

# the choice

Published by the  
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**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**Wednesday, May 23rd**

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May 2018

## MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

*Childcare provided*

### Sunday May 6: Neither Here Nor There: A View of Human Rights

10:00am Family Service

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

This Sunday we will welcome Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler as a guest preacher. Rabbi Meszler is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai in Sharon, a Jewish educator and a human rights activist. He is passionate about social justice, fighting hunger, reducing gun violence, and educating people about Israel. Rabbi Meszler has been a Brickner Fellow through the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, is a member of the Hevraya of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and recently served as a Global Fellow with American Jewish World Service in 2017-18. Rabbi Meszler is the author of several books, including: Gifts for the Poor: Moses Maimonides' Treatise on Tzedakah (College of William & Mary 2003), Witnesses to the One: the Spiritual History of the Sh'ma, (Jewish Lights Publishing, g, 2006), A Man's Responsibility: a Jewish sh Guide to Being a Son, a Partner in Marriage, a Father, and a Community Leader (JLP, 2008), Facing Illness, Finding God: How Judaism Can Help You and Caregivers Cope When Body or Spirit Fails (JLP, 2010), and Jewish Tradition & Justice Today (CreateSpace, 2017).



### Sunday May 13: Our Faith Mothers

10:00am Family Service

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

This morning we celebrate the mothers - past and present - of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, with a special look at the life and ministry of Eliza Hickok, this congregation's first female minister.

### Sunday May 20: Coming of Age

10:00am Family Service

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

A milestone for our congregation. For the past 8 months, our 8th and 9th graders have been exploring the ethical and spiritual dimensions of their lives. This Sunday, they will share statements of who they are and what matters most in life – their credos. We will celebrate their “coming of age” as UUs.



### Sunday May 27: Worship leader: Matt Meyer

10:15am Service (No RE classes)

As a musician, educator and worship leader, Matt has led worship for hundreds of congregations, travelling the country sharing the message of love and justice, through rhythm and song. He is a modern circuit-rider, bringing a model of embodied and heartfelt worship to congregations across the country. Matt's services inspire congregants to a new relationship with each other and with our shared purpose of love and justice.

## From the Minister



“Every congregation has stories to tell, stories of success and failure, stories of joy and grief. One of the times when a congregation’s stories are most likely to be recalled is during the time of pastoral transition. As a congregation makes decisions for the future, members look to the past.”

—Roger S. Nicholson, *Temporary Shepherds: A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry*

It’s May! And the Transition Team has been hard at work planning an event for the whole congregation! The Transition Team is the group of 5\* that have been selected by the Board to help guide the work of the Interim phase of your congregational life, as you prepare to search for and call a new Settled Minister.

One of the five tasks of Interim Ministry is “Coming to Terms with History.” Why look at the history?

- To share stories with one another - sometimes funny, sometimes inspirational, sometimes challenging, occasionally sad
- To learn more about the history of the congregation and about one another
- To feel a greater sense of belonging to the UCS community
- To help figure out what we should celebrate and what the Search Committee might lift up to draw potential ministers
- To reflect on the past and put the past in perspective as we begin to discern and envision the future

No matter who you are - or how young or old - or how long you’ve been coming to the Unitarian Church of Sharon, or whether you are a member or a friend, you are hereby invited and encouraged to attend:

### **Our Timeline Project: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future**

**Saturday, May 12 from 6:30 - 8:00pm**

**Ice Cream Sundaes - A Perfect time for dessert after dinner!**

**Interactive Timeline - Learn about major events in the history of the congregation!**

### **Add your own stories!**

### **Fun activities for all ages!**

The Transition Team has put a lot of effort into planning this event, but they need some help from you to make it happen! We are looking for volunteers to help set up, to help scoop ice cream and pop popcorn, and to help clean up.

If you are available on Saturday, May 12 - before, during or after the event ... please email Joyce Bramhall at [Joyce.bramhall@gmail.com](mailto:Joyce.bramhall@gmail.com)

Also if you are a musician and have a CD recording of your music, please bring a copy and we include it in the event playlist!

I’m very much looking forward to seeing you and to hearing your stories!

