

the chalice

Published by the
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of the Unitarian
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**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**
Friday, September 21

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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

September 9: Ingathering and Water Ceremony *10:15am Service (No RE classes)*

We celebrate the beginning of a new church year with our annual intergenerational water communion service. You are invited to bring a small portion of water with you to pour into a common bowl, and to share about an important place or event from your summer. Water will also be provided. At the end of the service we will use the collected water to bless each other and our spiritual community.

September 16: Return and Forgive *10:00am Family Service* *10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)*

This morning we reflect on forgiveness and what it means to forgive ourselves and others...and begin again in love.

September 23: Discovering our Personal Gifts *10:00am Family Service* *10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)*

We all have gifts, and when we discover them and use them we are empowered and our communities are strengthened. This morning we reflect on and celebrate our own giftedness, and explore the role of religious community in helping us to discern our gifts.

September 30: Our Animal Companions *10:00am Family Service* *10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)*

This morning we reflect on our relationships with our animal companions, on the many ways their presence blesses our lives. As part of this service we will have an opportunity to bless our animals *virtually*. You are invited to bring a picture of or an item associated with your beloved animal companion/s, current or past. Stuffed animals are also enthusiastically invited.

*If you are interested in having your dog or cat or ferret or boa constrictor or other animal companion blessed in person at another time, Rev. Wendy is happy to make arrangements with you to do that!



Daniel Huse

We are saddened by the news that on Thursday August 30th a long time church member and a friend, Dan Huse, has passed away. Information about a memorial service for Dan will be forthcoming.

(On the picture Dan with his wife Katherine.)

From the Minister



Summer has come and gone. The leaves on the trees are just beginning to turn. A new school year is about to begin, and with it a new church year.

Welcome back!

It promises to be an exciting and eventful fall here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon. We'll kick it all off with the return of the Bean Supper on Saturday 9/8 followed by the annual Ingathering Service and Water Ceremony on Sunday 9/9 at 10:15. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or both!

The Ministerial Search Committee has been hard at work all summer, and soon it will be time for you to get more deeply involved in the search process, too. Be on the lookout for invitations to "cottage meetings," and plan to attend one and share your valuable input with the Search Committee. They need your feedback to create a "packet" that will draw the best-matched ministerial candidates.

Also, please mark your calendars now for the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop that will be held after church on October 21st. This event is a very vital part of the Ministerial Search Process, and it is important that as many of you as possible attend. The Search Committee appreciates your willingness to make yourselves available that day – for both worship and the workshop that will follow, and I understand that they will make sure you are well fed!

This fall in worship we will be reflecting, among other things, on the church's Mission and on discerning our personal gifts and discovering how we can use our gifts to enrich ourselves and the community and to further the mission of the church.

Later in the fall/winter there will be an opportunity – in the form of an adult education series – to explore and practice articulating your UU faith. And there will be opportunities to reflect on both "what breaks your heart" and "what gives you hope."

This is going to be an exciting year! Let's begin!

Abundant Blessings,

Rev. Wendy

From the President



September is the start of our new Church year! I'm always excited this time of year when I get to reconnect with my community and find out how all your summers went.

Thank you to all of those who led our summer services! These services sustained us through the summer months.

We will start off the fall with the return of the Bean Supper the evening of September 8th. Thank you to Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks for getting this going again and to Ken Zaniewski for helping to organize all the volunteers!

Please join me in welcoming the new Board members for 2018-2019, including Brenda Wilbur, Vice President, Paul Tuck, Treasurer, Barbara Rose, At-Large member and Brian Cook, At-Large member. Chuck Bordman continued his service to the Board by taking on the role of Clerk and Janet Schmidt continued her term as At-Large member. The Board will have its annual retreat on September 16th to determine our strategic goals for the year! Please take a moment to talk with any of us about what you think is the most important thing the Board should be focusing on in 2018-2019 and beyond! Board meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 7:15 pm in the Library. In addition, Board minutes are kept in the Administration Office and are available to you to review.

The Board has worked with the Treasurer and the Personnel Committee to redistribute some of the Treasurer's accounting tasks to the Office Manager. The Board recently approved a change to the Office Manager job description and added hours and a new job description to the RE Assistant, moving the position to an Administrative Assistant and adding three hours a week to the position to ensure the Office Manager can incorporate more accounting duties while maintaining an average of 20 hours a week during the Church year. These changes were anticipated by the Board last year. They went into effect in September and will ensure strong oversight by the Treasurer while making the Treasurer position more doable.

Finally, the search for our settled Minister will be going into full gear this fall, with a goal of having a new Minister hired starting next summer. This is big and very important for our Church. Please take advantage of all the opportunities the Ministerial Search Committee will be providing the congregation to get involved, give feedback and ensure we hire the best Minister for our Church.

Looking forward to the services the Worship Committee has created for us and to seeing the children enjoying our wonderful Religious Education Programs!

Susan Olson Drisko, President

Karen MacKinnon takes on a New Role



Karen MacKinnon

This summer the Board of Trustees agreed with a recommendation of the Personnel Committee to change the Religious Education (RE) Assistant job to an Administrative Assistant. As a result, Karen MacKinnon (the former RE Assistant) expanded her role and will now also support the administrative functions of the Church. Karen will work with the Religious Education (RE) program ten hours a week and with the

Office Manager three hours a week. Along with supporting the RE programs, Karen will help produce the Order of Service and numerous other tasks. This new arrangement will allow for the Treasurer to shift some responsibilities to the Office Manager to make the role of the Treasurer more manageable.

