

# the chalice

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](http://www.uusharon.org)

**President**  
Tim Theiler  
[president@uusharon.org](mailto:president@uusharon.org)

**Interim Minister**  
Rev. Wendy L. Bell  
Office Hours: Tue Wed Thu  
11:00am – 4:00pm  
and by appointment  
781/784-3652 x2  
[minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org)

**Director of Religious Ed.**  
Louise Marcoux  
Office Hours: Tue Wed Thu  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm  
and by appointment  
781/784-3652 x3  
[DRE@uusharon.org](mailto:DRE@uusharon.org)

**Office Manager &  
Newsletter Editor**  
Linda Cveckova  
Office Hours: Mon Wed Fri  
9:30am – 1:00pm  
781/784-3652 x1  
[admin@uusharon.org](mailto:admin@uusharon.org)

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**Wednesday, April 20th**

## Inside this issue

<a href="#">RE News</a>	3
<a href="#">Youth Events</a>	5
<a href="#">News from the Ministerial Search Committee</a>	6
<a href="#">Social Justice News</a>	9
<a href="#">Nicaragua Trip Update</a>	9
<a href="#">March for Our Lives</a>	12-13

April 2018

## APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

*Childcare provided*

### Sunday April 1: Rolling Away the Stone

10:00am Family Service

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

In one of his most famous poems, (i thank You God for most this amazing day), e.e. cummings' wrote, "(i who have died am alive again today..." This morning we reflect on the stone of the Easter story, on the cummings' poem, on hope, and on what it might mean to be alive again.

### Sunday April 8: [Religious Education Sunday:](#) A Celebration of our Journey

10:15am Service

(No Religious Education Classes)

Curious about what has been going on other parts of the church while you've been worshipping in the sanctuary? Today's your chance to connect with the younger members of this congregation as they use novel methods to draw our attention to what matters.

### Sunday April 15: The 2nd Amendment & The 2nd Commandment

10:00am Family Service

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

This morning we reflect on guns, gun culture, and idolatry in America.

### Sunday April 22: Beauty as well as bread

10:00am Family Service

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

Naturalist John Muir once said, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." This morning, as we celebrate Earth Day, we reflect on the human and environmental costs of our alienation from nature, and the importance of restoring our connection to it.

### Sunday April 29: Senior Youth Group Service

10:00am Family Service

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

Our senior youth will lead both Family and Adult Services this week. With youth leadership at the forefront of current events, our group has been reflecting on what they would like to share in our community and encourage through Worship.



## From the Minister



### A Gracious Church

I've been thinking recently about Universalism, one of the two major streams of historic theology/heresy that flowed into what is now Unitarian Universalism. Historically, and very simply, the

Universalists believed that God was too good to damn anyone to hell for eternity.

Among my favorite contemporary Universalist writers are two Quaker pastors, Philip Gulley and James Mulholland, who believe that "God will save every person." Those of us who are Unitarian Universalists and who may or may not believe in something or someone we call "God," are fond of saying that we affirm "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," which is essentially the same theological claim, but without the "theology" or "god-words."

As I've been thinking about Universalism, I have also be reflecting on the meaning of grace. According to Gulley and Mulholland, "Grace is the unfailing commitment to love all persons, regardless of their beliefs," and "a commitment to the most difficult and demanding of human acts – engaging and loving those who think and behave in ways we find unacceptable."

By that definition, we live in a very "ungracious" world – a world in which people seem constantly to be judging and refusing to love those who think and behave in "unacceptable" (to them) ways. Gulley and Mulholland believe that "the purpose of life is to live graciously," even though – or perhaps especially because – we continue to live in an ungracious world.

I would add that we ought to continue to strive to be the most "gracious church" we can be, because the world needs more gracious churches. A "gracious church" is a religious community where love of one another and our neighbors and the stranger are our focus. It is a congregation where we embrace and celebrate difference without allowing our differences to either silence or divide us. It is a church in and through which we can continue to practice living graciously, and through such practice, help to heal both broken hearts and our broken world.

Onward, in hope and grace!

*Rev. Wendy*

## From the Director of Religious Education



### Listen

Listening builds community. I know this because I've witnessed it.

In Coming of Age (COA), a community of youth and adults is built around listening. Their monthly meetings include 45 minutes of structured listening in a format called Small Group Ministry – in which each group member is asked to choose from a list of questions and then answer from their heart without any conversational interruptions from the rest of the group. This format feels unnatural and contrived at first. Isn't it rude NOT to respond, to comment, to nod? It's uncomfortable to sit together in silence for a moment. Awkward even. Until it isn't uncomfortable anymore. When I watch our COA small groups in action in February, I notice that people have relaxed. They're deeply tuned into what is happening in the group. They are listening. They feel heard. At the end of the evening, the glow of community shines in every face.

Coming of Age touches the lives of 24 people in this congregation. What about everyone else? That's what the RE Committee has been wondering about. How can we spread the joy of intergenerational listening throughout this congregation? Small group ministry is great, but not well-designed for 6 year olds. What other methods are out there?

The RE Committee hopes to launch an all-ages listening project in May. The goal is to start small, have fun together, and keep on listening to each other all year long. Stay tuned!

And if you want to celebrate the deep listening done by our 8th and 9th graders, please mark your calendar now for the May 20th Coming of Age worship service.

