



Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, December 15th
Submit articles to
admin@uusharon.org

December 2017

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Childcare provided

Sunday December 3: Making Ready

10:00am Family Service

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

Advent is a season of waiting. This morning we reflect on its meaning for Unitarian Universalists. For what are you waiting in this season of darkness, as the days grow shorter and the nights longer? And how will you ready yourself for its arrival?

Sunday December 10: Revels

10:15am service

(No religious education classes.)

Children lead the congregation in a joyful, meditative exploration of the special meanings in many stories of this holiday season through chant, movement, monumental art, shadow theatre, and olfactory meditation. A feast for the senses! See more information about Revels [on page 4.](#)

Sunday December 17: The Mad Farmer and the Maccabees

10:00am Family Service

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

This morning we take a new look at an old story - the story of Hanukkah, a story of resistance and courage and faith - with the help of poet Wendell Berry's famous "Mad Farmer."

Thursday December 21: Solstice

7:00pm service

(Childcare is not available.)

In one of the most moving services of our entire year, our choir will lead us in a celebration of the winter solstice. Through music, readings and the play of dark and light, we will enter into the heart of this ancient earth-based spiritual passage. Open to all.

Sunday December 24: Christmas Eve

No morning service

5:00pm and 7:00pm service

Sunday December 31: New Year's Eve

10:30am service in Easton

No service at UCS

New Year's Eve Day Music Service will be held at **Unity Church of North Easton**, 9 Main Street, at 10:30 a.m. The service will include a variety of music, spoken word and poetry, and there will be opportunities to sing and participate in the service. Our adult choir will perform as well. Following the service, Unity will be hosting a Coffee Hour where music may spill into our time for fellowship and community.

From the Minister



For some of us, this time of year between Thanksgiving and the New Year is a time of wonder and joyful anticipation. We look forward to spending time with loved ones. We are excited about making the season magical for the children in our

lives. We enjoy decorating our homes, inside and out, planning and attending holiday parties, and baking cookies and cooking latkes. We love the holiday music, the glitter of tinsel, the candles in windows and the lights on the trees. We treasure our holiday traditions - whether they include angels or elves, reindeer or Yule logs, or dreidel and menorah. We look forward to it all and can't get enough.

For others of us, this time of year between Thanksgiving and the New Year is an unpleasant, or even painful time. It is a reminder of the losses of loved ones, or of old disappointments, or of unresolved grief. It is a lonely time, a time of sadness amidst what feels like everyone else's joy. Or it is a time of unpleasant busyness and overwhelm, of rushing, and crowds, and impossible and unfulfilled "shoulds." For some it is a time of "too much" and "too many," while for others it is a time of "not enough." Either way, we can't wait for the season to end.

No matter what your experience of this season - whether you face it with joy or with dread - know that you are loved and beloved. Remember to take time for yourselves, to take care of yourselves, and to be gentle with yourselves and those around you. Remember amidst all the busyness and glitter those things which are truly most important.

May you be safe.
May you know love.
May you know peace.
May you take joy.

Blessings,

Rev. Wendy



From the Director of Religious Education



Unknowable wonder

I love December. I love the early darkness, the crispness in the air, and that sense of expectancy that imbues this season. When I was little, my parents organized a family

Advent ceremony every Sunday evening. This ceremony included lighting candles in our Advent wreath, singing Christmas carols, and reading a portion of the gospel. It was a moment of peace and focus, an oasis of hopeful calm in the midst of a hectic season.

I have many fond memories of parties with more food than one can imagine and gifts, laughter and singing. Yet the purest joy I feel at this time of year is linked to the early darkness and crispness in the air. The sense of expectancy - that something big and wonderful and unknowable is coming -- was cultivated by lighting candles in the dark with my family.

And so I encourage you to take a few minutes at this painfully busy time of the year to be together, to light a candle (or four or seven or eight) in the darkness, and to create space, if only for a moment, for hope that something wonderful and unknowable is coming.

Blessings,

Louise

Holiday Happening

The Membership Committee is hosting its annual holiday pot-luck social in the vestry from 5 to 7 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 2**, for the congregation's members and friends. Bring a favorite dish to share --

appetizer, salad, main course or dessert -- or just your appetite for warm companionship at our casual, all-ages event, which will include supervised activities for children.