Karen has been working at the Unitarian Church of Sharon for five years and has been the engine behind lots of RE work. Currently Karen is helping the Director of Religious Education, Louise Marcoux, update and improve the RE portion of the Church's website. The section of the website is called Children and Youth and can be seen here; http://www.uusharon.org/children_and_youth/

Karen notes that she loves working at the Church because it allows her to step outside of her role as a Mom. She finds everyone very kind and welcoming and said "It would be fun to get to meet or communicate with more church members. I enjoy learning new things so whatever tasks are assigned, I'm happy to give it a go! I think extending my role into the main office will compliment my RE Department work and vice versa."

We are very excited to have Karen use her organizational talents in the office. If you see Karen, please congratulate her on well-deserved promotion.

Linda Cveckova, Office Manager



Updating the UU Sharon

Picture Directory

Jean Zaniwski, from the Membership Committee, and Linda Cveckova, Office Manager are updating the 2016 USC Picture Directory! The Directory will be shared only within the congregation and will not be published electronically. The Membership Committee will distribute only one copy per family. We will be using the Church



Windows database to make it easier to produce the Directory. Like we did in the past, each family unit will have one picture along with the names, address, email and phone number of the family and/or individual. By using Church Windows, we will be able to produce the Directory a couple times a year and keep it up to date!

To help us generate the Picture Directory:

1. Please send in a recent family photograph to admin@uusharon.org contact Jean to take your picture at zaniew@verizon.net.
2. If your contact information has changed in the last two years, please email Linda at admin@uusharon.org with your current address, phone number and email information.
3. If you do not want to be included in the Directory or if you prefer not to include some contact information (for example your address or your email) just let us know by emailing admin@uusharon.org.
4. Finally, in an effort to help the church community, we would like to start a database of skills that are in our midst so that when the church is in need of advice or help we can reach out to you. We will not publish your skills in the Picture Directory J, but will record them in our Church Windows database for reference. Skill would include accountant, lawyer, carpenter, plumber, web master, project manager, gardener etc.). Please email your skills to admin@uusharon.org.

Please submit all of the above by Sunday, September 30th to admin@uusharon.org !

News From General Assembly – Success!

June 2018: The General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association voted overwhelmingly to extend delegate status to professional religious educators.

What does this mean?

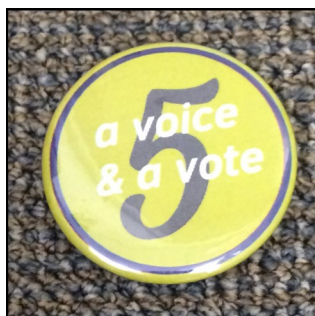
GA is our association's decision-making body. What themes are we focusing on together? What are our priorities for the future of UUism? Who will lead us? These questions are decided by delegates from across the country – members of UU congregations and UU ministers. Only delegates are allowed to speak in the microphone as articles and amendments are discussed. Because of this 2018 vote, the voices and votes of professional religious educators will be included at GA 2019.

What role did the Unitarian Church of Sharon (UCS) have in this decision?

In February, the UCS Board of Trustees learned that professional religious educators had no voice at GA because they are typically neither members of the congregations they serve nor are they ordained UU clergy. The Board voted to request that the initiative -- to extend delegate status to religious educators -- be discussed and voted on at General Assembly 2018. This request, combined with requests from 30 other UU congregations from around the country, put this question before the Assembly. UCS's stance on this question was not a stretch. Its long history of valuing religious education as well as the size and vitality of its RE program have helped it become the dynamic, welcoming church that it is today. UCS (and 30 other congregations) served as the beacon.

When it came time to share the message widely, our Kate Parker-O'Toole heeded the call for help. Kate developed the graphic designs to support the social media campaign that preceded GA and the media campaign (buttons, banners, signs) at GA.

At GA, our delegates, Beth McGregor and Yvonne Marcoux, represented our congregation's values and voted to support the initiative.



By sharing their insights and talents, members of this congregation helped to create a change that will ensure that the conversation about the future of Unitarian Universalism includes the needs and hopes of UU children and families.

Submitted by Louise Marcoux, DRE

Annual Circle Suppers Sign Up



circle suppers

Church members and friends who want to participate this year in the pot luck dinners we call Circle Suppers should sign up by **Sunday, September 23, 2018** with Allison Jones and Jack Gregory. The dinners are held on the

second Saturday of the month, October through May (excluding December). Dates this season are Oct. 13 and Nov. 10, and next year on Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11, 2019.

The dinners rotate between the homes of church members and friends. Sign-up takes place in September (for the fall) and December for the Jan-May 2019 season.

Organizers will designate hosts and guests. Hosts provide the main course. Guests bring appetizers, desserts and salads. If you are unsure of your schedule or unable to host, you may also sign up as an alternate and be invited by a host on short notice. Newcomers welcome!

The schedule for the fall will be issued at the beginning of October. In December, we will ask for any changes needed in the schedule for 2019. A list of locations and guests for 2019 will be published in January. Participants can commit to a dinner every month, or just an occasional month, depending on your schedule.

Please provide the following information:

- name(s)
- telephone number
- email address
- street address.

Also, let us know the number of people in your household who will participate (used for counting guests) and the number of people you can accommodate for a meal (not including the hosts). Let us know which months you will participate or if you want to be an alternate.

Call or email this information to Allison Jones and Jack Gregory by September 23.

From the Ministerial Search Committee

Survey results are in! Thank you all so much for taking the time to share your thoughts and opinions on what you want to see in a new minister and also in your vision for our church. We got responses from approximately 50% of the congregation, and we will soon produce a summary of our survey results for all of you. However, the primary use of the results will be for our ministerial search, to let potential candidates know who we are, what we believe in, and what we hope for.