Blessings,

*Louise*

### Memory Tea

Save the Date **Sunday April 29** for annual Memory Tea - a gathering to share memories of those we have lost in past.

Nina Lynch, Caring Committee

## Religious Education News

### **April in RE**

By Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant

RE Sunday will be a highlight for our RE classes this month as the students are excited to share their learning with the congregation on April 8<sup>th</sup>. This month will also see some groups joining together for special sessions. On April 1<sup>st</sup> grades 1-8 will participate in an Easter session and on April 15<sup>th</sup> some classes will pair up for special projects.

Our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will learn about our chalice symbol in preparation for their chalice lighting role on RE Sunday. Their April sessions promote interconnectedness with nature. They'll talk about sharing our world with other creatures, make windsocks to explore the air, and talk about how darkness makes them feel while creating a star project.

The **Grade 1-2** students will share a quilt project that was part of their OWL curriculum on RE Sunday. They will join with Grade 3-4 for a special session about the meaning of community. Creating chalice banners will be their focus one Sunday, and they'll begin a community action project at month's end.

The **Grade 3-4** group will share a song about the food pantry on RE Sunday. They'll learn about community when they join their younger counterparts for a special session. The class will explore the topic of gratitude, discussing gratitude for nature's gifts, and how gratitude makes one feel. The class will also host a "gratitude table" where members of the congregation will be invited to write a card showing their gratitude to someone in their life.

The **Grade 5-6** class will use skits to share their learning experience on RE Sunday. They will join with the Junior Youth to experience a special art project led by Bri McAlevey mid-month. The class will then examine how media portrays minorities, learning about African American filmmaker Henry Hampton, and they will explore how they can be social justice allies.

The **Grade 7-8 Junior Youth** group will have a busy month participating in multi-age sessions with other classes, helping to lead worship on RE Sunday, and attending the Senior Youth service at month's end. They are also in the process of planning an April visit to the Mosque as part of their study of Islam.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY: APRIL 8**

Religious Education Sunday is a celebration of our journey together this year – every Sunday from 10:30 to 11:30 am, children and their teachers wonder about what Unitarian Universalism calls each of them to do and be. Children have spent the last few weeks figuring out what to share and exploring how to be effective worship leaders.

Prepare to be surprised! Our children and youth are cooking up innovative ways to share the meaningful experiences that they've had together in RE – and encourage all of us to grow in spirit. Who knows whether the Talking Hymnal might pop up again? Come to worship at 10:15 on April 8 to find out!

**Parents:** please check your email to see if your child's group wants some last minute rehearsal time that morning. Some groups will meet in their regular classrooms at 9:45 am to run through their portion of the worship service.

Louise Marcoux, DRE

### **Calling all artists! Calling all activists!**

You are invited to assist some young artist/activists with a Guerilla Art community chalking project on June 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Fear not: you'll be paired with a seasoned RE volunteer.

Find out more from Louise Marcoux at [dre@uusharon.org](mailto:dre@uusharon.org).

### *An Invitation*

#### **To RE Volunteers and their Families**

The RE Committee invites all Religious Education volunteers and their families to a luncheon honoring volunteers on **Sunday, May 6, at noon**. Please come and let us celebrate your contribution to this lively community.

RSVP helpful, but not required, to [rumni.saha@gmail.com](mailto:rumni.saha@gmail.com).



## Religious Education News, continued

### EASTER CAN HUNT

**On April 1, at 11:45 am**, children will be set loose to discover more than 100 cans hidden on church grounds. Each treasure found will be packaged up for the Ilse Marks Food Pantry, which serves residents of Sharon and Stoughton.

All participants in the can hunt -- children, parents, and helpers -- will start out in Program A/B at 11:45 am with a quick orientation.

For more information about the Ilse Marks Food Pantry, please consult our resident experts: members of our Grades 3-4 group, who recently toured the food pantry and who are developing a project to support it.



### RECYCLERS' ALERT: Jars/bottles and used colored tissue paper

Do you have any interestingly-shaped glass or plastic bottles or jars that you want to get rid of? Any wrinkled colored tissue from recent gift packages? The RE program needs these materials for an April 15 class. Please contact Louise Marcoux to arrange donation:

[dre@uusharon.org](mailto:dre@uusharon.org)



### Coming of Age in April: CREDO

Tues, Apr 3, 7:30 – 9 pm Youth

Tues, Apr 24, 7:30 - 9 pm Youth and Mentors  
(note: this second meeting is on a 4th Tuesday because of April school vacation)

### Parking Lot Safety after church April 1

Please be aware that children will be walking across the church parking lot during April 1st Easter Can Hunt. Our crossing guard, Christian Rouleau, may ask you to stop to make way for can hunters. *Happy Easter!*



### Parking reminder

At Church parking is allowed only in designated, lined spaces in the parking lot. To comply with fire and safety codes, parking is prohibited in the circular driveway. Additional parking is available in the municipal lots on High Street and in the lot behind the stores on Billings Street. Parking is also available in the Eastern Bank parking lot if the bank is closed. On Sundays, the Board of Trustees encourages members to consider not using the church parking lot, to leave spaces for those who may have difficulty walking a distance.





