

the chalice

June 2005

*HERE'S JUST SOME OF
WHAT'S INSIDE....*

From the Minister
Page 2

Presidential Ponderings
Page 3

From the DRE
Page 4

2nd Friday Potluck
Page 3

Partner Church News
Page 5

Calendar
Page 6

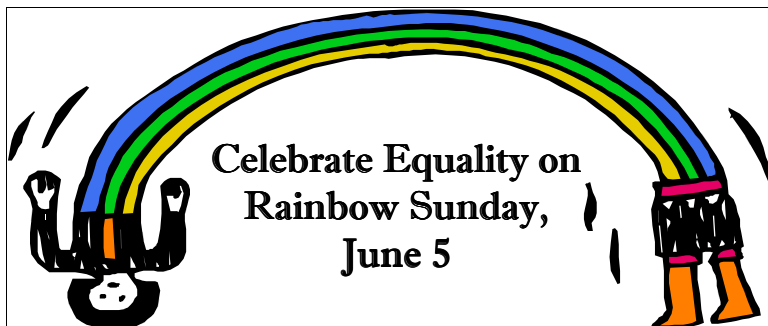
Among UUs
Page 7

Rainbow Sunday »»»

Cardigan Lodge Retreat
See Insert

**Annual Meeting Friday
June 10, 7:30pm**

newsletter@uusharon.org
Deadline: June 17, 5pm
Submit items via Email
or on Disk, please



Building on last year's joyous celebration of marriage equality, the Welcoming Congregation committee of our church is sponsoring our second annual Rainbow Sunday on June 5th.

The service will focus on marriage and equal rights and the festivities will start after church during coffee hour with a special rainbow cake. There will be music and the formation of a human rainbow - SO REMEMBER TO WEAR SOMETHING IN A COLOR OF THE RAINBOW! (As a reminder, that is one of ROYGBIV - red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, violet.)

We will also have some words about the reasons we are celebrating from Rev. Deborah Cayer and other speakers. We are inviting organizations supportive of bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender (BGLT) civil rights and local and state dignitaries to share our celebration. So please come and show your colors!

The Welcoming Congregation Committee
(welcoming@uusharon.org)
Jon Slavin, Janet Limke, Gare Reid, Mia Joiner

Published by the
Unitarian Church of
Sharon
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781/784-3652
newsletter@uusharon.org
www.uusharon.org

President
Valerie White

Minister
Rev. Deborah Cayer
Study: 781/784-9460

Director of Religious Ed.
Louise Marcoux
Office Hours
Tu W Th 8:30am - 2:30pm
781/784-3652 ext. 3

Administrative Assistant
Janet Mayo
Office Hours
M W 9am - 11am
Th 5:30pm - 7pm
781/784-3652

Newsletter Editor
Edele Panessidi

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FRIDAY
JUNE 17
5PM FIRM

Submit EMail
by 5pm to
newsletter@uusharon.org
MS Word attachments
p r e f e r r e d
Or
drop off in the RED
Newsletter Mailbox in the
Church Office
(preferably on disk)

In the Midst of it All

In the middle of a life,
In the middle of a year, I
n the middle of a war,
In the middle of great fear,
Something wakes.

From the Minister

In the middle of the night,
In the middle of a season,
In the middle of the street,
In a muddled knot of reason,
Something moves.

In the middle of a thought,
In the middle of a move,
In the middle of a love,
In the middle of a groove,
Something sings.

In the midst of all that is enormous and complex in our lives and in the world, may we remember to simply notice what is unvarnished, simple and true.

May we remember when we are discouraged by events beyond our control, to look beyond our own concerns.

May we see then the larger picture, the larger hope, the greater good already happening; may we see this happening in places we did not cause and might never control.

May we learn to pay careful attention and then find a way to take useful action in the middle of these passing moments.

Through us may what is best come to be in the world, not only for us but also for the sake of others.