*Rev. Wendy*

\*

Chair: John O’Connor

Members: Joyce Bramhall, Brad Larson, Evelynne Swagherty, Bri McAlevey

### **May 20th Worship Service: Coming of Age**

### **What is Coming of Age ?**

Twelve youth from this congregation have spent the past seven months exploring their religious beliefs. They’ve taken part in discussions on many topics central to Unitarian Universalism. They’ve met monthly with their mentors, adults from this congregation whom they chose to accompany them on their first journey into Credo, a statement of their current beliefs. The whole congregation will celebrate their completion of this first journey on May 20 -- as our youth share their credos with the congregation during worship. A highlight of the church year!

Our Coming of Age youth: Alice Zaniewski, Brady Daylor, Brandon Webber, Daphne Theiler, Grace Miller-Trabold, Julia Zelevinsky, Kate Slater, Lily Harding, Molly McAlevey, Nolan Howard, Will Bordman, and Zoë Plumridge.

## Our Committees

### Adult Education Programs

The Adult Education Committee (Kathleen Guilday, Nina Lynch and Susan Allison) supports and encourages adult programs offered at the Unitarian Church of Sharon. The Committee also advises members and friends who are interested in starting new programs. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to participate in a UCS adult education program or are interested in joining the Committee, please consider becoming involved next fall. Here is a list of currently available programs with contacts:

#### Fellowship

Book Group (Edele Panessidi)  
 Circle Suppers (Allison Jones)  
 Community Seder Supper (Steve Tapper)  
 MMAS Theatre Group (Pat McDougal)  
 Movie Night (Elaine Price)  
 Potluck Dinner / Conversations at the Meetinghouse (Gare Reid)

#### The Arts

Art in the Heart (Jean Fox)  
 Art Wall Display (Forbes Russell)  
 Museum Visiting Group (Brad Larson)  
 Not Just Another Coffeehouse (David Schoenfeld)  
 Writer's Group (Jon Slavin)

#### Wellbeing

AI-Anon (contact a Committee member for more information)  
 Let's Laugh Today (Linda Hamaker)  
 Men's Support Group (David Schoenfeld)  
 Reiki Group (Laurie Wallace)  
 Women's Support Groups (Kathleen Guilday, Susan Allison)

#### Spiritual Exploration

Covenant Groups (Laurie Wallace, Susan Allison)  
 Journey Group (Barbara Rose)  
 Meditation Group (Ray Wallace)

*Submitted by Kathleen Guilday*

### Summer Worship Services



The worship committee has chosen a theme for the Summer Services: Sources of Inspiration. If you are interested in speaking about what inspires YOU at a summer wor-

ship, please contact any member of the Worship Committee. You should plan on about ten minutes because there will be two speakers each Sunday. Sign up with a buddy! A member of the worship committee will be present each Sunday to serve as worship coordinator and support. Now's your chance to pick your favorite hymn!

*Valerie White, Worship Committee Chair*

### CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY--A FIRST STEP IN FINDING OUR NEXT MINISTER

Later this month, you'll be receiving a message from the Ministerial Search Committee; it will include a link to a confidential survey that we hope all members and friends will fill out.

The Congregational Survey, a standard practice in UU ministerial searches, helps potential ministerial candidates get a good overview of a congregation--its demographics, its culture, its ideas on ministry. It's also a starting point for the Search Committee to learn more about who we are as a congregation and what we aspire to as we move into a new settled ministry--a warmup to deeper and more interactive discussions in the fall. The survey is totally anonymous and confidential--even the committee won't know who gave what responses--and paper copies will be available for anyone who prefers not to use the online Survey Monkey form. Our target is to circulate the survey around May 20th and ask everyone to respond by the end of the church year in late June. Over the summer, we'll be processing the survey and planning for fall activities, including 'cottage meeting' focus groups and a UUA-staffed "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop and service.

So be on the lookout for our message, and please contribute your distinctive piece to the fascinating mosaic that is our congregation by filling out the survey. Stay tuned!