## 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 the Ice Cream CONe UU youth convention hosted right here at our church. Co-Deans Lucia Cheney and Sterling Zysk (from the Attleboro Murray UU congregation) led a fantastically fun and relaxing 24 hour event which drew youth participants from Rhode Island, the Cape, and South Shore. Youth played games, created music, produced skits, and connected with each other in community. Approximately a third of the participants also attended the Boston March for Our Lives event which was scheduled for the same day. Attendees at the CON who were not marching were given an opportunity to write letters & postcards to political representatives in support of gun control, and an opportunity to pre-register to vote.

Coming up in April youth will be preparing to lead the Worship Service for Sunday, April 29th. Please mark your calendars to join us!



**March 24 –25th, 2018: UU Youth CONvention hosted at UCS** - on the pictures youth working on a group puzzle and playing cards.

### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

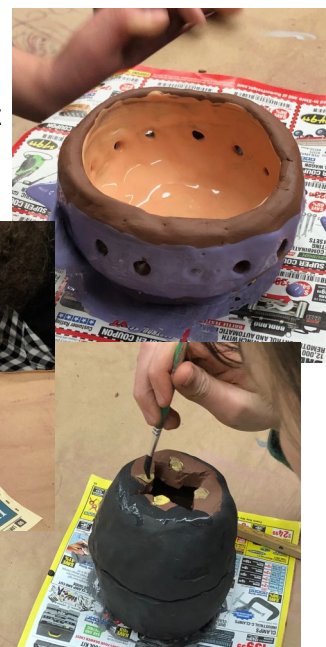
Had a fun evening meeting for pizza dinner and then creating chalices out of clay at local New Arts studio in Sharon with potter Carolyn Shedd. It was very cool to see the different designs youth came up with and we're looking forward to their finished fired pieces this month!

April's JYFG event is scheduled to be Lazer Tag, details still tbd. JYFG meets once a month and all events are open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation.

Have questions about our Senior and Junior youth programs? Want to sign up for an upcoming event? 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](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)



**March 9th, 2018:  
JYFG Clay Night with  
potter Carolyn Shedd**



## Our Committees

### News from the

#### Ministerial Search Committee

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) is now complete and ready to settle into its work of searching for a new settled minister to begin work in the summer of 2019. Its members are Tom D'Avanzo, Linda Godfrey-Bailey, Beth McGregor, David Slater, Laurie Wallace, Valerie White, and Karen Zelevinsky. Linda and Karen were selected by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board to replace Melissa Leonard and David Nichamoff, valued members of the Interim search team who felt they couldn't continue due to other heavy time commitments. Many thanks to both those who served and those who've signed on to serve!

Please feel free to share your ideas about the church's future ministry with any of us at any time, but be assured there will also be many more structured opportunities to do just that in the coming months. At our April meeting, we'll begin working on a confidential online survey--partly questions designed by the UUA and partly our own--that will go to every member of the church. We'll also be holding some 'cottage meetings' to give small groups from all parts of our congregation a chance to reflect and share their vision for the congregation and what sort of minister might serve that vision best. We'll also look at what came up in the recent stewardship focus groups. All of the information and ideas we gather from you will help shape a detailed descriptive congregational 'packet' we'll be preparing later in the fall for prospective ministers to see.. Watch the monthly Chalice for updates and more information about the search process.

What can you do to help get the best minister for our congregation? You can participate in the survey and in cottage meetings--perhaps even offer to host one at your home. You can share with us some of your best photos, quotes and other snippets that help capture the essence of the congregation, for use in the packet. You can help pick up some slack, especially next winter and spring as the MSC members become totally absorbed in wooing, reviewing and interviewing candidates. And you can support the congregation generously, to help us afford the costs of a thorough search and a well-compensated new minister.

The voyage begins!

### AIM2 Update

On the 16th of March, the AIM2 committee met with Eric Kluz of HKT Architects to plan and discuss the preparation of design schematics that would present alternatives for the renovation of the sanctuary. We agreed on a goal for the delivery of the designs by the end of April. This would allow six weeks to review and discuss the designs with the congregation with the intent of being able to recommend the design to carry forward into the detail design phase. There would be a vote of the membership on this at the annual meeting in June.

The architect had asked us to identify the scope of activities that will occur in the sanctuary. During the past year, we reached out to the RE and Worship committees to list their current and future use cases for the sanctuary and to specify their requirements for each use case. RE and Worship identified 11 current use cases and 5 desired or future use cases along with specific requirements that address seating, stage, accessibility, lighting, audio and video needs. Their input was provided to HKT and is being used to inform the creation of the design schematics.

Beginning on April 8th, the AIM2 committee will host a table during coffee hour each Sunday to share the sanctuary use cases and requirements with everyone and to get your thoughts and feedback on them as well as any additional ideas you may have. Once the design schematics are available, we will schedule meetings during weekday evenings and after services in May to present and discuss the designs with the congregation and get your further input and feedback. We are looking forward to everyone's participation in choosing the design that will be the basis for the renovation.

*Jack Armstrong, Chair of AIM*

### Save a Date

#### Our Timeline Project

The Transition Team will be hosting a Church wide event called "Our Timeline Project" - Our Past, Our Present, Our Future on

Saturday May 12.

This will be an evening event, time TBD. Childcare will be provided.



## April Programs

### Music and Arts

**Adult Choir** – Meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in the vestry and Sunday mornings before service. New voices always welcome.

**Art from the Heart** meets every 4th Friday of the month, 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 or worse—rather it is art for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!



