

the chalice

May 2005

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

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Accessibility »»»

**Special Congregational
Meeting Sun. May 1**

newsletter@uusharon.org
Deadline: May 20, 5pm
Submit items via Email
or on Disk, please



Come Talk About Accessibility Sunday, April 24

Please plan to attend a short presentation and discussion about options for making our building accessible for people of all abilities.

We will meet in the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 24th. The session should end by 1 p.m. at the very latest.

You will need this information before the special congregational meeting on May 1st, when we will decide whether to hire an architect to begin the project planning phase.

Your participation is vital in this exciting work for the future of our church!

Questions?

Talk to Linda Godfrey-Bailey, Laura Raymond, Susan Edinger or Jean Zaniewski.

Published by the
Unitarian Church of
Sharon

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Edele Panessidi

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
FRIDAY
APRIL 15
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)

Through All the Ages

On May 1 after the service, members of the congregation will vote on two warrant articles: adopting the church mission proposed by the Futures Task Force, and whether to hire an architect to create a plan for accessibility at what is now the rear of the building. (This corner will still be the rear of the building, but with an attractive new entryway and more parking it would also become our new "main entrance.")

From the Minister

The week before, on April 24 at 11:30 a.m. members of the Accessibility Committee will present their research on the project, give us their recommendations and answer questions. Though they have very good ideas about how to proceed, and what it will take us to succeed, there are many things we just won't know (such as exactly how much it will cost) until we hire experts to do "the next" portion of the work. If we vote to proceed on May 1st, there will be many more discussions and decisions in the months ahead. Why hire an architect? In addition to crucial matters, such as how to comply with building codes and turn problems into unique and attractive features, architecture's main goal is to create a lasting space in which meaning is communicated and experienced. Writing in the NY Times, Paul Goldberger says: "Architecture is about the long-haul. It is here to say that something that mattered yesterday still matters today, and more important, will still matter tomorrow. It is still a way that the generations speak to each other. If there is any real architectural goal, it is not to make one kind of building or another, but to make sure that the dialogue continues into the next generation, and the generations to follow."

Despite its current limits, we have an architectural gem of a building that speaks to us across time and generations. In the 19th c. this little church was solidly built with no frills or adornment. It's in the neo-classical style. It speaks to us across the past hundred and seventy years about the ideals of beauty, truth, love and reason. It was very well built, intended to last for many lifetimes—and what a strong, loving message that is to us from our spiritual ancestors! They believed we'd be here! In the 20th c. the Religious Education wing was added in the back. It was built of cinderblock with no frills; it is sturdy, again built to last for a long time—with imagination and a vision of families and children who at the time were not yet here, arriving and filling up that space, learning liberal religious values in a progressive way. Without even knowing us, folks in the early 1960's loved us and believed that we'd be here! Here at the beginning of the 21st c. we have an opportunity to envision and build for the future. We have a chance to add a new entryway in a simple, no frills, solid manner that will serve not only current members but also the generations to come. We have the chance to build upon our most cherished values: openness, inclusiveness, respect and diversity. We have the opportunity to put our faith and our love into action. And at the very entrance to the building proclaim the good news: in our religious tradition everyone matters; all the doors, all the rooms are open to all who share our principles. Whatever your ability, you belong here. We believe you'll be here!

See you in church, Deborah

Presidential Ponderings

How did it get to be May already? We have a special congregational meeting May 1, Yard Sale May 14, New Member Welcome May 15, First Friday Potluck, Prism Film series, not to mention Mother's Day, Town Meeting, and Town Election. Before we know it, it will be June and the last service of the church year . . . and the end of the first half of my term as your president.

It has been a rich and rewarding year so far.

I have long said that I could not be perfectly happy unless, before I die, we have found life on Mars and intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. Those are pretty big goals, and ones over which neither I nor any of you have any control whatsoever! I have a smaller, much more achievable goal, as well. I would like to have the start of our congregation's commitment to accessibility take place during my presidency.

As chair, I take no position on the specific resolution proposed for your consideration on May 1. But I do urge you most fervently to demonstrate your courage and devotion to diversity by taking some first step on the path - a level, smooth one, I hope - to

making our meetinghouse accessible.

The other piece of business to be taken up at the special meeting is whether or not to adopt the mission statement the Futures Task Force wrote, rewrote, revised, amended, scrapped, wrote again, compiled, and wove together out of your participation in the small group meetings we had earlier this year. I think coming to agreement on some statement of who we are and what we do is an important rite of passage in our congregational life.

Life on Mars. Intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. Fantasy, maybe—the stuff of speculative fiction. But . . . a meetinghouse into which all people can come, regardless of their means of locomotion, and a congregation able to articulate its sense of self? These goals are not fantasy. These are achievable. This is the year.

Valerie White

GA Reminder

General Assembly will be held in Fort Worth, TX this year, from June 23 - 27.

If you're interested in being a delegate (representing the Unitarian Church of Sharon), speak with a Board member.

Alcohol Use Policy

The Board of Trustees requests that any alcoholic beverages brought into the building for social events be removed at the conclusion of each such event.

