dr. Abdulfatah Elshaar and his daughter Ala'a Elshaar, who have worked in the refugee camps in the Middle East. Special music will be shared by Kareem Roustom.



### Nov. 13 **Nurturing Healthy Relationships**

Healthy relationships do not happen by magic. There are basic guidelines which nurture relationships. We will explore some of those guidelines and encourage you to think about how you would apply them in your life. We will give a special focus to family relationships. We will also apply these guidelines to the distrust between political groups in our country.

### Nov. 20 **Thanksgiving**

Gratitude is one of the most important and effective spiritual practices. Without an active practice of gratitude, our life is pulled down into a morass of worry and negativity. But when gratitude stays at the center of our life, then we experience joy for the gift of life and the suffering we must encounter can be transformed into compassion.

### Nov 27 **Breath: The Intimacy of Inspiration**

As tradition has it, the first meditation practice the Buddha taught (after his awakening) was to simply experience yourself breathing. In the Jewish book of Genesis, God breathes into the human form to give it life. Modern science describes the human breath with amazing complexity. This service will explore the human breath and how the Divine is as close to us as our breathing.

## Annual Sharon Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Sponsored by the Sharon Interfaith Clergy Association



When: Sunday, November 20, 6:30pm  
Where: The Islamic Center of New England, 60 Chase Drive, Sharon  
What: An interfaith thanksgiving service followed by a light dinner served by the ICNE community

This is our annual Thanksgiving celebration for the entire Sharon community. Members and clergy from most of our spiritual communities will be present.

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## *From the Minister*

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### *Gratitude and Balance*

It has been a bruising Presidential and Congressional election season. Many people are tired and discouraged by the negativity. This is in addition to the fact that life is not easy. We all have some sadness or frustration in our life. There are a lot of painful problems in the world. To balance all of this, we need to remember to be consciously grateful for all the blessings we have been given. It can be as simple as gratitude for eyesight, the food on our table, the people we love. Remembering to be consciously grateful brings joy back into our heart. It also helps us experience life's difficulties and turn them toward compassion and healing. November is the month in our culture to highlight gratitude (Thanksgiving). I invite you during the month of November to make conscious gratitude a daily practice.

-Jim Robinson

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## *From the Director of Religious Education*

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### *Magic*

I've felt myself caught up in the remarkable beauty of fall – the sweet smell of decaying leaves, the extraordinary patterns of movement formed by flocking birds or wind-swirled leaves, the mystery of a cloud-swathed moon. In such moments, the business of my life falls away – the obligations to family, to work, to community – and I feel myself as part of this beautiful earth as it journeys around the sun.

Over the next two months, I invite our children and teachers to share this experience of tuning into the season. On Sunday morning, we're going to slow down and explore the stories and traditions of this dark time of the year. As we play and dance and build things, we'll try to discover connections between these stories and our own lives. Then we'll gather up what we've learned and share it with the whole congregation at the Revels service on December 11.

Revels is a magical journey. Be a part of the magic!

Blessings,

*Louise*

### **Holiday Make and Take Craft Workshop: Nov 5**

Your child can discover their "inner elf" – making a variety of hand-crafted "gifts from the heart" with the support and guidance of adult volunteers. So many choices and lots of time to explore: woodworking, candle-making, printing, painting, modeling, and more. It all happens Saturday, November 5, 11 am to 3 pm. Fee is \$10 per child with a cap of \$20 per family. Scholarships are available through Rev. Jim Robinson, Louise Marcoux, Kate Parker-O'Toole, or Kate Barber. This program is sponsored by the Religious Education Committee.

**Holiday Make & Take**

## November in Religious Education

November will find our RE classes busy preparing for our annual Revels celebration on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Preschool-Kindergarten** will focus on the story of the baby born in the stable. The children will explore different aspects of this story while enjoying walks outside, trying movement exercises, and creating animals to fill their very own barn.

The **Grade 1-2** students will learn about the solstice and the sun as a source of life within us. They will also learn about monoliths and undertake a large art project to share their explorations with the congregation at Revels.