#### **Celebrate Spring with Neponset Choral Society**

Come enjoy the Neponset Choral Society's "Sounds of Home" on Saturday, April 7 at 7:30 pm or Sunday, April 8 at 2:30 pm, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Foxboro. Some fellow church folks are among the chorus in a lively concert of songs from many traditions in America and beyond. Tickets are \$20, seniors and students \$18, with \$2 off the price if you buy them in advance. Rory and Beth McGregor and Forbesy Russell will have tickets in hand for you at church, or you can call/email them to order some. or go online at [www.ncschorus.org](http://www.ncschorus.org) for tickets and program info.

#### **MMAS Theatre Group**

The next theater night at Mansfield Music Arts Society is on **April 24** to see William Shakespeare's classic ***The Tempest***. The Tempest tells the story of castaways brought to an island through a tempest created by the magician Prospero, who was exiled there with his daughter Miranda. In this contemporary retelling, audiences will experience Shakespearean plays as they were originally intended – through the expression of sound and movement. There is one more show reserved for us and that's ***Hair* on April 28th**.

Our make-our-own-pot-luck reception starts at 7:00pm, the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$26.00 for non-members. The performance will take place at 377 North Main St. Mansfield.

If you would like to attend, please email me at [mcdougal.pat@gmail.com](mailto:mcdougal.pat@gmail.com) Guests and non UU members are always welcome. Please pass the word.

*Pat McDougal*

#### **Children's Choir**

Meets Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30pm in the vestry. Pizza included. Performing in church twice a month. The choir does not meet when the school is out. Questions? Contact Forbesy at [forbesyrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:forbesyrussell@hotmail.com) or 781-201-9533.

#### **Not Just Another Coffee House**

#### **Box Car Lillies**

**Saturday, April 21**

**7pm, doors open 6:30pm**

Back by popular demand - Combining spine-tingling three-part harmony and exceptional songwriting, The Boxcar Lillies have made a name for themselves with their signature mix of folk, country, blues, and bluegrass-tinged Americana music. They are sharing a stage with singer and songwriter Jim Henry.

<http://www.boxcarlillies.com/>

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

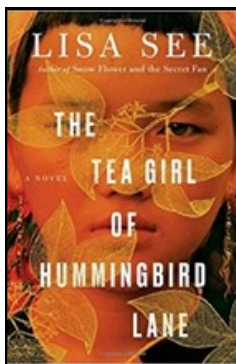


Box Car Lillies— Stephanie Marshall and Jenny Goodspeed

## April Programs, continued

### Interest and Discussion Groups

**Book Group** – On Wednesday, April 4th, at 7pm, the book will be **The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane** by Lisa See, the Sharon One Book, One Town selection. The novel explores the lives of a Chinese mother (whose family life aligns around the seasons and the farming of tea) and her daughter (who has been adopted by an American couple). It's likely that there will be many copies of the book available at the Sharon Public Library.



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

**Covenant Sharing Groups** – In April Covenant Group One will meet 3rd and 5th Sundays, April 15 and 29 at 7pm. (We will not meet April 1 due to Easter.) Covenant Group Two meets every second and fourth Sunday. To join Covenant Group Two contact Laurie Wallace. 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 Library. The group is now closed. If you would like to join, please contact Barbara.

**Let's Laugh Today** – Laughter Yoga is a fun and healthy combination of laughter exercises, yoga breathing and gentle stretching. Join in an hour of laughs and finish with a cool down meditation in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon



on **Saturday, April 14th** (and every second Saturday of each month except August). Any age and any level of physical ability can participate. Laughter Yoga is a playful practice that does not rely on humor, jokes or comedy. Bring your water bottle. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. If you have any questions call 508-660-2223 or e-mail [billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com](mailto:billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com). Please bring at least one canned good for the Sharon/ Stoughton Food Pantry. See more information at [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com).

**Meditation Group**—Join our circle of mindfulness meditation on Tuesday evenings at church at 7.00pm. (Please note there is a permanent time change to 7.00pm). 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 6:45 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

**Friday, April 13 7PM**  
**The Florida Project**

Living within sight of Disney World's glittering attractions, the children of families residing in tacky motels near the mega park create their own magical world together led by the spirited six year old, Moonee.





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



### Brown Envelope Donations Update

During the worship services on three of the Sundays in February, we collected \$1,298.26 in BE donations for the **Equal Justice Initiative** ([eji.org](http://eji.org)). On Sunday, February 11, we focused on a special fundraising appeal from the UUA on behalf of **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists (BLUU)**. To date we have raised over \$2,000 in checks and cash collected, with several outstanding pledges still to be fulfilled. Since we have reached (and exceeded!) our goal of \$2,000 (\$10 per member), the contribution to BLUU will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a benefactor beyond the UCS community.

March BE funds will go to the **Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)**.

April BE funds will be collected to support the volunteer work of the **Nicaragua Service Trip** happening this summer (see below for details on the trip). While participants will cover their travel and local expenses, we hope to raise a portion of the \$2500 that they will need to provide for materials to help build a house in Chacraseca.