Terry Fitzgerlad



Our Committees

The Chalice presents a new series called Our Committees highlighting the work of all the wonderful volunteer Committees that we have at the Church. If you were ever wondering, what does the Stewardship Committee do, what is the difference between DRE office and the RE Committee or how do I join the IT Committee, follow the series in the next issues of our newsletter.

To contact a committee, you can go to <http://www.uusharon.org/about/committees/>. If you would like to write an article about your committee, please contact me at admin@uusharon.org

Linda Cveckova

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is charged with ensuring that employees enjoy a safe, pleasant workplace and equitable benefits. It reviews current practices and recommends Personnel Policy Manual changes to the Board of Trustees. Every spring, each employee's performance is reviewed with his/her supervisor. After consultation with the minister, the Committee recommends to the Board salary adjustments for the following year based on UUA guidelines for similar-sized churches in our geographic area, private sector salaries, annual performance evaluations, years of service to the congregation, and seniority in the profession. When new employees are hired, the Committee reviews the position description and recommends a starting salary range.

The Committee usually meets on the first Thursday of each month. Members are: Tom Kinraide, Edele Panessidi, Marcia Tranavitch and Colleen Tuck. Susan Olson Drisko is a liaison from the Trustees.

Colleen Tuck



Childcare at UCS—picture taken in the Nursery

Volunteers Needed

Sign Up for Help on Sundays

There are several Sunday's where we do not have volunteers for coffee, flowers or greeting. Please consider signing up to get these important function filled!

To sign-up, click on the link below:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f49a5ae2f4-coffee>

We will also have a paper sign up circulating. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Zaniewski at zaniew@verizon.net.

Treasurer

Treasurer position opens July 1, 2018. Do you have a facility for working with numbers? Do you have the ability to learn a simple financial software package? (An experienced user will provide tutorials.) Would you consider working with a fine group of former treasurers and current Board members?

Please consider "giving" of your time in this important job as part of your church life. Call or e-mail Susan Allison of the Nominating Committee OR suggest a candidate, and your name as "nominator" will be kept confidential!

Got childcare?

If your committee, task force, or group has a meeting or event that requires child care, what do you do? Who are our childcare providers? Are there any rules involved? How do these folks get paid?

The good news: The process is now highly organized. There's a straightforward procedure. There's a list of authorized childcare providers. Easy as 1-2-3.

1. **Get instructions.** A full set of instructions on how to find and pay for child care is available either from the magazine file atop the central cabinet in the Admin Office OR via email request to Linda Cveckova.
2. **You will need two providers.** Request the list of authorized childcare providers from Linda Cveckova and contact these folks to make arrangements.
3. **Remember to reserve a room** for childcare as well as for your meeting.

Religious Education News

December is Revels Celebration

This month all of our religious education classes will participate in the annual Revels celebration.

The first week of December will see our students putting the final touches on artwork, costumes and puppets, in addition to busily rehearsing their roles. Revels will take place on December 10th and is a service not to be missed!

On the third week of December the students in Grades 1 through 8 will join together for a Yule party which will include the traditions of wassailing, a Yule log, and of course dancing!

Meanwhile, our Preschool-Kindergarten class will spend a session exploring the theme of giving while making festive centerpieces.

Please note that there will be **no RE classes on December 24th and 31st**. Classes will resume after the holidays on January 7th.

Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant



Past Revels Service - Santa Lucia walking up the steps

What will happen at Revels and when?

Sunday December 10th, 10:15am order of service:

1. Grades 3-4 will welcome us in with Yuletide spirit and encourage us to explore the holidays with our sense of smell.
2. Grades 1-2 will share a meditation on the life cycle of the sunflower to help us deepen our appreciation of our very special relationship with the sun.
3. Grades 5-6 will share a shadow theatre telling of the Tanzanian story, "The Pull Together Morning"
4. Grades 3-4 will lead us in the lighting of a menorah.
5. Preschool-Kindergarten will share a procession of their special animals into the barn, where the animals will gather under the star with the baby.
6. Grades 7-8 will lead our Santa Lucia ceremony.

