

# the chalice

August 2005

*HERE'S JUST SOME OF  
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newsletter@uusharon.org  
**Deadline: August 19, 5pm**  
Submit via Email or on Disk



## Suppertime, Suppertime, it's Bean Supper Time

Help celebrate the end of summer with the 53rd annual Bean Supper to be held on Saturday, September 10 from 5PM-7PM, rain or shine, on the church green.

This old-fashioned New England style food festival has become an annual community event and a real crowd pleaser that attracts hundreds of visitors from near and far.

Always held the first Saturday after Labor Day, it helps make a friendly transition from the lazy days of summer to the crisp days of early fall.

As always there will be plenty of delicious food made by church members, so bring along a healthy appetite. There will be a bake sale and a silent auction to benefit the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund and live music by local musicians and recording artists.

**Invite family, friends and neighbors to join in the fun. Remember: this event raises funds for our beloved and historic church so everyone is urged to participate to help make it a huge success. Roll up your sleeves, put on an apron and don a chef's hat. You won't regret it.**

Just an added reminder, volunteers will soon be placing calls to church members for food donations and work assignments.

The Bean Supper committee is also looking for volunteers to fill several key coordinators and caller positions. If interested, please call or email co-chairs ("Bean Kings") Ken Zaniewski or Gare Reid.



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**NEWSLETTER**

**DEADLINE**

**FRIDAY**

**AUGUST 19**

**5PM FIRM**

**Submit EMail**

**for receipt by 5pm**

newsletter@uusharon  
.org

**MS Word attachments  
preferred**

**Or**

**drop off in the RED  
Newsletter Mailbox in  
the Church Office  
(preferably on disk)**

## ...the Summertime News

Some easy ways to find up to the minute information about church are to check the website, especially the online calendar which is regularly updated by our Administrative Assistant. The calendar is on our homepage: [www.uusharon.org](http://www.uusharon.org). Click the link at Fellowship.

You can also subscribe to our low volume "church only" e-list which sends out occasional, brief updates and reminders about events at church. Sign yourself up by going to the website and clicking on "About Us" and then click on "Listserve" to sign up.



Joyce Bramhall will lead a poetry service at on Sunday, August 14, at 10:15am.

Bring a poem to share. Afterwards, we'll meet for coffee, tea, snacks and conversation. If you can, bring something sweet or savory to share.

There is no child care for summer services, but quiet activities for children will be available.



This summer Janet Mayo (our Administrative Assistant) will respond to email and voice messages from home and will come into the office briefly once during the week. If you have questions or need anything from Janet call the office 781/784-3652 or send a message to [Admin@uusharon.org](mailto:Admin@uusharon.org)

Louise Marcoux, DRE, will work various hours in July and August. If you want to reach Louise call her at 781/784-3652 mailbox 3 or send a message to [DRE@uusharon.org](mailto:DRE@uusharon.org)

Rev. Cayer will be back at work during the week beginning August 15. When working, Deborah will be in and out of the church office planning, visiting and attending meetings, and will also work part time from her home study. You can contact Deb at church, 781/784-9460 or send a message to [Revcayer@uusharon.org](mailto:Revcayer@uusharon.org). When she's on vacation, a local minister will cover pastoral emergencies.

Contact Valerie White who will help you find pastoral assistance.

## Presidential Ponderings

General Assembly is the continental annual meeting of Unitarian Universalists. It is a heady time. This year, General Assembly was in Fort Worth, Texas. I speculate that only folks with their minds and hearts firmly fixed on liberal religious values would voluntarily agree to meet in Texas in late June. It was hotter than . . . it was hot.

The Fort Worth General



Assembly was my tenth. Obviously, I love General Assembly. I revel in the ways it makes me feel, by turns, inspired, indignant, introspective, and inflamed, excited, exasperated, exuberant, and exalted. I come back fired with enthusiasm and filled with ideas for our own congregation.

This year I was blessed to be able to spend some time with my brother, who lives in Seattle and attended GA as a delegate from the University Unitarian Church there. I also got to see lots of old friends.

I went to interesting and useful workshops, like how to

run a capital campaign, and I heard some rip-roarin' old-fashioned preachin', which I commend to you on the UUA website. I especially enjoyed the sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition, the ceremony where new ministers are welcomed, retiring ministers are honored, and deceased ministers are remembered. The annual Ware Lecture was delivered by Elaine Pagels, who wrote *The Gnostic Gospels*. Her lecture was interesting in spots, but repetitive and not really relevant.

One reason I was in Fort Worth, other than my love of GA, was that there was a special track for congregational presidents. It was exciting to network with others who have the same role I'm playing. I learned to think of leadership as a spiritual discipline—which is certainly how it feels to me. Another reason was that I was part of a panel on ministry to intentional families. The presentation went well and was cordially received; I ordered a copy on CD, and will loan it if anyone is interested.