So, what is next?

Our church has grown so much recently that we realize many of you have never been involved in a search for a settled minister. We'd like to let you know what will be happening, so that you can all get involved and share your hopes and dreams for the Unitarian Church of Sharon. Who do you want our minister to be? What is important for your worship experience? Are there RE programs that you hope for? Adult Ed programs? We need to hear what you are looking for.

There are two upcoming events that will be important. The most critical thing in this process is that EVERYONE get involved. This means new members, families, single seniors, longtime members, and youth, too. The more perspectives we hear from, the happier everyone will be with this experience.

So, what IS next?

Two events are coming up that we would like everyone to participate in.

1. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop- This is a workshop offered by the Transitions Office of the UUA for all congregations undergoing the search process. On October 21, Rev. Jane Dwinell, a UUA Beyond Categorical Thinking consultant, will give a special Sunday morning service to help us start to think about who we want for a minister. Do we have any inner biases about gender or race or marital status? Do we have stereotypes about the minister that we are or are not aware? Following the worship service, Rev. Dwinell will present a workshop on this topic. Again, the more people who participate, the more likely we will find a minister that pleases the whole congregation. Please plan on attending this important workshop, after church on October 21. Childcare and lunch will be provided.

2. Cottage Meetings- Soon, we will be asking you to attend and participate in one or more Cottage meetings. So, you might ask...What are Cottage meetings? A Cottage meeting is a small gathering of people

from the church, ideally hosted in someone's home, in order to provide a comfortable, safe environment for all to share their thoughts and feelings about who they would like new minister to be and what they want to see our church become. So, this is really like a focus group that will come together for approximately an hour, to discuss two or three specific questions prepared by the Ministerial Search Committee. Again, it is very important to us, that everyone participate in this search process. Please keep an eye out for notices at church or through email about specific dates and times for these Cottage meetings. If you are willing to host a meeting at your house, please let us know by contacting Tom D'Avanzo. Members of the Ministerial Search Committee would run the meeting, so you do not need to be worried about that part.

If you are unsure about what's going on or why you are being asked to participate in all of these surveys and workshops, or if you just don't understand the search process, please ask one of us. If you are not sure who to ask, Wendy will be happy to help you.

That's all for now!

Ministerial Search Committee

Laurie Wallace, Beth McGregor, David Slater, Tom D'Avanzo, Valerie White, Karen Zelevinsky, and Linda Godfrey Bailey

66th Annual Bean Supper Potluck

Saturday, September 8 - 5:00 pm to 7:00pm rain or shine - Outdoors on the grounds of the Unitarian Church of Sharon.



event in Sharon.

Celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of fall church services at the Annual Bean Supper. Lots of fun, music, fellowship and great food! Bring your family and invite your friends and neighbors to join in this town-wide

Enjoy a variety of bean dishes, as well as hot dogs right off the grill, fresh garden salads with locally grown produce and homemade breads. Top it all off with home-made brownies and ice cream for dessert. Enjoy live music by local musicians.

Sign up for foods and to volunteer on Signup Genius found in your email. For more information, contact Ken Z. at 781-784-1845 or email - zaniew@verizon.net

Religious Education News



WE'RE BAAAACK! I'm very excited about the upcoming year in our Religious Education program. Chelsea Gould returns for her second year as our Youth Coordinator, running our weekly Senior Youth Group and monthly Junior Youth Fellowship Group. Yay Chelsea!

Karen MacKinnon is back for her sixth year as the Administrative Assistant in the RE program, in a role that is bigger and better than ever! Up til now, Karen has sent home the weekly newsblast to parents and detailed what is happening for each RE group in the order of service and newsletter. She managed and updated the RE portion of the church website. She also kept track of registration, produced attendance sheets, and kept attendance records (important for ministerial search). And she kept track of which volunteers had keys to the building. Her additional duties will include managing the background check process for all RE volunteers, as well as purchasing and inventory. Karen will now be working 10 hours per week from September through June. She'll be in the RE office two days each week. Yay Karen!

In the Nursery, Mary Baker is beginning her sixth year as lead nursery provider. Jill Spence is returning to begin her second year as assistant nursery provider. Mary and Jill are ready to welcome little ones and their families to this congregation. Yay Mary and Jill!

This is my 15th year serving this congregation as Director of Religious Education. This year I'll be here 30 hours each week (on average) – I've reduced my hours as some of my responsibilities have been shouldered by Karen. As you can tell, I'm psyched that we're all back and ready to make it happen! The flexibility and vitality of an experienced staff will translate to an excellent year of RE leadership.

Nearly 50 members and friends of this congregation volunteer as religious education teachers, assistants, and youth advisors. One person has taught every year since 2002. Others are volunteering for the first time. Most fall somewhere in between. Together you make it happen! Yay Us!

Blessings,

Louise, Director of Religious Education

September in RE

By Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant

Welcome to a brand new year of Religious Education! The RE department is excited to greet returning students and get to know new students as we dive into our program full of reflection, discovery and fun!

Classes begin on September 16th and week one will include nametag making, discussing class covenants and participating in getting-to-know-you activities. Then, for the remainder of September the classes will dive into their respective curriculums.

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will follow the *We Are Many, We Are One* curriculum. It begins with sessions that help the children understand that every person is special, as well as how to make their class feel welcoming to all.

The **Grade 1-2** class will be exploring lessons from *Creating Home*, which discusses both the functional and spiritual purposes a home serves and introduces the concept of a faith home.

The **Grade 3-4** students will jump into the *Moral Tales* curriculum, participating in sessions which focus on their inter-connectedness with the world around them and listening to their inner voices.