**Old House:** Many houses in Chacraseca look like this. FNEI's program helps replace them with sturdy brick houses.



**New House:** Janet Schmidt helps build a house for and with a local family.

### Nicaragua Service Trip



We are pleased to announce that the trip is happening! The dates have been changed so that we can join a small group of volunteers from New York to make one larger group. Spaces are still available; we will be arranging flights and planning our itinerary in the coming weeks. Please contact Janet Schmidt ([jcscoch@gmail.com](mailto:jcscoch@gmail.com)), if you want to join the group. Here are the updated details:

**When:** July 24-August 1 (or 2), 2018

**Where:** Mostly in Chacraseca, a large rural community outside of the Pacific coast city of Leon, with the possibility of a day in Managua and another 1-2 days to visit other locations in Nicaragua.

**Who:** Adults of all ages, church members or not.

**Costs:** \$500 per person, which covers a place to sleep, all meals, some sightseeing, and all ground transportation. Airfare is extra (\$500-\$700). The group is asked to raise \$2500 to cover some of the costs for building a house. The family already owns the land and pays a modest mortgage for a portion of the cost of the house. Our Brown Envelope collection for April will contribute to this total.

**What:** Activities that can be included: House and stove construction (tasks for all abilities), led by experienced and skilled local builders; visits and interactions with students and teachers in schools, teaching English to adults and/or children, working on gardening projects in the community, learning about Nicaraguan history and culture, meeting informally with community residents. Spanish speakers of all levels are welcome (even if you know



**Stove:** Building a more efficient and safe stove is a one-day project.



**School:** A school in Chacraseca.

only a phrase or two; translation will be provided).

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### Conversations at the Meeting House

#### Difficult Conversations interview on SCTV

On Thursday March 22, Andrew Plumridge, Rumni Saha, Laurie Wallace and Ray Wallace taped an interview for SCTV's long-running show, *The Law, Your Money and You!* Unfortunately, Jenna Koines, the 5th member of this group, was unavailable to attend. The show's co-anchors—Roberta Saphire and Camille Barron—who attended the February Conversation at the Meeting-house titled "*How Can You Believe That? - Exercises in listening to one another when many don't*", were deeply impressed with the group's presentation and invited them to appear on their show. It was once again a lively conversation and an important and engaging discussion. Based on the tremendous interest the presentation has generated and the feedback received from the community at large, talks are underway for future seminars around difficult topics.

The show airs in twenty-four towns and cities throughout New England, including Sharon. Stay tuned for dates of broadcast as well as upcoming presentations.



**March 22, 2018: Difficult Conversations on SCTV** - UCS members Andrew Plumridge, Rumni Saha, Laurie Wallace and Ray Wallace on the set of *The Law, Your Money and You!*

**CommUnity Closet Update:** The Closet, located at the UU Church of Brockton, 325 West Elm Street is open every month on the second Saturday. Our church was responsible for the February opening, as reported in last month's Chalice. We continue to collect new and gently used clothing in the Vestry, and we are now accepting warmer weather (Spring and Summer) items for people of all ages. Men's clothing is especially needed, as well as new socks, underwear, women's sanitary products, and reading glasses. Volunteers are needed to help sort and organize the donations. Please contact Jim Mullin if you're interested in giving a hand to this important work.

### Social Justice Messaging

During recent SJC meetings there has been thoughtful, spirited discussion regarding social justice messaging at the church. The focus has been on how those messages are chosen, and how they influence both the members and friends of our congregation, as well as the wider community that we are a highly visible part of as we proudly sit here at the crossroads of Sharon. What we say, or choose not to say, and how we promote our messages, is a key part of our collective presence.

The specific topic that initiated the discussion is the poster and banner which came to us last spring in conjunction with Reverend Jim Robinson's retirement. It consists of a rainbow flag with a series of brief messages on each band, all of which draw attention to a range of social justice causes and themes. The image was taken from the official UUA website as a new visual aide for promoting social justice awareness.

A key feature of the image was an introductory or framing line, which stated that "IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:", followed by the list of messages. Our wide ranging discussion focused on the relative value and force of that introduction, and whether or not it reflected the broader UU principle of not declaring what it is that we believe, as opposed to our collective search for meaning and our desire to hear from all perspectives on sometimes difficult topics. The outcome of the discussions has been a decision to remove the introductory line from the banner and poster, but to keep the line-by-line image of meaningful, and sometimes controversial, messages, as part of the social justice presence of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. No doubt this is but a small chapter in the long story of this church, and we look forward to engaging one another in thoughtful dialogue over these and other topics as we journey together.

**IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:**

**LOVE IS LOVE**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**

**NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### 2018 UU Advocacy Day April 10, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

You Are Invited! Join UCS members and come to 2018 UU Advocacy Day on April 10 in Boston. Several important bills need our action. Our legislators need to hear from us! Join us as we put our values and principles into action! Climate Action and Justice: Clean Energy to at least 50% by 2030, Pass Solar for All, Plan for Climate Change, Divest from Fossil Fuels, Raise Minimum Wage to \$15 and Paid Family & Medical Leave, Safe Communities Act.

We will learn what to do before, during and after meeting with the legislators. Has the legislator co-sponsored the bill? Appointments with legislators will be made for us and we will meet with them as a group. We will receive preparation materials before the event. We will be given fact sheets. There will be videos explaining the bills.

The program will start at the Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston Street in Boston and conclude at the State House.

Program info: Keynote: Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen – Senior Strategist, Side with Love, Music – Matt Meyer, Rhythm Revelations, and Spoken Word Poet – Anthony Thomas!