REVELS REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3

11:45am	Grades 1-2
11:50am	Preschool –Kindergarten
Noon	Grades 3-4
12:15pm	Grades 5-6
12:30pm	Junior Youth

Sunday, December 10

8:30am	Junior Youth bakers
9:00am	Grades 1-6
9:30am	Preschool-Kindergarten

Louise Marcoux, DRE



Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Children in Grades 1-2

Parents of 1st and 2nd graders are encouraged to mark your calendars for the official opening of the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) for Grades 1-2 program on **Sunday, January 7**. Your participation (and that of your 1st/2nd grader) is required in this Parent-Child Orientation in order for your child to participate in the eight-session OWL program.

The Orientation runs from 12:30 until 3 pm. A lunch of soup, bread, and fruit (along with WOW! Butter sandwiches) will be provided at noon (free of charge). Fun care for siblings will be also available free of charge – so that all parents can attend the orientation, if they wish.

If you have a question or concern, please contact Louise Marcoux.

Religious Education News, Continued

Youth Groups

Senior Youth Group

Meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Vestry. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! Our big event this past month was our annual Cedar Hill youth retreat which was a fun-filled overnight with a beach walk, lots of games, candle-lit night-time Worship, and communal meals. We had a great time relaxing and enjoying each others' company. Coming up for December we'll be contributing to the annual Gifts for Kids drive.



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

Also had a fun and relaxing overnight retreat at Cedar Hill. We had a lovely morning Worship service, a quick (cold!) beach walk, and lots of games. Our event for December will be a holiday gift swap at church from 7-9pm on the 15th, along with cookie baking! Details forthcoming by email. JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation.

Have questions about our Senior and Junior youth programs? Interested in volunteering to help with the groups or have a student who might be interested in joining? Email our Youth Coordinator Chelsea Gould at yc@uusharon.org

Chelsea Gould, Youth Coordinator



Youth Coordinator Chelsea Gould and the youth at Cedar Hill Retreat in Duxbury, MA

Coming of Age in December

Dec 5, 7:30 pm – Youth only

Dec 19, 7:30 pm – Youth and Mentors

Nursery - A New Meeting Space

Is your group or committee looking for a comfortable meeting space? Look no farther than the church Nursery!

- **Discussion / Covenant Group** - Add 4 folding chairs around the supportive couch to create a comfortable discussion circle.
- **Business Meeting** - Borrow a table from the Library and 6 chairs from the sanctuary for a brightly-lit meeting space with excellent WiFi.

Your group may reserve the Nursery through the church calendar feature on the church website.



New couch in the Nursery.

Leaf Raking Opportunity Saturday December 2nd

Building & Grounds Committee invites you to give an hour of your time raking the church grounds between

9am and 12 noon. OJ, coffee, donuts and bagels will be provided to get you into the mood. Come join our happy band of leaf lovers and get the church grounds into shape for the winter months.



Rory McGregor

December Programs

Music and Arts

Adult Choir – Meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm and Sunday mornings before service. New voices always welcome. Please note the Choir will not meet on December 27th due to holidays.



Art from the Heart - Will not meet in December due to holidays, but will reconvene our regular meetings on January 26th, 2018, in the vestry. Art from the Heart is an evening of play, fun, creativity, and community. We will provide for you a variety of artistic medium under the guidance of Jean Fox. This is art without right or wrong, good or bad, better worse—rather it is art for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

Children's Choir

We love to hear our children singing! Children's choir welcomes all. Meets Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30pm in the vestry. Pizza included. Performing in church twice a month. Please note the choir does not meet when the school is out. Questions? Contact Forbesy at forbesyrussell@hotmail.com or 781-201-9533.

Holiday Choral Concert Saturday Dec 9 and Sunday Dec 10

Come revel in the spirit of the season listening to choral music that will inspire. A combination of secular and religious songs will delight our audience at St Marks Episcopal church in Foxboro. Tickets are available from Forbesy Russell, Beth and Rory McGregor and Dan Huse who are performing with Neponset Choral Society.

MMAS Theatre Group

The next theater night at Mansfield Music and Arts Society is Friday, December 15, ***Driving Miss Daisy***. This Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Alfred Uhry affectionately covers the 25-year relationship between a wealthy, strong-willed Southern matron and her equally indomitable Black chauffeur, Hoke. Directed by Dori Bryan Ployer.