The official theme this year was families, and more than 3,000 attendees celebrated our denomination's role in helping Massachusetts become the first state to recognize same-sex couples' right to be a legal family.

We did a lot of singing out of the new hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*, and it was wonderful. I hope we can find a way to get enough copies for us to sing from it as a congregation.

It seemed to me that the unwritten theme of the five days was a deepened sense of ourselves as a religious community. I can't say exactly why I thought so . . . it may be, in fact, simply that I had a deeper sense of UUs as a religious community. It is a good feeling in any case. I hope it stays with me.

Valerie White

## Caring Committee

Phyllis J. Silva, Caring Committee chair, urges anyone in need of some special help or services - or even a just a little extra "TLC" - to contact her.

She can be reached via EMail at [caring@uusharon.org](mailto:caring@uusharon.org). She's also open to suggestions for ways to expand or improve the work of the committee.

Just let her know.



## The Student DRE

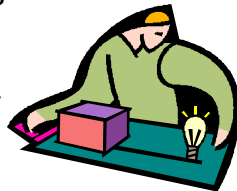
Thanks to all of you, I am almost set for Ferry Beach. I'm looking forward to a week of provocative exercises, thoughtful discussion, and soulful

*From the Director of Religious Education*

reflection on the very heady topic "The Philosophy of Religious Education."

Thanks to you, because this congregation affirms the importance of religious education by paying for the DRE to be educated.

One thing I especially enjoy about being a student in religious education experiences is that "how things happen" is usually at least as important as "what we are supposed to learn." Content matters, but process is the key. Lessons learned through experiences *live* in me afterward.



The other thing I love about being a student is the relationships with my colleagues and teachers. Their energy and passion for religious education is contagious! I leave these experiences full of ideas, yes, but more importantly I am filled with enthusiasm and the will to make things happen.

These are the things that we strive for in religious education: process which illuminates content and relationships which encourage us to share our full selves. I'm looking forward to bringing my new understandings back to our RE program. Thanks for making it possible.

Peace,

*Louise*

## It's Registration Time

It's already time to register for Religious Education!

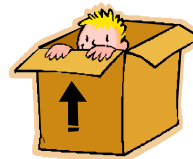
Registration forms were distributed to all families present at the all-church barbecue. "Thank you" to all who completed and returned their forms and fee. The remaining forms will be sent out via snail mail on August 4. Please complete and return the forms via mail.

Your prompt attention to this business allows the DRE and RE Committee to focus their attention on other aspects of preparation for a brand new church year. Thanks!



## Calling All Cardboard!

Have you recently purchased something that came in a big box? It may be hard to believe, but the Religious Education program can turn your scrap cardboard into spiritual experiences for children!

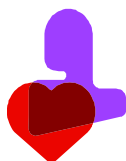


Children in the Preschool group and the Kindergarten thru 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade group will be building and painting cardboard in November and December. In the winter, the K-2 group will need even more cardboard for home building projects.

Given the volume of material we will need for these projects, we are starting our collections now. Please contact Louise Marcoux at 781/784-3652 to arrange delivery.

## Among UUs

Karl Arruda and Laura Raymond are in the midst of a whirlwind move. Karl has accepted a job with a title and escrow firm in Portland, OR, beginning August 1. Laura and Anna will be moving mid-month. Portland is Laura's hometown and her extended family live in the area, so this is a great move for them. However, they are very sad to be suddenly leaving so many good friends in Massachusetts. They will send their new address and phone number as soon as it's available. Their email addresses remain the same.



Congratulations to Paul and Colleen Tuck on the birth of new grandson, Hunter Stephen, who was born in Cincinnati in mid-June. Hunter's parents, Lisa and Steve, and his big brother Hayden are also doing quite well.

Congratulations also to new grandparents Bill and Erna Fox. Geneva Erna was born on June 24 in Texas, with her father Ken assisting mom Divina, and grandma Erna in attendance. And just a week earlier, Bill and Erna's son Bill and his wife Toni became foster parents to one-day old Destiny (named by her biological parents) on June 16.

Also congratulated on her new grandmotherhood is Valerie White, whose daughter Claire gave birth to grandson Emil at home in Portland, OR, on June 29, weighing in at almost 9 pounds.

## Words From the UUA President

*"Small Group Ministry is one of the great grassroots movements in Unitarian Universalism today. It is also one of the healthiest. It is helping us shape a faith that affirms real, lived human experience in all its complexity. It is helping us live out our individualism in ways that not only support but enhance our sense of community."*

Rev. William Sinkford

## C'mon, Give it a Skirl....

Susan Rich, a friend of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, is president of the Claflin Family Association, a sub-sept of the Maclachlan clan of Scotland.