No alcohol should be left on the premises without the continuous monitoring of a responsible adult. Many events are held at the church, in the vestry, in the sanctuary and in the classrooms. For social events, alcohol is often served. However, there are no facilities to secure alcoholic beverages to prevent access by visitors and children.

Our doors are open to visitors and we host many youth meetings and events.

It is important to protect visitors, youth and the congregation from the dangers and liabilities associated with free and unmonitored access to alcoholic beverages in our building.

Your attention and adherence to the policy is appreciated.

The Board of Trustees

Online Calendar

The church calendar is now available online! You can view it at www.uusharon.org/calendar/calendar.htm.

Building Sacred Space

A few ideas recently collided in my head.
I've been reviewing curriculum choices for early

From the Director of Religious Education

elementary level students for next year. I'm considering *The Haunting House*. It's an old curriculum - old and

wise - that helps children develop an intuitive understanding of themselves as keepers of spirit. *The Haunting House* helps children inhabit and explore the sacred spaces within and around them - so that they become grounded in themselves as part of a wondrous, special world, a world that matters.

Sacred spaces... this is when the collision happened. I've been paying attention to the conversation about accessibility and the possibility of building an elevator addition onto our church. Here we are, discussing what it will take to make our building accessible to all. We're talking about making real our belief that our community is inclusive - about creating a space that realizes our vision and values. This possible elevator addition is a different kind of sacred space - a concrete expression of our belief in inclusiveness and justice. A sacred space.

Young children are pretty concrete in their thinking. If the congregation decides to build, these children will see an elevator - not justice. But older children and youth who witness the congregation's process through the many decisions about becoming accessible will learn:

- How do adults act on their beliefs?
- Why is this important to our community?
- What religious values are we trying to uphold?
- Do we as a community have the resources to uphold these values?
- How does our community decide together to make changes - or not?
- What can adults compromise about?

Kids notice and learn (even when we think they are not paying attention). What we do and how we do it - both are opportunities to inhabit sacred space.
Peace,

Louise

Hearty Party

Social justice, artistic expression, and kids - what a combination! Children and youth from this congregation are invited to a **Hearty Party** on **Sunday, May 1**, from noon to 1 pm in the vestry. We'll be participating in a social action project along with UU kids from all over Massachusetts - helping the UUA celebrate the first anniversary of Marriage Equality in our state.

Paper is the traditional first wedding anniversary gift. The UUA is asking children and youth to help festoon the UUA chapel with beautiful hand-decorated paper hearts for a celebration of Marriage Equality on May 17, 2005. All couples married in UU congregations in the past year will be invited to this celebration. The process will affirm that as Unitarian Universalists we stand actively on the side of love, against discrimination, for justice, and with trust in the inherent worth of all people.

Kids - join us on May 1st for purposeful fellowship and fun with glitter glue, markers, scissors, and paper. Supervision and artistic support will be provided by youth from our congregation.

Adults are invited to attend the congregational meeting upstairs while they wait.

If you can't come to the Hearty Party but would like to contribute a heart to the chapel, please give your artwork to Louise Marcoux by May 1. Thanks!

MainSpring House Lunches

Please be sure to check with Louise Marcoux to find out what's needed to make the May 1 MainSpring House lunch project another great success.

EMail her at dre@uusharon.org or leave a message at 781/784-3652 ext. 3.

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.

May's First Friday Feast

Come unwind with church friends at First Friday on May 6 from 6 - 8:30pm.

Arrive at this informal meal 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 choice of a beverage and food to share (main dish, salad/vegetable or dessert). Without any planning, we enjoy a delicious, varied menu.

Clean-up is fast and easy, and we're all home early. Parents: child care is not provided, so please bring a quiet activity for your children.

Annual Meeting Slated for June 10

REMINDER: Next month, instead of our First Friday Pot Luck, we'll have a pre-Annual Meeting Pot Luck on Friday, June 10, beginning at 5:30pm.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30pm.

First Friday Film



The Welcoming Congregation Committee of the Unitarian Church of Sharon is pleased to revive this unique film/video/documentary series on the first and third

Fridays in May. The committee

has carefully prescreened the films to assure there is both quality entertainment as well as thoughtful and, at times, provocative exploration of issues that concern the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender (BGLT) community.

We will use the back room of the vestry from 7:30-9:30. A 20-30 min. discussion will follow, depending on the length of the film, so that we end on time.

On May 6th we'll screen "Normal" (HBO, 2002) 119 minutes RATED R

Roy (Tom Wilkinson) and Irma (Jessica Lange) are a devoted couple living a normal life in rural Illinois. At a party celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, Roy inexplicably blacks out. As he awakens, it is with the realization that his life must change forever. Roy confesses to Irma that he's a woman trapped in a man's body and that he wants a sex change. A surprise to his wife turns out to be a shock to the church-going community. Now Roy must face his friends, co-workers and his own children as he confronts his own transformation. Lange received Lead Actress Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for this role.

Also save May 20th for a film, to be announced.

Please let us know if childcare is needed.