In so doing, may our confusion, anger, sorrow, and despair pass away; may our love in action become our joy.

Amen.

See you in church,

Deborah

Presidential Ponderings

June is bustin' out all over.

The annual meeting and potluck are coming up. The last service and Fathers' Day picnic. Our own Pride celebration. And then the glorious whirlwind which is General Assembly. I am delighted that our congregation will be represented by all three of the lay delegates to which it is entitled, AND an alternate.

By July, things will be peaceful again, right?

Uh-uh. There is summer programming to support. There is an outgoing board to thank and a new board to orient. Then there will be a Capital Fund Drive to plan, an architect to meet with, small group ministry to envision, goals to develop for the coming year. I look forward to these endeavors with pleasure and anticipation.

After the strides we have made this past year, I am confident this congregation can accomplish whatever it sets its sights on. Together, we have honored our past, lived our commitment to welcome, examined our deepest values, created a mission statement, embarked on a path towards accessibility, and embraced nine new members.

We have truly satisfying relationships with a new administrative assistant, Janet Mayo, and a new Director of Religious Education., Louise Marcoux.

We established a new fundraising tradition in our Oktoberfest beer-tasting. Our new approach to canvass resulted in a second year of increased stewardship.

We've supported women in Guatemala and our partner church in Romania.

The Board will be presenting a budget at the Annual Meeting which continues our commitment to Fair Compensation and still makes satisfying progress towards an end to deficit spending.

Valerie White

Caring Committee

Phyllis J. Silva has been named the new chairman of the Caring Committee and she urges anyone in need of some special help or services - or even a just a little extra "TLC" - to contact her.

Phyllis is also open to suggestions for ways to expand or improve the work of the committee. Just let her know. Thanks!

Annual Meeting Slated for Friday, June 10

Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30pm, Friday, June 10.

While members and friends are invited to attend to recap the past year and discuss the year ahead, only members may vote.



"Second" Friday Potluck

We've moved our potluck to coordinate with Annual Meeting, so "First" Friday will be on June 10th this month.

Come unwind with church friends from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Arrive as your schedule permits and enjoy a relaxed, end-of-the-week communal meal in the vestry.

No sign-up or reservation is needed – just bring your family's choice of beverage and food to share (main dish, salad/vegetable or dessert). We'll enjoy a delicious, varied menu, clean-up quickly, and move upstairs for Annual Meeting.

Reaching Out to Teachers

Interested in participating in discussions with UUs about justice? Or discussions about different worship experiences that

From the Director of Religious Education

resonate? Are you interested in creating and then being in an environment that fosters an intuitive grasp

of spirit? All this and more will be happening downstairs at church on Sunday mornings, starting in September.

You don't have to be an expert to take part – in fact, your own curiosity and willingness to share and grow are far more necessary than any expertise. I hope that you will consider teaching in the children's religious education program.

Teachers commit to 12 Sundays during the year – 6 teaching and 6 assisting. They teach in teams. They always have an assistant in the classroom. In addition, their team is a natural group of colleagues to discuss concerns and triumphs – and to trade days when scheduling problems come up. I am available to provide training, support, and resources when needed.



Teaching will offer you the opportunity to get to know some very energetic and thoughtful young Unitarian Universalists. Their various perspectives will give you more to consider as you explore interesting religious content with them.

Sometimes you won't like the content you have been assigned – and you'll have the opportunity to know what it is that bothers you about it. Sometimes you will teach a lesson that opens up a whole new way of thinking about yourself and the world you live in. Sometimes a lesson will go far better than you expected. Sometimes (for unknown reasons) it will fall flat.

Through it all, you will be getting to know a group of people in this community – and they will be getting to know you.

If you aren't sure about being a teacher or youth advisor, please read some of the reflections by RE students and teachers on the bulletin board near the office. Their testimonies are most eloquent. Or talk with me about your concerns – about needed skills, curriculum content, scheduling needs,... I am here to support you on this very interesting journey.