With hope and gratitude,

The Ministerial Search Committee



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL and OUR TIME LINE PROJECT

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 6:30pm  
 the scoop...Our Past, Our Present  
 and Our Future

sponsored by

The Transition Team



## Buildings & Grounds

### Welcome to the Unitarian Church of Sharon.....Grounds and Gardens

NO! NO! That's not right! The Garden, in whatever-seasonal form you find it, is suppose to welcome us, as we meander into the Meetinghouse! Outdoor space around a church or other sacred building (would that be the shed?) should lead us into meaningful indoor space, physical and spiritual. Whether we come for worship, or a meeting, or to measure a likely spot for a filing cabinet, gardens have a way of suggesting we slow down and notice. And that's the idea. So by keeping flower colors in soft blues and purples, with just a few shock and awe colors, we visually melt, so to speak, into contemplative space. That's the idea and design for the front of and entrance to the Meetinghouse. Give it a try! But "contemplative" is not our only nature. The 2 Gardens around the Green and the Rain Garden on the north side of the church are designed to be dynamic, expressive, fun and celebratory, full of color and yes, sometimes even chaotic! This year hopefully we will enjoy something new, a small rainbow of tulips. Celebration is our nature as well! Hope you enjoy strolling and looking for the rainbow, but if you've come for contemplation, bring your own BENCH! (Hint, hint!)

Building and Grounds  
Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks



### CHURCH YARD SALE - SATURDAY MAY 19th

Time to clean out those closets, attics, garage bays with items that will become treasures for shoppers at our annual Yard Sale. Drop off donations at church Wednesday May 16 to Friday May 18. Sign up to help with pricing and running the Yard Sale. All volunteers welcome. NO CLOTHING OR ELECTRONIC ITEMS. Contact Rory McGregor if you have questions: [rmcgregor3@aol.com](mailto:rmcgregor3@aol.com) or 508-400-4719. Call to schedule pickup for large items.

### Meetinghouse Grounds Clean Up Help

Spring into Action on Blue Jean Saturday, May 12 from 9-12. Children welcome to play or work, and even an hour will help clean up winter storm damage. Breakfast tidbits served! Come commune with spring and friends! Bring rakes, containers, pruners, gloves and pitchforks, if you have them. Contact B&G, Rory McGregor or Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks.

### Volunteer to Steward a Patch of Meetinghouse Gardens

Our gardens are planted with a purpose and it isn't just to give the eye a thrill. It's to give our pollinators healthy habitat, and literally a chance at surviving in an environment deplete of native plants. Our gardens here at church have many examples of native plants and opportunities for weeding and trimming. Join our crew of stewards of the gardens and claim a patch to look after during the year, or as long as you are able. Contact Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks or Rory McGregor

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS News

Special thanks go to our loyal teen-age snow shovel brigade. Will Boardman, Jonathan Parker-O'Toole and Sergio Ripley got perhaps more work than they welcomed last winter, but we would have had a hard time getting to church without them! Thanks to Rory McGregor, who takes on the challenges of both our Spring blue jeans cleanup (May12) AND the church yard sale (May 19) this month. He could use your help! Thanks also to Terry Fitzgerald for developing the specs for exterior painting that will protect the building until the AIM II restoration.

**LOCK THE DOOR!** Members sometimes arrive at the church to find it unlocked and empty. We are a welcoming church, but not everyone should be able to enter whenever the spirit moves them. If you have a key, please, PLEASE make sure the door is locked when you leave!

Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks continues the endless task of rationalizing stuff that's stored. We say "endless" because some of the cleared spaces are filling up again! Be nice to Ellen and make her day brighter by permanently disposing of items you have no plans to use again. Posterity doesn't need them!

Your B&G team is Jack Armstrong, Wilbur Edwards, Rory McGregor, Gare Reid, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Colleen Tuck, and Lindsay Drisko, Chair. Talk to any of us and learn about how much fun our meetings are – then come to one!

*Submitted by Lindsay Drisko*

## Religious Education News

### From the Director of Religious Education



#### A meditation on jumping in

Have you ever had one of those diving board moments -- you know, you're perched at the end of the board, looking down at your toes and the subtly undulating surface of the water below, and you're stuck? Walking out to the end

of the board seemed simple enough. But now that you're standing at the end, you're just not sure. What will it be like when you jump in? A fun cannonball? A painful bellyflop? Will you cause all the water to splash out of the pool and land with a thump at the bottom?