The **Grade 3-4** group will be exploring the traditions of Hanukkah and Yule. The students will learn about the lighting of the menorah, deck the halls of their classroom, and prepare to lead our Revels call to worship. An important focus during these explorations will be the question “What does it mean to lead worship?”

The **Grade 5-6** class will be exploring the Italian folktale “La Befana.” They will be storyboarding and creating puppets to share their own version of this story with us at Revels.

The **Grade 7-8** students who are participating in the OWL program will have one more Sunday morning session in November. (Their OWL sessions will then move to Sunday afternoons – please see dates and times listed in this newsletter.) The class will begin Revels prep on November 13<sup>th</sup> and will be exploring the symbolism and traditions of Santa Lucia.

## Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Grades 5-6

Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to find out what *Our Whole Lives for Grades 5-6 (OWL 5-6)* is all about at a one-hour informational meeting on Sunday, November 13, at noon. We’ll watch a video about maintaining healthy communication between parent and adolescent, with a brief discussion to follow. You’ll learn about the structure of the *OWL 5-6* program (including parents’ roles), review the topics and themes, and find out when the church will offer this program – so that you can make an informed decision about your child’s participation in *OWL*. “Fun care” and healthy snacks will be available to your children during this program.

Please also save the date for the kick-off of OWL 5-6: Sunday, January 8, 12:30 to 3 pm. Participation in this January meeting by your 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grader and at least one parent are required for your child to take part in the rest of *OWL 5-6*.

### RE Classroom shuffle in November

Please check the announcements in your order of service each Sunday to confirm where your child’s group will meet. We are temporarily shifting room assignments to support the technical requirements of certain lessons.

	Grade 3-4	Grade 5-6	Grade 7-8
<b>Nov 6</b>	Program A	Vestry	Library
<b>Nov 13</b>	Library	Program A	Vestry
<b>Nov 20</b>	Library	Program A	Vestry
<b>Nov 27</b>	Library	Program A	Vestry

### Junior Youth RE program in November

The Grade 7-8 program is complicated in November. On November 13 and 20, the group will meet in the morning to prepare for Revels AND in the late afternoon to continue with the OWL curriculum. Please print out this schedule and stick it on your refrigerator.

Date	time	program	location
<b>Nov 6</b>	10-11:30 am	Our Whole Lives 7-8	Library
<b>Nov 13</b>	10:30-11:30 am	Revels	Vestry
<b>Nov 13</b>	4-5:30 pm	Our Whole Lives 7-8	Program A/B
<b>Nov 20</b>	10:30-11:30 am	Revels: Santa Lucia	Vestry
<b>Nov 20</b>	4-5:30 pm	Our Whole Lives 7-8	Program A/B
<b>Nov 27</b>	10:30-11:30 am	Revels: Santa Lucia	Vestry

## *November Programs*

**Children's Choir** meets each Tuesday at 5:30pm. New children always welcome.

**Adult Choir** rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm and Sunday morning at 9:15am. New voices always welcome.

**Meditation Group** meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm. New comers always welcome.

**Book Group** meets Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30pm to discuss “The Island of Worthy Boys” by Constance Mayo.

**Men's Group** meets on Thursday Nov. 10 at 8pm. New men always welcome.

**Women's Support Group** meets Thursday Nov. 10 at 7:30pm. New women always welcome.


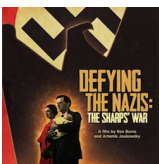
**Al-Anon 11th Step Meeting** meets every Sunday evening at 7:30. New comers welcome.

**Covenant Groups** – If you would like to join one of our Covenant Groups please contact Jim Robinson at [revrobinson@uusharon.org](mailto:revrobinson@uusharon.org). A Covenant Group is a small group which meets twice a month to discuss core spiritual and ethical issues using guidelines for sharing which ensure a contemplative discussion.

**Pot Luck Supper** – Friday, November 4, at 6pm. Bring a dish and enjoy the company.

**Conversations at the Meetinghouse - Friday, November 4, 7pm**


Our presenter will be Stuart Sears, PhD speaking on “The Middle East and the Refugee Crisis”. Stuart Sears is an Arabic Language and cultural scholar who received his PhD from the University of Chicago in Arabic and Islamic Studies. He is co-founder of the Arabic Language Associate and formerly Professor at the American School in Cairo, Egypt. Professor Sears will describe the current situation in the Middle East and its relation to the refugee crisis.