Our make-our-own-pot-luck reception starts at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. As always, we must have at least 16 attendees to have our reception before the show. Tickets are \$26.00 for non-members. The performance takes place at 377 North Main St. Mansfield.

Here is the list of performances for the rest of the year:

Driving Miss Daisy	12/15/17
Of Mice and Men	2/3/18
The Tempest	3/24/18
Hair	4/28/18

If you would like to attend any of the shows please email me just to let me know and then send a check (separate checks for each show please) **made out to MMAS** to me at 40 Jordan Drive, Stoughton 02072. Guests and non UU members are always welcome.

Please pass the word. It's a fun way to socialize and enjoy top quality community theater. Please invite and encourage new members to attend.

Pat McDougal

Not Just Another Coffee House

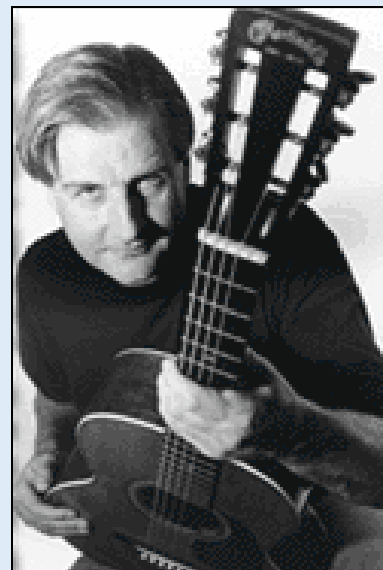
Geoff Muldaur

Saturday, December 16

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

Geoff Muldaur is one of the great voices and musical forces to emerge from the folk, blues and folk-rock scenes centered in Cambridge, MA and Woodstock, NY. During the 1960's and '70's, Geoff made a series of highly influential recordings as a founding member of the Jim Kweskin Jug Band and the Paul Butterfield's Better Days group, as well as collaborations with then-wife Maria and other notables (Bonnie Raitt, Eric Von Schmidt, Jerry Garcia, etc.). <http://www.geoffmuldaur.com/>

During intermission enjoy our home made desserts and fair trade beverages.



December Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – Join us at 7pm on Wednesday, December 6th, to discuss **The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry** by Gabrielle Zevin. a heartwarming book about a lonely man who finds true love, happiness, and friendship.

On January 3rd, we will discuss Yaa Gyasi's **Homecoming**. Each chapter in this historical novel follows a different descendant of

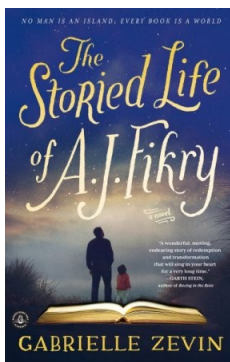
an Asante woman named Maame, starting with her daughters, separated by circumstance. One marries the British governor in charge of Cape Coast Castle, while her half-sister is held captive in the dungeon below.

Everyone is welcome, whether or not you've finished the book. With rare exception, we meet at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month, in the church library.

Covenant Sharing Groups – Meets every first and third Sunday at 7pm. Covenant groups are small groups (between 8 and 12 members) who discuss core spiritual and ethical themes, using specific guidelines for sharing which ensure that the experience is safe for everyone involved.

Journey Group - An evening of meditation, chanting, sharing and reading/discussion of spiritually related materials. The meetings are facilitated by Barbara Nelkin-Rose and are scheduled for selected Monday evenings in the Minister's Study. The group is now closed. If you would like to join, please contact Barbara.

Let's Laugh Today – You are invited to a FREE Laughter Wellness session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on Saturday, December 9th. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. Children usually come to this morning session. See more information and more opportunities to laugh at www.letslaughtoday.com



Meditation Group—Join our circle of mindfulness meditation on Tuesday evenings at church at 7.30 PM. Return as your schedule permits, if you have been a part of the circle over the past few years. If you have not experienced the quieting of your mind, we encourage you to join us. For one hour we practice both sitting and walking meditation. Sometimes we lay out a special canvas labyrinth produced by one of our own youth groups. If you have questions, please arrive at 7:15 PM or contact Ray Wallace or Susan Allison.

Writer's Group – Meets on second Sunday of the month, at 12noon to 1pm, in the church library. Come share a poem or prose piece you have written with a supportive and interesting group. Or just come along to enjoy to writings and the conversations.