Every spring, I talk with people who are standing at the end of this metaphorical diving board as they contemplate whether to jump into the Religious Education volunteer pool. It's a tough decision.

If you find yourself at the end of this metaphorical diving board, what I can tell you is that most people end up enjoying both the jump and their time in the pool. They tell me afterward that their agonizing about whether or not to jump in was the hardest part. Once in the pool, they enjoyed the company of their fellow volunteers, some of whom had been swimming in the pool for a long time and some of whom were completely new at RE. Those folks made swimming in the pool extra fun, no matter what else happened. Those who had just jumped in found they occasionally had profound experiences in RE class, because sometimes children share deep wonderings. Usually they liked it enough to do it again.

And I can tell you that when someone slips on their way off the board or skins their knee on the bottom of the pool or finds the water just too cold for comfort, I am there with them to provide support, encourage self-care, or even say it's okay to climb out of the pool earlier than they'd planned. Life happens, and plans change. When help is needed, someone else from this community is usually able to jump in to fill in as needed.

I hope you'll take that walk to the end of the metaphorical diving board and consider jumping into the pool of RE volunteers. Check in with me. I can give you an idea of what awaits you in the pool. But the decision is yours.

Let's talk,

*Louise*

### FAQ about volunteering in Religious Education

1. *Do I have to teach every Sunday for the whole year?*

No! Most people volunteer for a total of 6 to 12 Sundays over the 41 weeks between Ingathering (September) and Father's Day (June). This gives you plenty of time to be an active participant in the Sunday morning worship community.

2. *Can I choose when I want to teach?*

Yes. You will be part of a team of 7 to 10 volunteers. Each team works out its own schedule to accommodate the needs of its members. Some people choose to teach a sequence of lessons. Others teach occasionally throughout the year. The calendar is kept online and is updated through the year. When plans change, a volunteer can alert the team via email and trade Sundays with other team members. It's fast and easy.

3. *Can anyone teach RE?*

Anyone who's finished 8<sup>th</sup> grade and who is willing to submit to a background check. Our teachers are high school students, young adults, parents, grandparents, and non-parents. All you need is an open mind, helping hands, and a loving heart.

4. *But I'm so new to UUism. Shouldn't RE be taught by experts?*

No. We think RE should be taught by people who care about their community. Learning happens when there is a caring connection. Most RE volunteers find themselves reflecting on themes from the lessons they teach. Teaching can end up enriching your faith journey.

5. *But what skills are required?*

A sense of humor is helpful. We provide orientation, training, specific lesson plans, and ongoing support from the DRE. So you know what is expected of you AND you can ask for help when you need clarification. Also, everyone teaches with a partner – help is always at the ready.

### Sign up NOW to be a Religious Education teacher next year

Find out how by talking with Lilly Zhou, Rumni Saha, or Louise Marcoux. Also check out the big blue brochure titled "Who? ME?! Teach RE?!" for details about curricula, age groups, and teaching teams. Let us help you find the right task for you. Or just sign up on the poster in the vestry.

## Religious Education News, continued

### RE Registration – Already??

Yup! May is Registration Month in the Religious Education Program. We ask that parents register all children ages 1 month through 18 years for September 2018 programs. Hearing from you now helps us plan class groupings, staffing levels, and room assignments for the church year. It also helps us be prepared to accommodate children's needs, promote safety, and know whose photos may be posted on our website (never with names, of course!).

Starting May 1, online registration is possible 24/7 at [http://www.uusharon.org/religious\\_education/registration/#form](http://www.uusharon.org/religious_education/registration/#form). Paper forms can be picked up from the literature rack outside the RE office (near the Preschool classroom) and dropped off (with a check) in the "registration forms" tray in the information station in the RE office (in the bookcase closest to the window).

Fees: \$40 for one child; \$60 for two or more children. All registrations received before July 1, 2018 qualify for a \$10 discount. Fees are waived for youth who volunteer in the Sunday morning RE program. Please do not let the fee get in the way of registering: scholarships are available. Please see Louise Marcoux or Lilly Zhou for details.