The *Sing to the Power* curriculum will encourage the **Grade 5-6** participants to seek out their strengths and think about how they can use them to bring about positive changes in the world.

The **Grade 7-8** students will begin the *Our Whole Lives* sexuality education curriculum.

The **Grades 5-6 and 7-8** groups will also team up in June. They will be planning and carrying out a chalking project.

Another way: Join the RE Team!

Not into meetings? Not drawn to teaching? But you still want to support the RE program? Please consider joining the RE Team.

The RE Team has no meetings. Team members simply complete a survey about tasks they'd be willing to take on or skills they'd be willing to share. When one of those tasks comes up, they'll get an email or text from a staff member or member of the RE Committee with details about what and when. If the RE team member is interested and available to help out, they can respond to the invitation.

Watch for signs in the vestry for the link to the online survey. Or email Louise Marcoux at dre@uusharon.org.

Calling all photographers!

Do you have fabulous photos of Revels? The Children's Choir? Children helping out at a church event? Children having fun during coffee hour? Please consider sharing the photos with the RE program for our UCS web site upgrade. Photos can be emailed to Karen MacKinnon at reassistant21@gmail.com. Rest assured that we will check all photo permissions before posting any photos.

Religious Education News, continued

Register your child for religious education (RE) classes

Parents of children ages 0-18 are encouraged to register their children for our RE program. Our program operates on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11:30 am between September 16 and June 16. Registration helps us know how many children to prepare for and helps us become familiar with any particular needs a child may have. It also provides us with a permission slip to take children on walks around the block or to include photos of your child's group in action on our web site (which parents can say "yes" or "no" to).

Parents/guardians can register children online at: http://www.uusharon.org/children_and_youth/registration/

or at church on paper forms from the rack outside the RE office. Cost is \$40 for one child, \$60 for two or more. If your high school student volunteers in RE, their fee is waived. Scholarships are available: please contact Christian Roulleau, Andrea Pannone, Louise Marcoux, or the Rev. Wendy Bell in order to request a scholarship.

Launching Our Whole Lives for Grades 7 and 8

Important dates:

Sunday, September 16, 12:30-2:30 MANDATORY Parent Meeting

Sunday, September 23, 10 am First OWL 7-8 Class

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is the comprehensive lifespan sexuality education program offered by the Unitarian Church of Sharon. This year, the church will offer two OWL programs: OWL for Grades 7-8 on Sunday mornings throughout the year and OWL for Grades 5-6 on Sunday early evenings from January through early April. Parent participation is critical to the success of this program. In order to understand what is being taught and give informed consent about your child's participation, parents must attend the orientation program on Sunday, September 16, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Children cannot participate in OWL unless their parents attend the orientation. OWL 7-8 classes will run on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 11:30 am. Each session requires 90 minutes. Arriving on time and attending regularly are both important. Building a safe space requires familiarity and trust. And the lessons build on one another.

Parents with questions or concerns should contact Louise at dre@uusharon.org or 781-784-3652 ext. 3.

Religious Education Dates:

Sep 16, 10:30am	First Day of Classes
Sep 16, 12:30am	OWL 7-8 Parent Orientation
Sep 23, 10am	Teacher Dedication Ceremony

YOUTH GROUPS

Welcome back from summertime adventures! Our Senior Youth and Junior Youth Fellowship groups will be gearing up for a fun-filled year. If you are interested in being on the email threads for youth activities, or just have general questions and want more info, send a note to Youth Coordinator Chelsea Gould at yc@uusharon.org

Important Upcoming Dates:

Cedar Hill Youth Retreat - Oct 12-14th, 2018 Based on feedback of last year's programming, we moved our annual Youth Retreat to Cedar Hill up in our calendar to use this for group building and accommodate more schedules. Junior Youth (grades 6-8) will stay overnight Fri Oct 12th - Sat Oct 13th, and Senior Youth (grades 9-12) will stay overnight Sat Oct 13th - Sun Oct 14th. Please mark your calendars now!

Youth Programs Meet & Greet!: At Coffee Hour on Sunday September 9th (11:45am) come say hello to our Youth Coordinator, Chelsea Gould! Learn about Junior and Senior youth groups, sign up for youth program emails, and fill out registration and general permission forms with guardian signatures.

Senior Youth Group (SYG): First meeting will be Sunday Sep 16th 5-7pm in the LIBRARY (new location this year). SYG is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! We'll start the year reconnecting, catching up, get acquainted with new folks, as well as start talking about our hopes and goals for the year.

Junior Youth Fellowship Group (JYFG): Our first meeting will be on Sunday, Sep 9th from 12:30-2:30pm. JYFG youth will play group games and plan out activities for the year, so bring your ideas! The group is open to all youth in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th. As many parents of 7th & 8th graders will be at the 7-8 OWL parent meeting happening at this time, we are looking for one or two 6th grade parents to volunteer to help chaperone our first meeting. Please let Chelsea know if you are available.

Grade 1-2 Teaching Volunteer needed

Do you enjoy making crafts, playing games, reading stories, singing songs, or sharing in a thoughtful conversation? You may have the right stuff to join our Grades 1-2 teaching team.

Teachers volunteer seven times over the course of the church year (less than once per month). They pick the dates that they volunteer. They work in pairs – so there's always a colleague to turn to if they have a question. And they have access to lesson plans and a treasure chest of art supplies – so that there is always something fun to do with the 6, 7, and 8 year olds of this congregation. Training is provided.

Curious? Please talk with Louise or Rumni Saha.