On Saturday, July 30, the Claflins are hosting a Scottish Ceilidh on the North Shore and Susan urges anyone who's never attended one of these to come along, and bring the kids! It's a lot of fun!

Music is being provided by the band Local Hero led by Susie Petrov, a renowned expert in local Scottish dancing circles.

The event is scheduled to start at 8pm at the Hamilton Wenham Community House, in Hamilton, MA. Tickets are available at the door. For info go to [www.communityhouse.org](http://www.communityhouse.org).



## Sing, Sing, Sing

Interested in singing with the choir? Send an EMail to Choir Director Jennifer Spencer to be added to the Choir EMail distribution list. Write to [choir@uusharon.org](mailto:choir@uusharon.org). Rehearsals will resume in late August.

**The BCD Choir Festival will take place on Sunday, October 16, Brockton UU Church at 3pm.**

It's a chance to hear some amazing music (some of it created by our own choir)! Save the date....





## Calendar

Events take place at church unless **otherwise noted**. Event times are "pm" unless **otherwise noted**.

W	July 20	Membership Committee 7:30
M	July 25	Sobriety Meeting 7:30
Th	July 28	Men's Group 8
M	Aug 1	Women's Support Group 7:30
M	Aug 8	Sobriety Meeting 7:30
Tu	Aug 9	Youth Adult Committee Discsn
W	Aug 10	Board of Trustees 7:15
Th	Aug 11	Men's Group 8
Su	Aug 14	Summer Simmerings Service <b>10:15am</b> (intergenerational service)
M	Aug 15	Women's Support Group 7:30
W	Aug 17	Membership Committee 7
F	Aug 19	All-Church Retreat, <b>Cardigan Lodge</b> (see insert page) Newsletter Deadline 5
M	Aug 22	Sobriety Meeting 7:30
Th	Aug 25	Men's Group 8



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### Remember

Bean Supper September 10 and Water Service/Ingathering September 11

## Ballou Channing District News



The District's Brockton office is generally staffed Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. from about mid-August to mid-June. The office will reopen August 16.

Cedar Hill Retreat Center Managers, Wendy and Eric Swanson, may be reached at the Cedar Hill Retreat Center, 781-934-2207 or cedarhill.retreatcenter@verizon.net.

The BCD In Brief (district newsletter) and the events e-bulletin (coming this Fall) will be available each month on the BCD website – [www.bcd.uua.org](http://www.bcd.uua.org).

## General Assembly (GA) 2005

To learn about what happened at GA 2005 in Fort Worth this past June, check out video, recaps, photos and more at <http://www.uua.org/ga/ga05/>. (For news about GA 2006 in St. Louis, go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.html>.)

## Partner Church News from GA

At GA, partner church events included a panel of partnered congregations (one with two partners, in Romania and India). It's clear that personal



contact is an important piece of partnership, and I continue to hope that other Sharon church members will be able to visit our Romanian partners as Rory and I did, perhaps on a trip organized by the Partner Church Council.

**There was also a discussion of how international partnership is one small way we live out our commitment to the UU sixth principle, "the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all."**

Also at GA, I had the chance to converse with Gabor Kolumban, lay president of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania and an impressive scholar. He spoke in part about how Romania's bid for European Union membership is impacting the rural communities and requiring painful adjustments (including sophisticated regulations and standards). As borders and options open, young people are heading west in droves, and village and church communities are feeling the strain. Anywhere in the world, change is a mixed blessing and a challenge to old ways of being, but on the whole the changes in Romania seem to be heading in a positive direction.

If you'd like to know more about the Unitarian partner church movement, feel free to talk to me, or check out the Partner Church Council website at [www.uupcc.org](http://www.uupcc.org).

Beth McGregor

## Catch Up on GA News

Bring a brown bag lunch (or just a snack if you prefer) and join fellow church members Ben D'Avanzo, Bill Fox, Beth McGregor and Valerie White at noon on Sunday, September 25 to hear about business conducted at the June 2005 General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas: Actions of Immediate Witness, the report from the Commission on Appraisal (Engaging Our Theological Diversity), the new Study Action Issue (Moral Values), the fabulous worship services, and painful evidence of our denomination's need to engage ongoing anti-racism work.



## Youth Adult Committee Forum Set for August 9

The RE Committee is planning an open forum to discuss the creation of a Youth Adult Committee on Tuesday, August 9 at 7pm.

All youth group advisors (Senior Youth and Junior Youth) and interested parents and adults are invited.