**Five Point Cluster Movie Night** - Saturday, November 5, 6:30pm, at the Foxborough Universalist Church, 6 Bird Street, Foxborough. We will view the movie Ken Burns documentary entitled *“Defying the Nazis: The Sharps War”*. The film tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, Unitarian Minister and his wife from Wellesley, Mass., who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple missions in Europe to save refugees fleeing from Nazi occupation and atrocities. The discussion after the film will be moderated by UUSC staff member Paul Langston-Daly. The 5 Point Cluster is composed of the UU Congregations in Foxborough, Sharon, Easton, Canton, and Stoughton.

**Movie Night** meets Friday November 11 at 7pm to view and discuss the movie “*The 33*” about the 69 day ordeal it took to save 33 miners trapped underground in a Chilean mine.



 **Laughter Yoga** - Saturday, November 12, 11am—Trade all your Election Day stress and upcoming holiday stress for laughter. ***Giggles and Chipper the laughter pups will be there this month!*** Enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. 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 your water bottle and at least one canned good for the Sharon/Stoughton Food Pantry. New laughers are always welcomed! See [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com) for more information.



 **Art in the Heart** meets Friday, November 18at 7pm. Join us for an evening of play, fun, creativity, and community. We will provide for you a variety of artistic media under the guidance of our Art in the Heart team of Kate Parker O'Toole, Mare Parker O'Toole, Dia Cheney, Jean Fox, and Appleseed Robinson. This is art without right or wrong, good or bad, better worse – rather it is art for everyone to enjoy. Let your inner child play!





## *Not Just Another Coffee House*

*Saturday, November 19, 7pm*  
*Tom Smith, Diane Battistello, & Seth Connelly*



Three of New England's finest folk singers (Tom Smith, Diane Battistello, and Seth Connelly) combine to bring us an evening of original songs. Tom Smith's songs are in turn humorous, touching, thought provoking, and inspiring. Diane's sweet voice makes you sit up and take notice of her powerful words. Special guest Seth Connelly is an amazing guitarist known throughout New England. Great music, delicious desserts, fair trade beverages and good company! \$15 or whatever you can afford to give us that evening.



Anna Nichamoff, from the Unitarian Church of Sharon, and Helen Cato, from the Portsmouth, England Unitarian Church, met to discuss the on-going partnership between our two congregations. Anna (with back up help from her parents David and Susan) is our Sharon contact and Helen is the Portsmouth contact. Helen brought greetings from our partner church on Sunday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. You can read the many messages written by Portsmouth Unitarians on the bulletin board across from the church kitchen. Anna will be keeping us informed via the monthly Chalice about our partners in England.



The art display in the Vestry for November and December is by UCS member Bri McAlevey.

### ***HOLIDAY HAPPENING***

***Saturday, December 10th***  
***5-7 pm***

**Warm up your holiday spirit by joining families and friends at the congregation's annual pot-luck social from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, in the vestry.**

**Bring a favorite dish to share, whether an appetizer, salad, main course or dessert -- through the miracle of community, there's always enough of everything -- and the Membership Committee provides the setting for the casual, all-ages event.**

**See you there!**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES - NOVEMBER 2016

**Social Justice Sunday – November 6:** Representatives from the Syrian American Medical Society ([www.sams-usa.net](http://www.sams-usa.net)) will be the guest speakers at both worship services. SAMS is a non-profit, non-political, educational and humanitarian organization. Its members are medical professionals of Syrian descent. The services will include special music played by Syrian American musicians.

**Brown Envelope Update:** We raised \$795 over three Sundays in September to support our Partner Church in Gyulakuta, Romania. We'll pay for the second semester high school tuition of one of the church members (\$300) and send the rest via the UU Partner Church Council to support the congregation. October brown envelope offerings will support the New Start Project.