Support Groups

Al-Anon Meeting - An 11th step Al-Anon group meets at UCS each Sunday evening at 7pm. It is an open meeting.

Men's Support Group - Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month, at 8pm in the church library. New men are always welcome to join.

Reiki Support Group - Meets every first Sunday of the month at 3pm. This is a closed group. Please call Laurie Wallace, if you have questions.

Women's Support Group – Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm in the Program Space A/B. New women are always welcome to join.

Movie Night

Bad Santa

Join us for a movie on Friday **December 8** at 7pm. "Bad Santa" - it's not "Miracle on 34th Street" or "A Wonderful Life", but an interesting conversation is guaranteed.

Popcorn is free!

Movie group meets every second Friday of the month at 7pm.



SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES



Brown Envelope Update

Thanks to the generosity of our church community, we raised \$2509.11 for hurricane relief during Sundays in October. At our November meeting, the SJ Committee decided that \$500 will go to the Unitarian Universalist

Service Committee (UUSC) for Hurricane Harvey relief (which is being matched dollar-for-dollar by the UU congregation at Shelter Rock for an additional \$500); \$500 to the UUA for Hurricane Irma relief, with the balance of \$1509.11 going to relief efforts for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. See next month's Chalice for more information on the specific recipients, which are being carefully considered by a working group.

November BE funds will support the work of MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy) and Centro Presente. December donations collected at Sunday morning services will be split among five local food pantries, and donations on Christmas Eve will be shared with MainSpring House in Brockton. In January, our BE funds will support UU Mass Action, whose director, Laura Wagner, will be at our pulpit guest on January 21.

CommUnity Closet

The **CommUnity Closet**, located at the UU Church of Brockton (325 West Elm Street), is open on the second Saturday of the month. Your donations are much appreciated. Thanks to generous donations from all 5 of the UU Cluster churches and limited storage and display space, we ask that you focus your clothing donations at this time to seasonal apparel - warm coats, gloves, hats, fleece clothing: the 'Winter Collection'. As the seasons progress, we will ask for appropriate apparel. You can drop off items in the Vestry. The following items are always needed and must be new: socks, underwear, diapers (babies, toddlers, adults), and women's sanitary products. Women have requested reading glasses, too.

It will be our church's turn to tend the CommUnity Closet for the month of February. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 10, 2018** – an opportunity to meet and serve the community in Brockton! More details to follow. Please contact Camelia Rodriguez for more information and to volunteer.

Salem Sanctuary for Peace Ordinance: November Election Results

In 2016, City Councilor David Eppley and representatives from the No Place for Hate Committee prepared a request to the full City Council to designate Salem as a "sanctuary" community. Following their initial request, a larger working group of community leaders, also including Mayor Driscoll, the Police Chief, and representatives of local institutions and faith-based organizations, immigration specialists and attorneys, service providers, and community groups began meeting to learn more about the current fears and challenges within Salem's immigrant community, what current Salem practices and policies regarding undocumented residents are, and what, if anything, they could or should do with respect to these matters. The group heard from Salem immigrants about their fears and anxieties. The group drafted a document to re-affirm and codify the City's current practices and the strong belief that all residents deserve equal rights and fair treatment. In May 2017, a challenge was presented by opponents of the ordinance, resulting in the issue being put on the ballot for the November election. **The measure was passed by Salem voters and Salem will remain a Sanctuary for Peace city.**



"CommUnity Closet"

Seasonal Request



Donations

Help us Get Ready for the

"Winter Collection"

Coats Scarfs Thermal-Shirts Ear-Muffs Gloves
Mittens-Snow-Boots Fleece-Blankets Winter-Boots
Sweaters Winter-Socks Corduroy-Pants-&-Shirts Hats
Fleece-Fleece-Fleece-Fleece-Fleece-Fleece-UP!
Donate anything that KEEPS YOU WARM!