**A special invitation to all youth group members: We want to know what you think!**



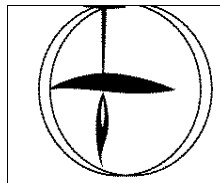
We've also invited a youth advisor from the Ballou-Channing District to help facilitate the meeting and share resources. Contact RE Committee Chair Rick Dumont or DRE Louise Marcoux at 781/784-3652 with any questions.

the choice

LOOKING AHEAD -  
BEAN SUPPER SEPT. 10  
WATER SERVICE SEPT. 11

SUMMER SIMMERINGS  
CARDIGAN LODGE RETREAT  
NEWS FROM GA

Mailing  
Label  
Goes  
Here



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

## SUMMER SERVICE - JOIN US!

**August 14 10:15am Summer Simmerings**

Bring your favorite poem or short reading to share. The service will be intergenerational. After the service, we will meet for coffee, tea, snacks and conversation. If you can, bring something sweet or savory to share. Joyce Bramhall, service coordinator.

**September 11 10:15am Water Service**

Remember to bring some water from a place you visited over the summer (be it Alaska or your kitchen) as we come together to begin the new church year with our annual, intergenerational service. (We'll have "representative" water available for those who don't bring their own.) The choir will sing. Rev. Deborah Cayer, worship leader.





July 2005

Unitarian Church of Sharon

the chalice

**Time's  
almost up  
to register**

# End of Summer Church Retreat at Cardigan Lodge

An AMC Lodge in Alexandria, NH

for singles, families, extended families, friends

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Housing in Bunk Rooms, Platform Tents or Camping

What we'll do then: Hang out, visit waterfalls & swim, talk, read, blow bubbles, eat ice cream, play games, hike Mt. Cardigan. Meals are available in the Dining Hall (see fees below). Sunday morning there will be outdoor worship for all ages.

This is a great opportunity to get away and get to know other church members and friends in a relaxed setting.

What you need to do now: Call the AMC reservations office at 603-466-2727. Also, call the church office 781-784-3652 and have your name put on the Summer Retreat list.

Cost per night (NOTE: We're being offered AMC member rates):

## Full Service options (bed + meals)

	Adult	Child*
• Shared room in Lodge	\$51	\$32
• Private room in Lodge (double occupancy)	\$59	\$32
• Private room in Lodge (single occupancy)		\$67

## Camping/Platform Tents (no meals)

• Platform Tent (2 cots)	\$34	\$34
• Individual Campsite (up to 2 tents)		\$17 per night

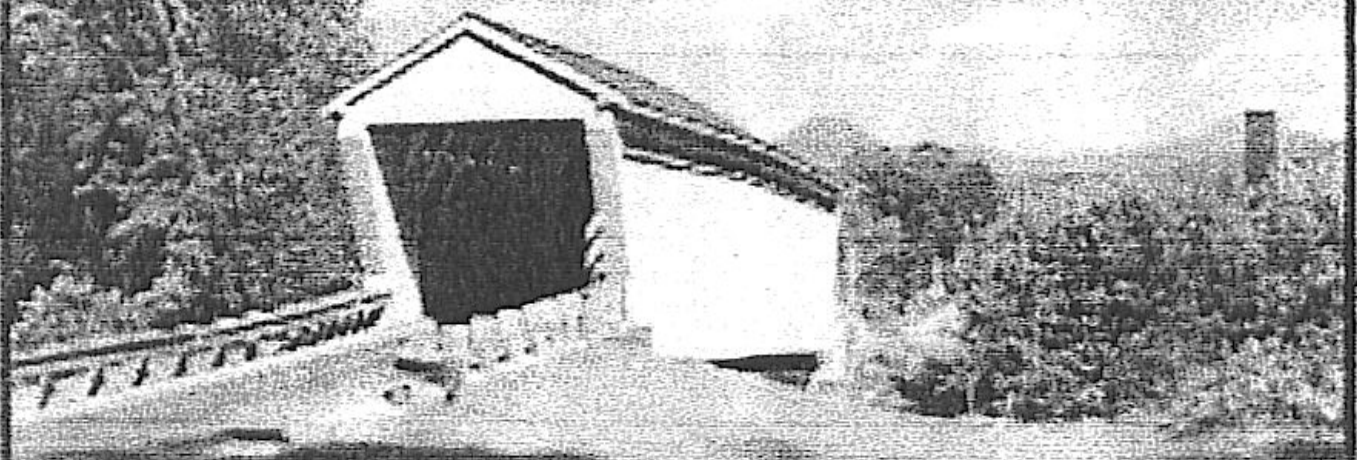
## Meals (for Camping/Platform Tents users)

Breakfast or Trail Lunch	\$6.50	\$4.50
Dinner	\$14.50	\$8
Camper's Special (all 3 meals)	\$25	\$15

\*Child rate is for 15 years old or under

insert

# Fall Foliage Weekend in Vermont October 14-16, 2005



**Eleventh Annual Event sponsored by  
The UU Church of Rutland, VT**  
Enjoy the spectacular beauty of a Vermont  
Fall, select from a wide range of tours  
and activities guided by UU hosts, stay in  
the home of a church member, all meals  
provided. For more information please call  
802-293-2510 or email  
[uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com)