To register - [Bit.ly/uuadvocacyday](http://Bit.ly/uuadvocacyday)

For questions, details please contact Elizabeth Siftar, Social Justice Committee at [esiftar@gmail.com](mailto:esiftar@gmail.com) or 302-354-1809

### Do It Now (From Home) Mass Power Forward Call-In Day

Every Monday, please make 3 calls to ask our legislators to pass clean energy legislation. Now is a critical time to keep this agenda at the top of their minds. Rep. Kafka is in the House Leadership, which can be very influential in getting legislation passed. Details and a call log form is available by clicking [here](#).

If you hail from Sharon, these phone numbers will make the connection:

Sen. Walter Timilty 617-722-1643

Sen. Paul Feeney 617-722-1222

Rep. Louis Kafka 617-722-2960

### You Are Invited - Meet with Rep. Kafka -

April 5th at 8:30 am - Angel's Café. Help get important bills passed.

Join UCS members, as well as No Sharon Gas Pipeline, Sustainable Sharon, and members of the Canton and Walpole communities. We will be meeting with our legislator before bills are reported out of committee. Rep. Kafka is a member of the Mass House Leadership team, which means he meets regularly with the Speaker of the House, DeLeo. We want him to work actively to push for the energy omnibus bill with both DeLeo and Ways and Means chair Sanchez, both of whom have a lot of power. Hearing from each of us about why it's important to us can help motivate him.

Here's an update on where the bills are:

<http://mapowerforward.com/legislative-updates-march-2018>.

Contact - Elizabeth Siftar, Social Justice Committee - email : [esiftar@gmail.com](mailto:esiftar@gmail.com) - cell: 302-354-1809



**State Representative Lou Kafka** - serving Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole and Mansfield

### Paid Medical and Family Leave and \$15 Minimum Wage legislation update

Brockton Community Briefing, April 10th, 6pm, Restoration Community Church, Brockton.

The legislature needs to hear from us, in every corner of the Commonwealth, that it's time to pass Paid Family and Medical Leave and a \$15 Minimum Wage. Now that we've collected enough signatures to put both of these questions on the ballot, our message to the legislature is clear: let's do this. That's why we're taking our message to every corner of the Commonwealth. Join us in cities and towns across Massachusetts for community briefings with activists and regional legislators to discuss why 2018 will be the year that these campaigns are realized for all workers and families across Massachusetts!

Register: [Bit.ly/raiseupbrockton](http://Bit.ly/raiseupbrockton)

Carpools will leave UCS at 5pm. Contact Elizabeth Siftar, Social Justice Committee for details. Email - [esiftar@gmail.com](mailto:esiftar@gmail.com) - cell: 302-354-1809

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### March for Our Lives

By Elizabeth Siftar, Co-Chair of SJC

On Saturday, March 24, several members of our congregation gathered at the Sharon Train Station for our trip into Boston in support of the "kids" who would be marching in the March For Our Lives - The morning was sunny, with no rain or snow. Most of us in the group were experienced marcher-protesters, dedicated to social justice. It was a familiar scene, everyone with protest signs ready to be held high when we would be standing on Boston Commons in support of the kids, the students, the survivors of the Parkland shooting and their allies. We headed out on the crowded train to Back Bay Station and a short walk to the Commons. Along the streets in Boston, the mood appeared to be upbeat, people gathering with signs and heading to the march.



**March 24, 2018: UCS members** at the train station leaving for March for Our Lives in Boston.

We had all been hearing the message of the march - Enough is Enough - Change is Needed. Everything was familiar. We gathered along the route of the march to wait for the kids to arrive, phones and cameras ready to



**March 24, 2018: Children - the leaders** in March for Our Lives in Boston

get those shots of the many protest signs. We heard them approaching, and then they appeared - lined shoulder to shoulder, the leaders holding the blue banner. And, my breath caught in my throat and I felt the familiarity of the scene vanish. I saw the faces of these "kids" and I wanted to cry. They were so young! And as far as I could see, they continued and continued and continued. And they were so focused, and mature and clear in their purpose. But they were so young! I was overcome with feelings of protection for these young souls speaking to the heart of all civil rights movements: this is not political, partisan, blue or red. This is a moral movement. Adults have failed and now the children must lead. These new adults are challenging us - do the right thing. Pass moral laws. Save Our Lives.

Here are some reactions from our UCS members who participated in the March.

"I was privileged to attend this march with two youth from our congregation, and I have come to believe that the nation's youth will save us. Standing with those two among the thousands and thousands of other youth and their adult allies was a reminder that all of us united can make a difference". Valerie White

"After hearing the Parkland students speak, I have hope for the future of this country. They are so articulate, so passionate and so on-point it is humbling. Let's get out of their way and take their lead. I was thrilled to join a march with so many young people in addition to the usual older folks that I'm used to seeing at political rallies". Bri McAlevey

"I did not take any photos but I won't soon forget the marchers entering Charles Street. These kids are an inspiration and their commitment to this cause gives me hope for our future." Elaine Price

"Confidence in our future - Angry but Good-Natured Protesters motivated by being with like-minded Souls - Impressive Leadership and Vision coming from the Young (and young @ heart) - Faith in the Better Angels of our Nature". Gare Reid

Photo credits  
Elizabeth Siftar,  
Bri McAlevey,  
Jeff Tucker, and  
Evan Spencer



**March 24, 2018: March for Our Lives** in Boston



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued



March 24, 2018: March for Our Lives in Boston. UCS members and other protesters with signs



March 24, 2018: UCS youth holding his sign at March for Our Lives





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### Boston Pride Parade

Save the Date! This year's **Boston Pride Parade** will be on **Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Plan to join members of UCS for a train ride into Boston that day to participate in the Pride Service at Arlington Street Church, and then either march with the folks from ASC or watch the parade in groups. UCS will not have its own spot in the parade this year due to the growth of the parade causing long wait times to start marching. Instead, we will celebrate our pride as we choose and return home when we choose. For questions, please contact Mia at [lizandmia@aol.com](mailto:lizandmia@aol.com).