September Programs

Music and Arts



Art from the Heart is looking for a new program coordinator, as the talented Jean Fox is stepping down this year. If you are interested to lead Art in the Heart, please contact Joyce Bramhall. The program

meets every 4th Friday of the month, in the vestry. Art from the Heart is an evening of play, fun, creativity, and community. This is art without right or wrong, good or bad, better worse—rather it is art for everyone to enjoy.

Children's Choir will start with a SPLASH! - pool party at Forbesy's house on Tuesday September 11th. The first choir meeting is on Tuesday September 18th at 5:30pm. We will meet regularly on Tuesdays from 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 or 781-201-9533.

Not Just Another Coffee House

Hilton Park

Saturday, September 15

7pm, doors open 6:30pm



Hilton Park is an award winning 3-piece Americana/Folk group, family friendly, all acoustic, from Berwick Maine. They have received four New England Music Award nominations in four years, including the win for 2015 "Best In State: Maine", an award chosen from nominees of all musical genres. Most recently they have been nominated for 2017 Al-

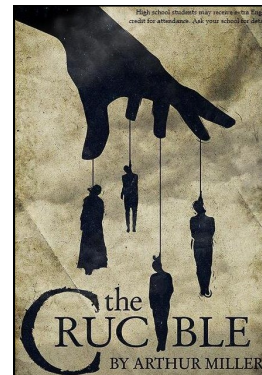
bum of the Year, also encompassing all musical genres. <https://www.hiltonparkband.com/>

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

Announcing the 2018-2019 UU Theater Nights

The UU Theater group is open to all adult members and friends. All performances except the Crucible will take place at Mass Music and Arts Society at 377 North Main St. Mansfield. Pre-show pot luck receptions start at 7:00pm and shows start at 8:00pm. The Christmas Carol is open to families and children of all ages. Ticket prices vary.

More details to follow, but please contact Pat McDougal for more information.



It's a fun way to socialize and enjoy top quality community theater.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sept.22 | Crucible (at the Orpheum Theater in Foxboro) |
| Nov 3 | Assassins |
| Dec 9 at 2pm | A Christmas Carol for families (no reception) |
| Jan. 26 | The Complete Works of William Shakespeare |
| Mar 16 | Odd Couple Female Version |
| May 4 | Evita |

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 Group - The Men's Group is a group for men who are members and friends of UCS. We gather on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 pm to talk about our lives and topics of mutual interest. We are open to new members. If you're curious please feel free to drop in on one of our meetings. For more information you can ask Jon Slavin (jslavin37@gmail.com) or any other group member.

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

September Programs

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – The book group has opted not to meet in September because we have chosen to read George Eliot's *Middlemarch* for discussion on October 3rd at 7pm. The novel is set in the fictitious Midlands town of Middlemarch during 1829–32. It comprises several distinct, intersecting stories and a large cast of characters.



For November, we will read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. A PBS "Great American Read" Top 100 Pick, the book brings to life a Southern love story long out of print due to audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist.

You are welcome to come even if you haven't finished reading the books.

Let's Laugh Today – Experience the health benefits of joyful laughter on Saturday, September 8th (and every second Saturday once a month) from 11am to noon in Program Rooms A/B. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! No mats or special clothing are needed. There will be chairs set up so you can sit. Laughter Yoga brings more oxygen to your body making it energized and relaxed and reduces stress and therefore improving immunity and resulting in greater general well being. Laughter Yoga is a complete wellbeing workout.



Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. See www.letslaughtoday.com or call 508-660-2223 for more information and other opportunities to laugh. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. The public is also invited.

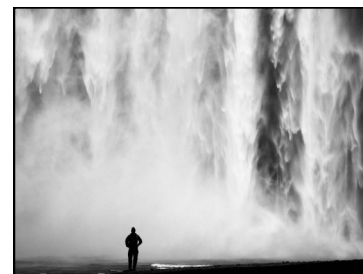
Meditation Group - The meditation group continued to meet during the summer and still meets weekly. It is an open group, available to anyone who cares to give it a try.

We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 for one hour of silent meditation. The one-hour period is divided into two sitting periods with an optional period of walking meditation in the middle. This division also allows participants to join us

for just 30 minutes of meditation and then leave, without any disruption, instead of (or after) the walking meditation.

Please call Susan Allison or Ray Wallace with any questions.

NEW PROGRAM! Seeing White - What does it mean to be white in America? John Biewens explores whiteness in a series of 13 podcasts titled "Seeing White." Each podcast is a catalyst for a conversation among adults about different aspects of whiteness – its roots in law, philosophy, religion, history, and other aspects of American life. This may sound dry – but the podcasts are lively, engaging conversations. Our monthly meetings will provide an opportunity for conversation in which adults can reflect on thoughts and feelings that surfaced while listening to an episode of the podcast (before the meeting). The goal is to create a space where we can discover how to talk about race and racism with one another. Conversation facilitated by Louise Marcoux, Director of Religious Education.



Seeing White meets on the fourth Sunday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Ukulele Group - Meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the vestry.

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.

Movie Night

Monty Python and the Holy Grail

Friday, September 14, 7PM

1975 British slapstick comedy film concerning the Arthurian legend. Monty Python and the Holy Grail helped to define "irreverence" and became an instant cult classic.

Movie Group meets the second Friday of the month at 7PM.



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



A New Church Year is upon us, sure to be filled with challenges, opportunities, and unexpected turns as our world spins along its path. The Social Justice Committee invites all members and friends of the Congregation to learn more

about the wide range of justice programs and offerings to be found here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, and to join in wherever you feel it is right as we attempt to use our collective efforts to make positive changes in the world around us. Below you will find updates and reports on a number of activities currently underway; ask any member of the committee about where you can find your place to fit in, or come to our monthly meetings to learn more, and to bring your own passionate ideas to the table.