Our November **brown envelope** offerings will support the work of the Syrian American Medical Society.

**Shopping For Justice** – You can buy **Shopping for Justice** cards at church during coffee hour or order extra cards in advance. We have cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y (which recently bought out the Hannaford stores in our area), and +/-5% of the value stays with the church to help fund our social justice projects in support of people who experience food and housing insecurity locally and beyond.

**Social Justice Committee Meets Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM:** At the Unitarian Church of Sharon, we are all members of the social justice committee. Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, where we plan and coordinate the social justice activities of the church and discuss current issues.

### Individual Opportunities for Social Justice Updates and Actions:

- **UU Mass Action** -Sign up to receive updates from the state action network organizing and mobilizing 140 UU congregations and 20,000 UU's around issues of social justice. Go to [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org) and click on *About Us* on the home page to get to the sign-up link.
- **Become a UCS Social Justice Change Agent** – Receive monthly email alerts about opportunities to act on time-critical social justice issues, primarily by contacting state and federal legislators. To participate, please email Kari Thostenson at [kjhoste@gmail.com](mailto:kjhoste@gmail.com).

**Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults** – Come to a meeting with FNE International's Executive Director Michael Cipoletti on **Monday, November 14 at 7:30 PM** in the church library to learn about plans developing for a mid-July, one-week trip to Chacraseca, a large rural community outside of the Pacific coastal city of Leon. If we get enough people to make the trip happen, we'll work with FNE International ([fneinternational.org](http://fneinternational.org)) on house construction and other activities in the community.

**2016-17 UUA Common Read:** There are several copies of *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* in our church library and in the Vestry during coffee hour. It includes a timely analysis of how to build alliances for the common good from groups with disparate agendas. We will be organizing discussions and more in January-February, but you can borrow a copy any time.

**Clothing Drive:** The Family Center in Brockton needs the following *specific* clothing items (gently used or new).

Hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves for all ages.

Boys' winter clothing (sizes 10/12, 14/16, and 18)

Boys' shoes (sizes 1 and 3)

Mens' shoes (size 8.5, for a 13-year-old boy)

Contributions can be left in a box in the Vestry through **Sunday, November 20**. We expect to organize another clothing drive at a later date, so please save other items until then. Thank you!

### Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, November 13, 11:30 AM** – Lunchmaking for MainSpring House (with peanut-free, dairy-free WOW-BUTTER)

**Sunday, November 13, 3:00-5:00 PM** - Songs for Syria: A Concert for Humanitarian Relief, Old South Church, Boston ([www.songsforsyria.eventbrite.com](http://www.songsforsyria.eventbrite.com))

**Monday, November 14, 7:30-8:30 PM** – Nicaragua Service Trip Informational Meeting

**Tuesday, November 15, 7:00-8:30 PM** – Social Justice Committee Meeting

# November 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Children's Choir 5:30pm Search Committee 6:30pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	3	4 Pot Luck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meeting-house 7pm	5 Committee Chairs 9am Make-and-Take 11am 5 Point UU Cluster movie at Foxboro UU
6 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	7 Women's Group I (Closed Grp) 7:30pm	8 Children's Choir 5:30pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	9 Board of Trustees 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	10 Second Women's Group 7:30pm Men's Group 8pm	11 Movie Night 7pm	12 Let's Laugh Today 11am Circle Suppers 6pm
13 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Membership Committee 11:45am OWL 5-6 Parent Info 12pm Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	14 Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults Info Meeting 7:30pm	15 Children's Choir 5:30pm Social Justice Committee 7pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	16 Caring Committee 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	17	18 Art in the Heart 7pm	19 Coffee House 7pm RE Committee Meeting 7pm
20 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Worship Committee 11:45am Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Sharon Mosque 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	21	22 Children's Choir 5:30pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	24 Second Women's Group 7:30pm Men's Group 8pm	25 Newsletter Deadline 5pm	26
27 Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	28	29 Children's Choir 5:30pm Meditation Group 7:30pm	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	Please go to <a href="http://www.uusharon.org/calendars">www.uusharon.org/calendars</a> to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar.		