*Louise Marcoux, DRE*



### RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon:

**Sunday May 6**

If you helped with Revels, led sexuality education classes, built fairy houses or magic vases, mentored a Coming of Age youth, supported youth at a CON, read a story about friendship, led a group of 10 year olds through a complex decision-making process – in short, if you helped out in any way with RE programs this year, the RE Committee wants to recognize you. Please bring your family and join your colleagues at the Annual RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, May 6, at noon in Program A/B. Tasty treats! Great company! See you there!

### May in RE

*By Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant*

The month of May will comprise only three regular RE sessions. There will be no classes on May 27th as we welcome the dynamic Matt Meyer to lead a multigenerational service.

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will begin the month in their regular class room exploring the wonder and beauty of daylight. Their sessions will then move to the nursery where they will talk about water, and sand and soil in sessions that encourage interconnectedness with the world around them.

The **Grade 1-2** group will complete a community action project that explores affirmations and hidden messages and fortunes. They will join the grade 3-4 class for a session about how we can react to unkindness, and they will also spend a session learning about our tradition of baby dedications.

The **Grade 3-4** students will hear a Buddhist story as they explore the emotion of anger. They will learn about the Sufi religion and how we can respond to unkindness with love. The class will also hear about a Unitarian Minister who began a non-denominational school in India in a session that promotes cultural understanding.

The **Grade 5-6** class will be wrapping up a series of sessions that examined how minorities are portrayed in the media. The students will then explore the topic of appreciating those whose jobs serve the greater good such as military personnel. They will also learn about socio-economic class as the topic relates to our principle of respecting the worth and dignity of all people.

The **Grade 7-8/Junior Youth Group** will go on a field trip to the Islamic Center of New England to complete their study of Islam. The students will then spend a session exploring Hinduism, and they will attend the Coming of Age service.

### Coming of Age Meetings in May

**Youth:** Tue, May 1, 7:30-9 pm

**Youth, Mentors, and Parents:** Tue, May 15, 7:30-9 pm



## 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!

Senior youth were thinking big when planning the theme for Youth Led Worship this year. So many of our members have had deeply personal experiences with mental illness diagnoses, for themselves and/or loved ones, that this was a topic they wanted to explore and share with the congregation. It is an honor to listen to youth's stories and their experiences and humbling to witness the power of their reflection and sharing. Thank you all who joined us and also shared thoughts and feelings with our community.

Coming up on May 27th Senior Youth will be serving a lunchtime meal at Rosie's Place as part of their service work and the use of donations raised from this year's PanWaff Breakfast.

### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

Had a blast playing lazer tag at LazerQuest on Saturday, April 28th! This has been a popular outing for a few years now, and we're glad to keep the tradition going.

For May we'll be getting in touch with our artistic selves again with Pysanky and silk-screening t-shirt designs. Dates are Friday May 11th and Saturday May 26th, all held at church, details for JYFG families are sent out by email. 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)



Sharon Unitarian Junior Youth

April 28, 2018

### DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP MAY 5th

Come worship, deliberate, learn and network with your fellow UUs from southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island at the Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting and Gathering on Saturday, May 5, 9:00 am-12:30 pm at Murray Unitarian Universalist Church in Attleboro.

The annual meeting will address significant changes in our corner of Unitarian Universalism, and invite input from our congregations.

Featured speaker and facilitator Nadia Brock of Essential Partners will lead a workshop on "Difficult Conversations Across Difference." Essential Partners (<https://whatisessential.org>) is a UU-led organization that has worked for 25 years in multiple settings to foster constructive dialogue where conflicts are driven by differences in identity, beliefs and values.

A continental breakfast and abundant snacks will be served. Murray UU Church is at 505 North Main St., Attleboro, convenient to I-95.

There is no charge for the event. Please go to the BCD website at <https://www.uua.org/new-england/districts/ballou-channing-district> for registration and meeting materials.

**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**, the national annual meeting and conference of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be held June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO. This year's theme is "All Are Called." All congregations are invited to send delegates to the meeting, and anyone may attend, Go to [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) for more information and registration.