Gare Reid, Co-Chair of SJC

Safe Communities Act Update

The Short and Sad History of the Safe Communities Act

The Safe Communities Act of Massachusetts (Senate #1596, House #3052) was a bill that would: ensure no state support for a Muslim registry; prohibit access to information in state databases for use in any federal registry program based on national origin, religion or other protected characteristic; ensure Basic Due Process Rights for people detained in state and local facilities for civil immigration violations; require informing detainees that they have the right to decline an interview with ICE agents, and to have their own attorney present (at their own expense) if they so choose; use police resources to fight crime, not separate families; ensure that state, local and campus police don't participate in immigration enforcement activities, including inquiries, investigations, raids, arrests or detentions that are based solely on immigration status;

prohibit agreements with DHS that deputize local officers as immigration agents, including county officers in Bristol and Plymouth sheriff's departments.

Unfortunately, throughout the legislative session, Governor Baker opposed immigrants' rights, casting a long shadow over the legislative process. In the end, the Senate passed important protections, but the House did not. The current legislative session ended on July 31st, but numerous groups are already planning next steps to ensure that immigrants' rights are defended, and to make everyone in Massachusetts safer.

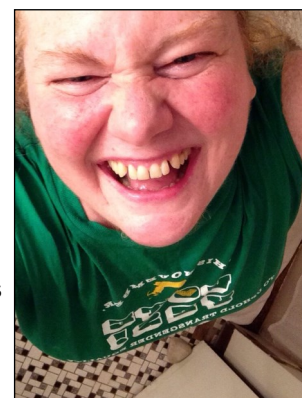
Transgender Rights

Question 3 on the Massachusetts Ballot this Fall

With less than ninety days' time to the November ballot, the **Yes on 3** fight is increasing in its activism and organizing every day in every region of Massachusetts. The goal of **Yes on 3** is to protect the rights of transgender and gender-binary-nonconforming Bay Staters to get a cup of coffee, use the restroom, go to a hospital, ride the T; to exist in public, as themselves, with dignity and respect. Visit www.freedommassachusetts.org for more information.

Numerous UUs have participated in this work over the summer. Each for our own reasons, we travel to unfamiliar and familiar places, take instruction from young and old leaders, learn the intricacies of Phone Banking as a tool to reach out to a wider community, and remember to check each other's pronouns. We are delighted to continue with our support of **Yes on 3**, and invite you to join in the effort.

Can we count on you to use part of your morning to learn more? Released on Friday, **August 17**, this independently produced video documents Massachusetts families with transgender kids as they tell you their personal stories in the context of their activism to protect their families: <https://nowthisnews.com/videos/politics/the-rights-of-transgender-people-in-massachusetts-are-in-danger>. It's the most up-to-date thing out there, short of showing up with us to help: fifteen minutes well spent. But we would also love your help as we work to uphold respect and dignity in our state.



Linda Fingerson -

"Letting young transgender and nonbinary people teach me how to fight for their rights has been the best thing for me this year. They work so hard to be inclusive and to educate the public about their issues. My heart has grown three

"Seeing White" – an Adult RE Workshop

What does it mean to be white in America? John Biewen explores *whiteness* in a series of 13 podcasts titled "Seeing White. Each podcast is a catalyst for a conversation among adults about different aspects of whiteness. Starting this fall, a series of monthly meetings will provide an opportunity for conversation in which adults can reflect on thoughts and feelings that surfaced while listening to an episode of the podcast. The goal is to create a space where we can discover how to talk about race and racism with one another. The conversation will be facilitated by Louise Marcoux, DRE. Seeing White meets on the 4th Sunday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, starting on 9/23.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

We Did It For You!

Women's Equality Day.

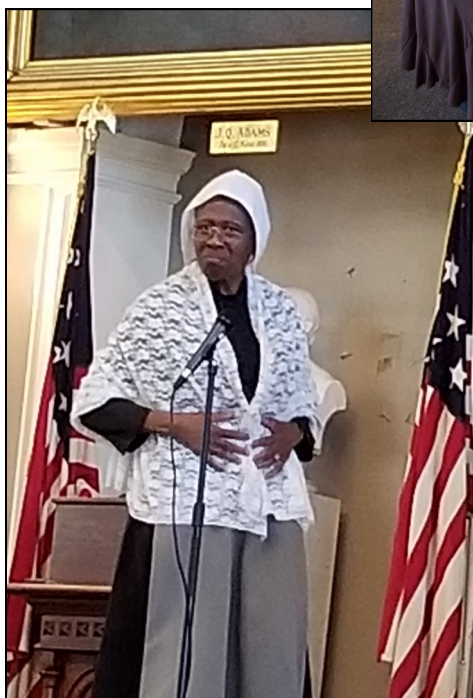
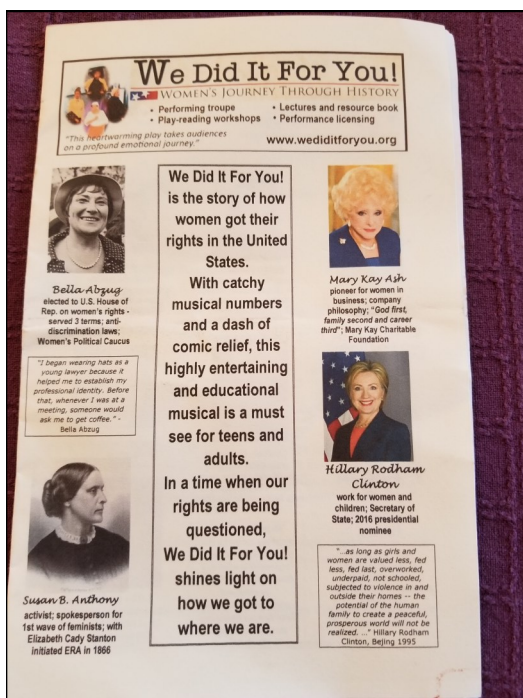
Faneuil Hall Aug. 26: A group of UU's from USC traveled to Faneuil Hall to enjoy the play, *We Did It For You*. - a Women's Journey Through History. The show commemorates the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. The play tells the stories of women in history who made a difference in achieving equal rights for women, equitable access, fair pay, and social justice. The fight is not over but a look to the past helps us all see where we've been in order to see where we are going. For more information:

www.wediditforyou.org Suffrage100MA.

Elizabeth Siftar, Co-Chair of SJC



We Did It For You!: UU Members with Marsha Getter as Sarah Grimke



We Did It For You!: On the left the event program. On the right, Adrienne Williams as Sojourner Truth

Asylum Request - Can you help a family seeking asylum?

A family of asylum seekers from El Salvador has moved to Sharon in August. A member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church is housing them through the end of September, but they will need another place to stay from the beginning of October until the end of December, and maybe longer.

A volunteer is needed to take the lead on finding them housing. Is this something you could do? It would involve working with their lawyer and being the contact person for those who are looking for housing for them. The goal is to secure housing by mid-September at the latest. Someone has agreed to co-sign a lease, and there may be people who will help with rent, but additional donors are needed. There are enough contributions right now to pay \$1500/month. If you can help this family, talk to either Social Justice co-chair Elizabeth Siftar or Gare Reid.

Clean Energy Update

Our recent **Do It Now** initiatives encouraging state lawmakers to pass robust energy legislation helped propel significant bills through the Legislature. Ultimately, the lawmakers failed to adequately respond to the current climate crisis. Locally, Sharon residents can take pride in having passed a clean energy aggregation resolution at town meeting that has the potential to substantially increase the amount of renewable energy used to power Sharon homes and businesses. For more information on the program and other local initiatives, please join fellow UCS members at Sustainable Sharon Meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in classroom A/B or visit

NoSharonGasPipeline.org .

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

Nicaragua Trip Postponed



A long-planned service trip to rural Nicaragua, slated for the summer of 2018, got caught-up in evolving turmoil in Central America. A period of political unrest began in Nicaragua in April, following President Daniel Ortega's announcement of cuts to

Social Security benefits, along with an increase in contributions from workers. The resulting protests started peacefully, but there has been violence, and some 300 people have died. Ortega withdrew this proposal, but protests and government pushback have persisted. After monitoring the situation and discussing within our group and Michael Cipoletti of FNEI International, we decided in early July to cancel our July 24-August 1 trip. It wasn't an easy decision, knowing that the community of Chacraseca itself was calm and safe, but that travel from the airport in Managua and into the city of Leon was possibly dangerous and certainly unpredictable.

The good news is that, thanks to the generosity of church members and friends who donated through the Brown Envelopes in May, combined with our group members' individual deposits toward the trip, plus money raised by the two women in New York who were going to join us, we were able to fully fund a house for a family there. Sra. Arlen María Guido Munguía and her husband and two sons, ages 9 and 15, have been living in a very small house with two other families. Some of FNEI's scholarship students, the local builders, and family members are working on the house this month.

FNEI's challenge comes from the fact that volunteer groups are essential to all their projects: education, health care, student scholarships, and building houses



Nicaragua: Talented local cooks who are part of the FNEI team in Nicaragua. We are currently fundraising to support them and their families.

for and with families there. FNEI has 15 regular employees in Nicaragua, as well as the short-term contract workers hired when volunteer groups are in the community. The 11 women who prepare healthy and delicious meals for the volunteers generally work 10-15 weeks a year. With most groups cancelling their trips this summer, these women haven't been working. There are already limited sources of income in the community, and even less in the current situation. The monthly cost of living for an average family there is \$100-\$200/month. The average person earns \$2/day or less. The cooks are paid \$70/week when they work.

FNEI is hoping to resume trips in October, and we are hoping to reschedule our trip for next year. We will continue to be in touch with them and will keep you posted. Contact Janet Schmidt if you want to be kept informed about a possible 2019 trip. In the meantime, we have modified our fundraising link to focus on raising \$770 to cover a week's pay for 11 cooks, to support those individual women and their own families. We have already raised \$100, and if you'd like to participate, please contact me or use this link: <https://fneiinternational.org/sharon-trip-2018/>.



Nicaragua: Scholarship students break ground on the new home in Chacraseca, Nicaragua, partially funded by UCS.

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 9 September, Coffee Hour - MainSpring House lunch making (after the Ingathering Service)

Sunday, 16 September, Library @ noon - SJC monthly meeting, all are welcome

Sunday, 7 October, Coffee Hour - MainSpring House lunch making

Sunday, 14 October, Library @ noon - SJC monthly meeting

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

BIC/SIA

Members of our church, together with other **Sharon Interfaith Action** (SIA) participants, continue to collaborate with **Brockton Interfaith Community** (BIC) to work on education funding reform. This topic was selected at a Brockton community meeting in the spring, after residents learned that Brockton Public Schools face a \$6-9 million deficit this year, leading to over 80 teacher layoffs.