Signing up is easy. Please write your name on the easel in the vestry. Teacher training and team building will happen at the end of summer vacation.

Peace,

Louise

Register Now for Children's Religious Education

It's time already to register for religious education classes in the fall.

The RE Committee encourages you to visit their table in the vestry after worship to fill out a registration form and pay the registration fee (\$20 for one child, \$35 for families of two or more children).

Come and check out our new and improved registration forms for children who are currently enrolled!



Summer Service and Potluck Sunday, July 10

Please join us at 10:15am on July 10 (the second Sunday in July), and bring your favorite poem or short reading to share. Or, just come to listen. 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.

Karl Arruda
service coordinator

Bridge the Gap

The end of the church (and fiscal) year is June 30. If you haven't already done so, please help "pave the way" to a balanced budget for the current year by contributing your Fair Share (the amount our congregation gives to the UUA and the Ballou Channing District for each member), a total of \$64 per member. These funds help support district and denominational programs.

If you can, please contribute a bit more to help cover the Fair Share of a member who cannot. With your help, we'll reach the far shore!

UU're Home

Dreaming of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The newest UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) may just fill the bill.

Check www.UUreHome.com for more info.

Partner Church News

Our "Small Change Makes a Change" jar at coffee hour has raised over \$90 so far for our Unitarian partners in Romania. (Thank you, Louise Chereski, for your coin jar!)



Please keep dropping in that change-- it will help with transportation so the members of the tiny Gyulakuta congregation can get together with their fellow Unitarians.

Here's a quick 'Partner Church Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)', based on questions I've been asked:

Since when are there Unitarians in Romania?
Since the Reformation in Transylvania, about 400 years ago.

Are they Unitarians like us?

Yes and no. Their theology and worship are very close to the 19th-century Unitarian Christianity of William Ellery Channing and Theodore Parker. Their culture (much of which is rural) is definitely not American culture.

What language do they speak?

Primarily Hungarian. Transylvania was formerly part of Hungary, and they are now an ethnic minority within Romania, where they have suffered from discrimination.

How many UU partner churches are there?

About 200 American UU congregations have partner relationships with congregations in Eastern Europe, India, and the Philippines.

What is the Partner Church Council?

An independent organization, supported by the UUA, that fosters international partnerships and exchanges. See its website, www.uupcc.org, for information about community development projects, study materials, travel services, and more.

Beth McGregor

Calendar

Events take place at church unless **otherwise noted**. Event times are “pm” unless **otherwise noted**.
Choir rehearses Weds. at 7pm and Sun. at 9am. Services and child care begin at 10:15am Sundays.

Th	May 26	Men's Group 8
Sa	June 4	SCMA Recital 7
Su	June 5	Rainbow Celebration 11:30am 1st SCMA Concert 1:30 2nd SCMA Concert 4
M	June 6	Women's Group 7:30
W	June 8	Board Meeting 7:15

***	F	June 10	Pot Luck 5:30 - 7:15 (flow)	***
***			ANNUAL MEETING 7:30	***

Su	June 19	Final Regular Service 10:15am All-Church Picnic 11:30am
----	---------	--

Looking Ahead

Su	July 10	Summer Service 10:15am (intergenerational)
----	---------	---

...and in September

**Watch for news about Bean Supper and the Water Service,
the first regular service of the year.
Remember to bring some water from someplace you visit over the summer.**

A Lasting Gift

Have you, a loved one or friend considered being memorialized with dignity, buried with honor and remembered with affection?

The Unitarian Church of Sharon has several burial plots in a beautiful section of Knollwood Memorial Park.

These plots can be exchanged for others within the park. Each plot will accept one body or two cremations. Market value per plot is \$1450.

If you are interested in these plots and would like to see the placement, please call Board member Melissa Mills.

Among UUs

We send our heartfelt condolences to Mel and Alice Springer. Mel's brother died in April.