Sharon Unitarian Junior Youth

April 28, 2018

## May 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!



### 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.

### **Thank You from the MMAS Black Box Theater**

Dear Members of the UCS

I am so thankful and proud to have your group supporting our programs at the MMAS Black Box Theater. Over the past 8 years you have purchased nearly 800 tickets to 96 shows. Many of you have become members and supporters of our Annual Campaign and we are extremely grateful. I look forward to many more shows and pre-show gatherings!

I invite you to visit us at [MMAS.org](http://MMAS.org) to learn more about our Farmer's Market and other programs.

Warm regards,

Ken Butler

Exec. Director and Founder of MMAS

### Not Just Another Coffee House

**Kathleen Guilday, Laurel Martin and friends**

**Saturday, May 19**

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

Inspired by the music of the old masters of Irish fiddling, Laurel Martin's fiddle playing moves with the joyful, lilting rhythm and the soulful nuance that she hears in the music of Clare and East Galway. She is a frequent performer at festivals and concert venues in the Boston area, and is a committed teacher of Irish traditional music.

An All-Ireland harp champion, Kathleen Guilday studied traditional style in Ireland with Noreen O'Donoghue

and Máire Ní Chathasaigh and her repertoire includes dance tunes, slow airs, and compositions of the 18th-century Irish harper Turlough O'Carolan. Kathleen performs as a soloist and as a member of various New England area groups, including the Childsplay fiddle ensemble. She has appeared at Symphony Hall with The Chieftains and entertained President and Mrs. Clinton and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at the White House on St. Patrick's Day 2000.

[www.laurelmartin.com](http://www.laurelmartin.com)

[Kathleen Guilday Video](#)

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



Kathleen Guilday



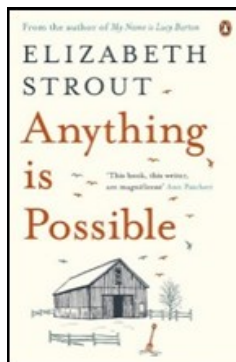
Laurel Martin



## May Programs, continued

### Interest and Discussion Groups

**Book Group** – Join us Wed, May 2nd at 7pm, when will discuss Elizabeth Strout's **Anything is Possible**, in which a cast of small-town characters copes with love and loss. Two sisters travel different paths; a school janitor's faith is tested; a grown daughter misses her mother who lives, happily, in another country; and a woman returns to visit her siblings after 17 years of absence.



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** – 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** – What a great way to start the weekend! Bring the whole family and get your giggle on by attending a FREE laughter session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on **Saturday, May 12th** (and every second Saturday of the month). 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 can be 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](mailto:billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com). PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. See more information and more opportunities to laugh 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 7>15pm. 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, May 11 7PM

**The Circle**

A gripping modern thriller  
starring  
Emma Watson  
and  
Tom Hanks  
about a powerful tech and  
social media company.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



### Brown Envelope Donations Update

During the worship services on Sundays in March, we collected \$1194.31 in BE donations for the **Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)**. April

funds will go to FNE International ([fneinternational.org](http://fneinternational.org)).

Brown Envelopes for the month of May will go to Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC), for ongoing grass roots, community-organizing trainings with BIC and Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA), using the PICO model.

### Chelsea Collaborative Art Supply Collection

Again this year we will gather and donate art supplies to the youth programs at the Chelsea Collaborative based in Chelsea, MA. While our focus for donations of clothing has shifted to the CommUnity Closet in Brockton, we remain committed to supporting the important work being done on behalf of the youth in Chelsea. We will soon share specific lists of critically needed art materials for you to gather or purchase; last year's donations were a huge success!

### 2018 UU Mass Action Advocacy Day

Tuesday, April 10 was UU Advocacy Day – almost 100 people gathered to sing, listen to inspiring words to ground our shared work, learn more about what's happening around legislative reform – and then put our values into action at the State House! The highlight of the day was the visit to Governor Baker's office to deliver postcards in support of the criminal justice reform bill, which the governor later signed into law. Each participant was scheduled to meet with his/her legislator to discuss the Clean Energy Omnibus Bill, the Fight for 15 Minimum Wage and Paid Family and Medical Leave Bill and the Safe Communities Act. Members from UCS, Gare Reid, Colleen Tuck, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Bri McAlevy and Elizabeth Siftar met with staff for Rep. Lou Kafka, Sen. Paul Feeney and Sen. Walter Timilty.