The next monthly meeting of the **Social Justice Committee** will be on Sunday, April 8, 12 – 1:30 PM in the Library. All church members and friends are welcome to attend any meeting. Share your ideas and concerns there or contact one of the co-chairs, Elizabeth Siftar and Gare Reid. We encourage everyone who wants to stay informed about social justice initiatives at the state level to sign up for UU Mass Action's weekly updates ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)).

### Upcoming Dates:

**Wednesday, 4 April**, 6:00pm, SIA/BIC Planning Session (Brockton)

**Thursday, 5 April**, 8:30am: Meet with Rep. Louis Kafka (Angel's Café)

**Sunday, April 8**, 12 Noon – 1:30 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting (Library)

**Tuesday, April 10**, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM: UU Mass Action Lobby Day (Boston)

**Tuesday, April 10**, 5:00pm: Paid Medical & Family Leave/Minimum Wage briefing, (Restoration Community Church, Brockton)

**Sunday, April 15**, 11:30 AM: Lunch making for MainSpring House (Vestry)

**Saturday, April 21**, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: *Living Our Values in a Messy World* workshop (First Parish UU, Canton)

**Sunday, April 29**, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Vigil in support of immigrants at Suffolk County House of Detention, organized by UUMass Action (Boston)

**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 Thosten-son with beautiful photographic images, with all profits supporting the social justice projects of the church.

### The Five Points Cluster: Living Our Values in a Messy World

The Five Points Cluster invites you to a workshop on justice, "Living Our Values in a Messy World", on Saturday, **April 21**. This interactive workshop will be held 9:00 am-1:30 pm at First Parish UU Canton. We will explore together some concrete ways our congregations might provide more inspiration, community support and insight to help us act on the commitments of our faith with more intention, joy, creativity, and courage.

Our facilitator is Meck Groot, Congregational Consultant and Justice Ministries Lead for the UUA's New England Region.

To register and access a fuller program description and schedule, go to <http://whoozin.com/KXN-KDV-P3JQ>.

It would be great to have a group from our church; please let Beth McGregor know if you're planning to go and if you'd be willing to volunteer to help the Cluster committee with setup, food etc.

Cost is only \$5 per person, including a light breakfast and lunch. Registration and payment deadline is Monday **April 16**. For convenience, you can give your individual payment to Beth so we can pool our payments into one check to FPUU Canton.

The Five Points Cluster includes the congregations in Sharon, Stoughton, North Easton, Canton, Foxboro, and a new member, Brockton. "Living Our Values in a Messy World" is the second annual spring workshop sponsored by the Cluster. We gather for shared worship and fellowship and to support shared projects like the CommUnity Closet and a file of Wayside Pulpit signs. We always welcome new participants in our roughly bi-monthly cluster planning meetings.

Beth McGregor



## The Spiritual Business of Changing My Consciousness

What's Happening: SIA, Sharon Interfaith Action, links with BIC, Brockton Interfaith Community, hoping to make inroads into issues of poverty and injustice through the power of relationships which includes all who are interested.

To me being involved with this experiment is rather like a spiritual practice. Why? It has to do with integrity and congruity. And Listening. And Being Curious. And Noticing. Good behavior traits if you want to learn.

Expanding my consciousness: For me, growing up White, Middle-class, and albeit in an enclave of familial, Christian cultural hypocrisy, why would changing my consciousness ever be compelling?! Why would I question the way the world is? I did not know anyone living in poverty. I was a happy 5 year old. I did not have a spiritual practice, (I did have a monkey though).

But, I don't think we give children enough credit. I saw the hypocrisy easily by the time I was in middle school. Maybe seeing the gaps in what we say we cherish and what we actually behave like, is the first step in exploring our own grounding belief set. Noticing is a spiritual practice.

So, besides the hypocrisy, (all too readily apparent even at a young age), sooner or later, I also learned that the real Jesus was poor and advocated for those without voice—he was inclusive; and that Rev. King was organizing the next great revolution after the Civil Rights Movement—the human rights revolution; and the UU principles herald a world that *could be* if we work to make it so; then it becomes apparent we need an interlinking of spirit with action. The world that is, is not the world that could be. And what we say we value governs how we behave: Integrity and Congruity. Working toward this is a spiritual practice.

This is the idea behind Sharon Interfaith Action, SIA, founded by Rabbi Randy Kafka, whose goal was putting our faith into action: "Our faith traditions call us to love our neighbors and to work for justice. We therefore seek to reach across suburban/urban, racial, and class divides to develop relationships with and support the efforts of those people most directly impacted by injustice."