BIC research teams currently are meeting with state representatives, city councilors, school committee members, school and town officials, as well as parents, to gather information for an action meeting on October 10th. Town officials, as well as the public, are invited to this meeting, designed to engage the community and create momentum to make changes.

Meanwhile, BIC also is offering the third installment of community action trainings where several UU members are learning to “tell our stories” in more compelling ways to support our social justice causes in preparation for the meeting. Please mark your calendars for Oct. 10th at 7 PM for this important meeting, and support the work for education equality. All you need to do is show up, listen, and learn. (More information to follow.)

(The funding formula for MA public schools has not been changed for 25 years, and low-income communities are particularly hard hit due to lower local tax revenues and greater needs. This year the state legislature came very close to overhauling its approach to funding, but did not do so at the last minute. See <http://www.wbur.org/edify/2018/08/01/education-funding-bill-collapse>. Brockton, along with other MA cities, is planning to sue the state over existing inequities.)

Partner Church news

Transylvania is part of our religious heritage. During the Reformation/Inquisition, Unitarianism was ruthlessly extinguished throughout Europe. But in Transylvania, on the edge of the Ottoman Empire, it was able to survive under the protection of the sultans, who wanted trouble-free borders. After centuries, it gradually spread westward, reaching England, and then moved on to North America.

One way we can recognize the contribution Romania has made to perpetuate freedom of religious thought is to help support the Unitarian churches there, which are often very small and struggling. For many years, our congregation has supported our Partner Church in



Gyulakuta in two ways. First, the money we raise via our **Brown Envelope Collection** in September pays for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family. They are enormously grateful for this support.

In addition, we offer financial support for a youth in their congregation, David Nagy, to attend a private school. Public schools in rural Gyulakuta are notoriously poor (and there is only an elementary school in the town) so David must board during the week. In addition to tuition and boarding expenses, his parents must also pay for bus fare (he comes home each weekend), uniforms and school supplies, including books. On August 21, David turned 18 and is preparing for his senior year. His grades have been excellent and his parents, Izabella and Diego, are enormously proud of him. They are deeply grateful for our support. They know that, with our help, he has received a much better education that prepares him for a good future.

CommUnity Closet: Saturday, August 11th was another great day at the **CommUnity Closet** (CC), our 6 Church Cluster's free clothing distribution project in Brockton. We had over seventy adults come to use our services. It was our Church's turn to staff the project and Grace, Beth MacGregor, Gare & Alison Reid, and Jim Mullin pitched in along with some other volunteers from the Foxboro, North Easton, and Brockton Churches. CC continues to need donations, which can be left under the table by the Social Justice Bulletin Board in the Vestry. With cooler weather coming the project can use coat and jackets. Infant and children's clothes are always in short supply. Because of the start of school backpacks in good shape would be welcome. See Jim Mullin or Gare Reid with any questions or comments.

Ongoing Social Justice opportunities: you can support social justice causes in other ways as well: visit the **Social Justice Corner** in the Vestry, following Sunday worship services, where you can buy **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 is donated by the stores and stays with the church to help fund our social justice projects in support of people who experience food and housing insecurity). We also collect non-perishable food items for the local **Food Pantry** in the front Lobby, along with toiletries for the overnight guests of **MainSpring House** homeless shelter in Brockton. Once a month we also assemble 100 bag lunches for MSH. Clothing items for the **CommUnity Closet** are always welcome (drop-off in the Vestry). Don't forget to learn more about our monthly suggested offering for a worthy cause via our **Brown Envelope** donation program, and keep an eye out for our occasional **Do It Now** action requests at Coffee Hour for participatory efforts on a range of topics. Surely there is something related to social justice going on here at church that calls out to you – don't wait, jump right in!

September 2018 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 <i>Provisional Teaching Team Meeting</i>	27 <i>Women's Group I. (Closed)</i>	28 <i>Provisional Teaching Team Meeting</i>	29	30 <i>Provisional Teaching Team Meeting</i>	31	1
2 Summer worship service 10:15 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	3 Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB)	4 Provisional Teaching Team Meeting (A/B) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	5	6 ESL 6pm (LIB) Gr. 3-4 Teaching Team 7pm (AB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB)	7	8 Committee Chairs 9am (VES) Let's Laugh Today 11am (A/B) Bean Supper 5pm (OUT/VES)
9 Inter-generational Worship service 10:15 a.m. Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Provisional Teaching Team Meeting (A/B) Preschool Teaching Team Orientation 3pm (A/B) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	10 RE Committee 7pm (LIB) MUG Ukulele Practice 7:30pm (VES)	11 Gr. 1-2 Teaching Team 6:30pm (AB) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	12 SSC general meeting 7pm (A/B) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB)	13 ESL 6pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	14 Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	15 Provisional Teaching Team Meeting (A/B)
16 Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult service 10:30 a.m. OWL Parent Orientation 12:30pm (A/B) Provisional Teaching Team Meeting (A/B) Senior Youth Group 5pm (LIB) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	17 Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB)	18 Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	19 Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN)	20 ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB)	21 Chalice DEADLINE	22 Theater Outing 7pm (OFF) Seeing White 7:30pm (NUR)
23 Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. SIA meeting 1pm (VES) Senior Youth Group 5pm (LIB) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Seeing White 7:30pm (NUR)	24 MUG Ukulele Practice 7:30pm (VES)	25 Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	26 Endowment Committee 7pm (LIB)	27 ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	28	29
30 Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. Ministry search focus group 12pm (AB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (LIB) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	1 Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB)	2 Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	3 SSC board meeting 7pm (A/B) Book Group 7pm (LIB)	4 ESL 6pm (LIB)	5 Potluck Supper 6pm	6

To view up to date calendar of events go to
<http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2018-09/>



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