### Nicaragua Service Trip

Six members of our church community will be going to Chacraseca, a large rural community outside of the Pacific coast city of Leon, Nicaragua this summer (July 24-August 2). We'll be joining up for some activities with a group of people from NY and other parts of the U.S., who will be there at the same time. The exact itinerary is not yet set, but we know we will be working on house and stove construction, learning about Nicaraguan history and culture and the local health care system, and meeting informally with community residents in Chacraseca and Leon. The April Brown Envelope collection will support the purchase of materials for the house and stove. For more information, contact Janet Schmidt.



### 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).**



**UU Advocacy Day:** Colleen Tuck and other UU's receive acknowledgement for their direct work with immigrants. Presenter - Rev. Elizabeth



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### RAISE UP Mass Brockton Community Briefing

On Tuesday evening, April 10, members of UCS joined members of Sharon Interfaith Action and Brockton Interfaith Community at the Reformation Community Church in Brockton to stand in support of the working families of Brockton in speaking directly to their legislators about the realities of working two or three low-wage jobs. Their stories were powerful testaments to the struggles of being employed in jobs that do not pay a living, just wage. Sen. Brady's representative, Sen. Cassidy and Rep. DuBois were present and gave their commitments to bringing the initiative to the November 2018 ballot. Thank you to UCS members who attended: Linda Fingerson, Elaine Price, Gary Webber, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Jenna Koinos, Peggy Moran, Gare Reid, and Elizabeth Siftar.

**The next monthly meeting of the Social Justice Committee** will be on Sunday, May 6, 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)).

**SJ 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.



**RAISE UP Mass:** Sharing stories of working in low wage jobs

### Save The Date! Raise Up Congress

**The Raise Up Congress will be held on May 8th, 2018, at 1:00PM on the Grand Staircase of the Massachusetts State House.** We're taking to the State House on May 8th for the Raise Up Massachusetts Congress. This event will represent the escalation of the hard work over the past year on the phones, at community briefings, and lobbying legislators for Paid Family and Medical Leave and a \$15 Minimum Wage. **Please sign up at Coffee Hour to continue to stand in solidarity with Brockton Interfaith Community and working families of Brockton for a livable, just wage and paid family and medical leave.**

### CommUnity Closet Update

The Closet, located at the UU Church of Brockton, 325 West Elm Street, is open every month on the second Saturday. We continue to collect new and gently used clothing for all ages (Spring and Summer) in the Vestry. 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 for more information and to volunteer.



**RAISE UP Mass:** UCS members at Fight for 15 in Brockton



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC): Update on Participation

At the first Issues Convention in April, led by BIC and attended by over 90 participants (including 28 folks from Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA), many being members of the UCS), **EDUCATION FUNDING** was chosen as the first social justice issue on which we will work. This convention was the culmination of initial community organizing trainings lead by Will Dickerson, Executive Director of BIC. The second set of trainings focuses on preparing us to research and work with public officials. The PICO organizing model ([piconetworking.org](http://piconetworking.org)) helps equip congregations and communities with tools to effectively work on social justice issues. Anyone interested in taking the initial training please contact SIA core leaders, including UCS members Ellen Bordman, Jenna Koiner, Linda Fingerson, Beth Hoke, Elaine Price, Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks.

Want to hear more about this exciting development in our community? Come and meet Elder William H. Dickerson, as he leads a mini-workshop at UCS from noon to 1:30pm after Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Learn how one local group, coming from Brockton and Sharon, is studying how to fight for systemic social change. Learn how equity in Funding Education became our first target issue. Learn how people of faith-based communities, Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) and Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA), are engaging in community organizing trainings with Will. Learn why members of UCS have engaged in this endeavor and have committed to fight for social justice. Learn how you can participate in ways that work for you. You won't be disappointed!