Collecting Period will be every Sunday,
Nov 11th through Feb 3rd



A Joint Ministry of Unitarian-Universalist Congregations in
Brockton, Canton, Foxborough, North-Easton, Sharon, and
Stoughton

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES, Continued

Action Updates on Criminal Justice Reform and Immigrant Rights

Criminal Justice Reform: Both the Massachusetts House and Senate have passed bills to reform current criminal justice laws. These bills move the laws closer to true criminal justice reform in Massachusetts. Numerous groups worked to move these bills through the House and Senate – MCAN (Massachusetts Community Action Network), UUA, UUSC, Interfaith Clergy, with special thanks for Representative Lou Kafka. Below are the key points of the two bills. **When the bills move into committee hearings, we will have opportunities to advocate for passage. Stay tuned. Here is what you need to know:**

1. Long Mandatory Minimums on Drug Charges: The Senate repeals many of these, covering different drugs and circumstances of charges, but the House repeals only some. Repeal means instead of one-size-fits-all mandated long sentences, the Judge would decide each case individually.

2. CORI: Both House and Senate have the 3 key reforms for Reducing Sealing Times on employers being able to view CORI's from 10 years felonies/5 years misdemeanors to 7 and 3 years. Allows those with sealed records to say they have no record so they qualify for affordable housing and certain licenses. Stops making resisting arrest to be never taken off of a CORI.

3. Fines and Fees: some were lessened.

4. Felony Theft Threshold on Larceny: Senate bill raises it from \$250 to \$1500, House bill raised it from \$250 to \$1000. it hadn't been raised in 30 years and at \$250 we have been the 3rd lowest in the US.

5. Justice Reinvestment: using some savings in prison costs from the bill to fund job training. Part of the Senate bill but not passed in House bill.

6. Juvenile Expungement: versions passed in both bills. This means charges will be sealed in CORI's after 3 years on misdemeanors and 7 years on felonies, so that these young adults can get jobs.

Raising the Age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction: change from 18 to 19 was passed in the Senate, but not in the House.

7. Solitary Confinement: some reforms made in both Senate and House bills.

8. Restorative Justice: some pieces passed in both Senate and House bills.



November 16, 2017 - Advocating for clean energy in the State House - UCS members from the right Ruth Nussbaum, Bri McAlevey, and Elizabeth Siftar

Advocating for clean energy.

StandUpCharlie

November 16, 2017 - UCS members Bri McAlevey, Ruth Nussbaum and Elizabeth Siftar joined representatives of UUMassAction, Sierra Club, MassPowerForward, Mothers Out Front, MCan, Toxics Action Network, clergy groups, mothers, fathers, kids, seniors to speak out to Gov. Baker to sign the Executive Order to stop fracked gas pipelines in Massachusetts. The hall outside the governor's office was filled to capacity with advocates, who spoke, chanted, sang and kept a silent vigil. A group, which included Laura Wagner, participated in a civil action - sit-in - outside Gov. Baker's office.



November 16, 2017 - Advocating for clean energy in the State House - The hall outside of Gov. Charlie Baker was filled to capacity.

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES, Continued

Nicaragua Service Trip for Adults Update

Plans are in progress for a proposed 7-day trip in July 2018 to Chacraseca, outside of the Pacific coast city of Leon, in cooperation with FNE international (fneinternational.org). We are reaching out to invite people from the local UU churches in our Five Points Cluster, and friends from the wider community are welcome as well. As mentioned in last month's Chalice, trip participants will help plan an itinerary that allows for a choice of activities, including visiting schools, teaching English to adults and/or children, working on gardening projects in the community, meeting informally with community residents, as well as helping build a house and stove with and for a local family. Participants will pay \$500, which covers a place to sleep, all meals, some sightseeing, and ground transportation, plus airfare (\$500-\$700). For more information, contact Janet Schmidt (jcscoch@gmail.com).



Social Justice Corner in the Vestry

Following Sunday worship services, you can buy **Equal Exchange** fair trade coffees, chocolates and other items, as well **Shopping for Justice** supermarket gift cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y (+/-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). You can also purchase note cards created by Kari Thostenson with beautiful photographic images, with all profits supporting the social justice projects of the church.

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power

Save the date: Join a screening of *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* on **Friday, January 12th** at 7:00pm. "For those of us who need no convincing of the truth of man-made climate change, but find the problem too paralyzingly abstract, Gore's workmanlike methods are both fascinating, encouraging, and, yes, even a little exciting." An evening in January may be cool, but the topic is hot and the popcorn is free. Discussion (heated?) afterwards.