SIA works with BIC, Brockton Interfaith Community. "BIC was created in 1990 by area clergy and lay leaders to address ....the balance of power in low and moderate income communities, ....by making sure all people have a seat at the table. To do this work..., BIC has developed a well-tested model of faith-based, grass-roots organizing where a) Relationships are the building blocks, b) Local leadership creates long-

lasting change, and c) Careful research and cultivations of allies produce innovative policy solutions."

The PICO Community Organizing Model ([piconetwork.org](http://piconetwork.org)) has intensive trainings, and "teaches that values and relationships are the glue that holds organizations together rather than simply bringing people together based on common issues." It's a way of building social capital.

Will Dickerson, the new Executive Director of BIC, leads our training sessions. The first set was last summer with SIA here at the Meetinghouse. The second was in Brockton together with members of various Brockton congregations. In the PICO cycle, we are just beginning, getting acquainted with each other and what makes us compelled to do this work. We are also reaching out into our communities to have individual conversations, called 1:1s. Each conversation is a chance to listen, be heard and learn, and a path to new consciousness.

I am fortunate to be on this adventure with others in the community and in the congregation ( Ellen Bordman, Linda Fingerson, Beth Hoke, Jenna Koines, and

Elaine Price), and to discover from conversations with you what social justice issues are paramount, and invite you to support the work of BIC and SIA . At our next meeting, to be held in Brockton on Wed., April 4, we will choose the social justice and community issue we will be working. We extend this invitation to come if you have engaged in a 1:1 with one of us, and please be aware, unlike church, you will not be roped into volunteering unless that is your desire:) Please feel free to contact us for more information!

*In Community,*

Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks

### Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate Earth Day, Sunday, April 22 with a walk at Moose Hill Audubon Sanctuary and Mary Oliver's poems. Wear your hiking shoes and bring your favorite Mary Oliver poem, we'll meet in the parking lot at 1PM. Rain or shine. Any questions contact Elaine Price [elaine.price160@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.price160@gmail.com).



## Conversations At the Meetinghouse



# Immigration

Update on the Massachusetts immigrant communities who are targeted for deportation

**ELLEN DAVEY-FLEMING**, Immigration Attorney

**SUE PARSONS**, MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition)

---

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018, 7 PM**

---

Ellen Davey-Fleming is a member of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. As a practicing immigration attorney, she will share her experience working with immigrants and refugees over the past 30 years, beginning with the legalization "amnesty" program in 1986 through the drastic legal restrictions and enforcement actions of the current administration's immigration policy. She will be joined by Sue Parsons of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), the largest coalition promoting the rights and integration of immigrants and refugees. She will share some of the organization's advocacy efforts for the foreign born in our state legislature as well as how recent changes in immigration policy are directly affecting the communities MIRA serves. At this critical time in our country's history, MIRA seeks to make MA a model for how to welcome and integrate people from all around the world and stand up for a better, more inclusive America.

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



## April 2018 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Family Worship Service 10am RE Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Reiki Support Group 3pm (A/B) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB)	<b>2</b> Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB) AIM2 Meeting 7pm (A)	<b>3</b> Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB) Coming of Age Youth 7:30pm (A/B)	<b>4</b> RE Committee 7pm (NUR) Book Group 7pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	<b>5</b> ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Space and Storage 7:30pm (VES)	<b>6</b> Pot Luck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meetinghouse 7pm (A/B)	<b>7</b> Committee Chairs 9am (VES)
<b>8</b> Family Worship Service 10am RE Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) SJC meeting 12pm (B) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	<b>9</b> Green Day planning 7pm (C) Journey Group (Closed) 7:30pm (LIB) Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES) Building & Grounds 7:30pm (A/B)	<b>10</b> Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB) Ministerial Search Committee 7:30pm (VES)	<b>11</b> Sustainable Sharon Coalition 7pm (A/B) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	<b>12</b> ESL 6pm (LIB) Second Women's Group 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)	<b>13</b> Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	<b>14</b> Let's Laugh Today 11am (A/B)
<b>15</b> Family Worship Service 10am RE Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	<b>16</b> Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB)	<b>17</b> Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB)	<b>18</b> Stewardship Committee 6pm (LIB) Caring Committee Meeting 7pm (MIN) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	<b>19</b> ESL 6pm (LIB)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Coffee House 7pm
<b>22</b> Family Worship Service 10am RE Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	<b>23</b> Journey Group (Closed) 7:30pm (LIB) Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	<b>24</b> Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) GRASP Support Group 7pm (LIB) Meditation Group 7:00pm (A/B) Coming of Age with mentors	<b>25</b> Membership Committee 7pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	<b>26</b> ESL 6pm (LIB) Second Women's Group 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)	<b>27</b> Art in the Heart 7pm (VES)	<b>28</b> Bikes-Not-Bombs 9-1pm (PARK)
<b>29</b> Family Worship Service 10am RE Classes 10:30am Worship Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm	<b>30</b>					

Please go to [www.uusharon.org/calendars](http://www.uusharon.org/calendars) to reserve meeting space or to view the most up to date calendar.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



*A Welcoming  
Congregation of  
the UUA*

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT  
**781/784-3652**

SEND AN EMAIL TO  
**ADMIN@UUSHARON.ORG**  
OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
**[www.uusharon.org](http://www.uusharon.org)**