**BIC Convention:** Issues raised in Brockton by a group of Brockton participants



**BIC Convention:** A few of the UCS participants in the Convention

### Upcoming Dates:

**Saturday, May 5,** 8 AM – 2 PM, Electronics recycling by BSA (UCS Parking Lot)

**Sunday, May 6,** 12 Noon –1:30 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting (Library)

**Tuesday, May 8,** 1 PM: RAISE UP Congress (State House, Boston)

**Sunday, May 20,** Lunch making for Main-Spring House during coffee hour (Vestry)

**Sunday, May 20,** noon: BIC workshop w/ Will Dickerson - systemic social change (A/B)

**Sunday, June 3:** UCS Rainbow Sunday

**Saturday, June 9:** Pride Parade, Boston



## Difficult Conversations:

### The 2nd Amendment & The 2nd Commandment

On Sunday April 15, following Reverend Bell's powerful service on guns and gun culture titled "The 2nd Amendment & The 2nd Commandment", the Difficult Conversations Working Group (Andrew Plumridge, Rumni Saha, Jenna Koines, Laurie and Ray Wallace) facilitated a dialogue on the same topic. It was an opportunity for congregation members to share their thoughts, concerns, and feelings about this challenging issue and at the same time, a chance for folks to come up with ideas to make positive strides going forward. The congregation expressed interest in making discussions on difficult topics an ongoing event. Plans are under way to work out the logistics so that meaningful discussions can continue to take place on a monthly basis. Please stay tuned for future dates. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend and share your open and sincere thoughts with us.

## 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.



Saturday, **May 5th is Green Day!** New location: Sharon High School from noon to 4pm. Sustainable Sharon Coalition's annual sustainability festival with music, local vendors and organizations, crafts, and games. Fun for the whole family.



**Sunday, April 15 - Worship Service** When talking about guns piano players grab Western hats



Conversations  
At the Meetinghouse



# How Refugees Are Transforming The Middle East

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**STUART SEARS, PH.D.**

**FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018**  
**7 PM**

Stuart Sears, Ph.D. is a scholar of Arabic and Middle East History with a Ph.D from the University of Chicago in Early Islamic History. He is co-founder of the Arabic Language Associates and previously taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Sears will discuss current crises in the Middle East and their impact on the plight of refugees.

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***



## May 2018 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
<div> 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. </div>		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB) Coming of Age Youth 7:30pm (A/B)	UUA Comp Consultant 6pm (VES) RE Committee 7pm (NUR) Book Group 7pm (LIB) Sustainable Sharon Coalition 7pm (A/B) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN)	Pot Luck Supper 6pm Conversations at the Meetinghouse 7pm (A/B)	Green Day Electronics Recycling 8am (PARK) Committee Chairs 9am (VES)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Religious Education Classes 10:30am SJC 12pm (LIB) RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 12pm (A/B/C) Reiki Support Group 3pm (A/B) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Covenant Group I. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Women's Grp I (Closed Grp) 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB)	Board of Trustees 6:15pm (LIB) Sustainable Sharon Coalition 7pm (A/B) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Sharon Girl Scout Service Unit 7pm (VES) Second Women's Group 7:30pm (A/B) Men's Support Group 8pm (LIB)	JYFG Art Night 6pm (VES) Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Let's Laugh Today 11am (A/B) Our Timeline Project (VES, A/B/C, NUR)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES) Building & Grounds 7:30pm (A/B) Journey Group (Closed) 7:30pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB) Coming of Age with mentors 7:30pm (MULTI)	Yard sale prep 5-10:30pm (ALL except MIN and SAN) Caring Committee Meeting 7pm (MIN) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB)	Yard sale prep 5pm (ALL)	Yard sale 8-5pm (ALL) Coffee House 7pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7pm (LIB) Covenant Sharing Group 7pm (VES) Covenant Group I. 7pm (VES)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (A/B)	Membership Meeting 7pm (LIB) Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB)	Art in the Heart 7pm (VES)	JYFG 1pm (VES)
27	28	29	30	31		
Family Worship Service 10am Worship Service 10:30am Religious Education Classes 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5pm (VES) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Massapoag Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES) Journey Group (Closed) 7:30pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7:00pm (LIB)	Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB)		



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)**