Co-sponsored by the Monthly Movie Group, the Social Justice Committee, and Sustainable Sharon Coalition

Gifts For Kids

Have you ever dreamt of being an elf during the holiday season? The Gifts for Kids Program matches sponsors with children in need for holiday gift giving. Children identified by human service providers in twelve surrounding communities will receive holiday gifts through your generosity.



Please become a sponsor of a specific child that you can shop for this holiday season. Or, if you prefer, you can volunteer at one of two collection sites and help spread the word. If you would still like to help, please consider making a donation of cash, gift cards, new clothing or unopened toys. Please sign up in the Vestry for any of these options.

If you sponsor a child, you will be given the first name, ID #, age, clothing size, and gift preferences or needs of a child. Place **new, unwrapped** gifts in a **securely sealed** sturdy plastic bag. Please include a tag with the child's name and ID # **inside** the bag and tape a **second ID tag** to the outside of the bag. Donations of wrapping paper and tape are appreciated so that the gifts can be wrapped by the families.

Drop-off dates and sites:

SHARON (early): Sunday, **December 10** at Unitarian Church vestry pantry

WALPOLE: Tuesday, **December 12**, 4- 6 pm at VFW Post #5188 at 33 Robbins Road, off Rt. 27 (next to Johnson Middle School)

SHARON: Thursday, **December 14**, 4 – 6 pm at O'Connell Hall, next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 59 Cottage Street

Thanks so much for your assistance. Questions? See Alison Reid for answers.

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, December 3, 12 Noon – 1:30 PM
Social Justice Committee Meeting (Library)

Sunday, December 17, 11:30 AM
Lunch making for MainSpring House (Vestry)

Sunday, January 7, 12 Noon – 1:30 PM
Social Justice Committee Meeting (Library)

Friday, January 12, 7:00 PM - Movie Night
An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power, co-sponsored by the Monthly Movie Group, the SJC, and Sustainable Sharon Coalition; discussion to follow, popcorn is on the house.

Conversations
At the Meetinghouse



Life Upon the Wicked Stage

Lessons from a Life Spent in Theatre

MEG QUIN DUSSAULT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017, 7 PM

Meg Quin Dussault is an award winning director and actor and a graduate of the Trinity Rep Conservatory where she earned her M.F.A in Acting. Meg has enjoyed membership in several theatre companies including Industrial Theatre, New England Repertory, The Company Theatre of Norwell, and Star Players of Bristol County and the Massachusetts Music and Arts Society. Meg has taught theatre at Bridgewater State University, Stonehill College, Brockton High School, and Sharon High School. Meg is currently directing Mary Poppins at Un-Common Theatre and will be directing Hair for MMAS in the fall. Join Meg as she shares stories and wisdom from her 30+ years of pursuing a career in theatre.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held on the first Friday of each month (October to June) at 7PM where members of the community share their expertise and experience about important issues of the day.

Free and Open To Public

December 2017 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Please go to www.uusharon.org/calendars to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar. </div>					1	2
					Pot Luck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meetinghouse 7pm (A/B)	Com Chairs 9am (VES) Ministerial Search Com 11am (VES) Holiday Party 5pm (VES)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am RE Classes 10:30am Revels Rehearsal 11:45am SJC 12pm (LIB) Reiki Support Group 3pm (A/B) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB) Coming of Age Youth 7:30pm (A/B)	RE Committee 7pm (NUR) Book Group 7pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm	Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Let's Laugh Today 11am (A/B) Sustainable Sharon Coalition – SJC 7pm (VES)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Revels Rehearsal 8:30am Revels Worship Service 10:15am Writer's Group 12pm Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Journey Group 7:30pm (MIN) Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES) Building & Grounds 7:30pm	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB)	Sustainable Sharon Coalition 7pm (A/B) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	Membership Com 3:30pm (LIB) ESL 6pm (LIB) 2nd Women's Grp 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)		Coffee House 7pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Family Worship Service 10am RE Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Coming of Age with mentors 7:30pm (MULTI) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB)	Caring Committee 7pm (MIN) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Solstice Worship Service 7pm		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm AI-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm		GRASP Support Group 7pm (LIB) Meditation Group 7:30pm (LIB)		ESL 6pm (LIB) 2nd Women's Grp 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)		
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New Year's Eve Service in Easton 10:30am AI-Anon Meeting 7pm Covenant Sharing Group 7pm						



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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