We're also glad to welcome Mel back to church and his usual routines after his bout with pneumonia.

We were happy to see Peggy Murano, who's relocated to Dudley, at the yard sale, and also at church the next day.

Sumner Tapper continues as a patient at the Goddard Rehabilitation Center in Stoughton.

Irene Rivers is well and happy and living at the Maples Rehabilitation and Nursing Home, 90 Taunton St, Wrentham. Irene is happy to have brief visits from church members and friends; for directions and

Electronic Newsletter

information talk to Rev. Cayer.

Interested in receiving the newsletter via EMail? We're developing a plan to Email .pdf versions of our monthly newsletter to anyone interested in reducing paper. Please send an EMail to newsletter@uusharon.org if you'd like to be put on the electronic newsletter distribution list. The newsletter will be readable via Adobe Acrobat Reader (available at no cost at adobe.com) and other .pdf reader programs.



Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Interested in working on the newsletter?

It takes a few hours a month to pull it together this treasure trove of information, thanks to (usually) timely submissions.

Send an EMail to newsletter@uusharon.org to start the conversation....

Real Estate

Apartment Available

The McGregors' carriage house apartment will be open for rental after June 15; \$675 a month for quaint and cozy digs for a single or couple, right near the train station, pets allowed. Speak to Beth and Rory if you know someone who might be interested.

House for Sale

Susan Merriam and Terry Jones have decided to sell their house at 37 Summit Ave. It has three bedrooms plus a small nursery. It also has a newly completed legal studio apartment. If anyone is interested they can contact Susan and Terry.

Learn to Lead at NELS

North East Leadership School (NELS) offers a week long experience developing leadership skills through insight, understanding and knowledge. Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes are combined with management techniques so everyday practices become congruent with the values of our religious community.

This unique experiences is scheduled for July 31-August 5, 2005. More info at www.uua.org/nels.

Speak with Congregation President Valerie White if you're interested in attending.

At this writing, there are still a couple of \$125 - \$150 scholarships available for individuals attending NELS. They will be granted on a "first come. . ." basis.

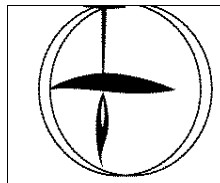
The application can be made by e-mail to wzelazny@uua.org. It needs to include: name, address, phone, EMail and a brief vita of involvement in the congregation.

the church

RAINBOW SUNDAY, JUNE 5
BRIDGE THE GAP
PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY JUNE 10, 7:30PM
(AFTER 2ND FRIDAY POTLUCK)

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

JUNE SERVICES (SERVICES AND CHILD CARE BEGIN AT 10:15AM) JOIN US!

June 5

We Are Family

A year ago our congregation celebrated when Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same sex marriage. What's the prognosis on the state of the union/s now, a year later? Rev. Cayer, worship leader

This morning, wear a shirt in a bright color of the rainbow and help us celebrate equal marriage at 11:30 (on the front lawn, weather permitting) with music, cake, face painting, and a few spoken words. Together we'll make a human rainbow and have our picture taken on the church steps as we stand in religious witness of our principles.



June 12

Catching Joy

Every day the sun rises and we have a whole new 24 hours. Our day is filled with family and work, hurried routines, hassles, disappointment and sometimes even sorrow. But of course every single day is also filled with many other possibilities. How might we live so that we "catch the joy as it flies...?" Rev. Cayer, worship leader

June 19

A Midsummer Day's Dream

Just as we explored the darkness of the winter solstice last December, this morning's service for all ages will explore the bright half of the year. Rev. Cayer and Louise Marcoux, DRE, worship leaders.



Our annual picnic follows the service - all are welcome!

June 2005

Unitarian Church of Sharon

the chalice

End of Summer Church Retreat at Cardigan Lodge

An AMC Lodge in Alexandria, NH

for singles, families, extended families, friends

August 19th, 20th & 21st

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