Welcoming Congregation Committee
Janet Limke, Gare Reid,
Jon Slavin, Mia Joiner-Moore
welcoming@uusharon.org

A Walk Through Purgatory

Join some of your intrepid fellow UUs and friends on Saturday, April 30th when we'll hike through Purgatory Chasm, located in Sutton, MA.

We'll meet at the church parking lot at 1:30pm to carpool to the Chasm. The hike, which will last about 45 minutes, covers mostly gentle terrain but there will be some boulders to climb over and around.

This amazing natural landmark was formed from glacial meltwater 14,000 years ago (near the end of the last Ice Age) and features granite walls 70 feet high, several small caves and rock formations named "The Pulpit," "The Coffin" and "Fat Man's Misery," to name a few. See www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/purg.htm for more info.

Sneakers or hiking boots are recommended.

Remember, we'll be going rain or shine. Contact Glenn Rivard for info.

Newsletter Notes

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.

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....

In Spring, Our Fancies Turn to Thoughts of... the YARD SALE!

Calling all Volunteers!

The annual church Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14, rain or shine, 9am - 2pm.

Household items, tools, sports and electronic equipment - but NO CLOTHING OR COMPUTERS PLEASE - may be dropped off at church on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, May 11, 12 or 13. A pricing party will begin on Friday at 6pm.

Pre-sorting during the week and cleanup help on Saturday afternoon would be especially appreciated - we must have the vestry and RE rooms in good shape and ready for their regular use on Sunday. (Leftovers will be stored outside under tarps for pick up by Big Brothers Big Sisters the following week.)

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK—
plus you get to work with great folks!

(OK, we'll admit it - the Friday pricing party's a great opportunity to take an early look at what's available.)

Questions? Call the church office at 781/784-3652 or Rory McGregor.

Cedar Hill to Host Open House

Friends new and old are invited to come and discover or rediscover one of the Ballou Channing District's hidden treasures, Cedar Hill Retreat Center, at its Spring Open house on Sunday, May 1, from 1 - 5pm (AFTER the congregational meeting).

Bring a picnic lunch or fly a kite. There will be free balloons and face painting. For info and/or directions, contact Eric or Wendy Swanson, 781/934-2207.

Developing Safe Congregations

The Ballou Channing District's RE Committee is sponsoring a conference on the topic of safe congregations on Saturday, May 7, from 1pm - 4pm at the Murray UU Church in Attleboro. Attendees will learn about what lay and ordained leaders and staff need to know and what they need to do to have a safe congregation for all members. There will be presentations and small group discussions on legal issues and roles and responsibilities. Registration info is available at the church office.

Run, Walk, Shuffle

The first Father Bullock's Run, Walk & Shuffle (a fundraiser for Facing History and Ourselves, a program to which Father Bullock, the late pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, was devoted) will take place on Sunday, June 12 in Sharon. There will be a Kid's Run, a 5K run and a 1.5 mile walk. For info, call 781/784-1232 or 781/784-7805 or log onto www.fatherbullockcharityrace.com. There are also flyers available in the vestry.

Self-Injury Workshop

Learn about why so many young people engage in cutting and other forms of self injury, and what to do about it, on Thursday, April 28 at 7pm at the Endicott Estate in Dedham. For info, call Gail Kelley at the Dedham Health and Wellness Council, 781/320-8923.

Bridging the Gap

As we near the end of the church (and fiscal) year, we hope you'll remember to help "pave the way" to balancing this year's budget 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.

If you're able to contribute a bit more (to help cover the Fair Share of a member who cannot) we hope you'll consider doing so.

We're about two-thirds of the way to our goal; with your help, we'll reach the far shore!

UUA President Honored

Beliefnet, a multi-faith electronic community designed to "help people meet their own religious, spiritual and moral needs by providing information, inspiration, and community," recently named UUA President William G. Sinkford to its list of the nation's most prominent and powerful African-American religious leadership.

Others on the list include the Rev. Al Sharpton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. James Forbes Jr., and the Rev. Johnnie Coleman.

Saving Darfur

Members of our Senior Youth Group will be participating in a fundraising, letter-writing and information-sharing project to help support the deployment of African Union peacekeepers to Darfur, a region of Sudan currently suffering a government-supported genocide. Humanitarian organizations' operations are severely limited due to safety concerns. Watch for more information in May.

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.

Sa	Apr. 23	BCD Annual Mtg Norwell 8am	Th	May 12	Men's Group 8
Su	Apr. 24	Accessibility Discussion 11:30am	Sa	May 14	YARD SALE 9am - 2pm
Th	Apr. 28	Men's Group 8	Su	May 15	SCMA Concert 2pm
Sa	Apr. 30	Bike Collection 9am - 12pm Purgatory Chasm Hike (meet @ 1:30)	M	May 16	Women's Group 7:30
Su	May 1	SPECIAL CONGREG. MTG 12 Hearty Party 12	F	May 20	Prism Film Series 7
M	May 2	Women's Group 7:30	Th	May 26	Men's Group 8
F	May 6	First Friday Potluck 6-8 (flow) Prism Film Series 7 SCMA 7:30	Sa	June 4	SCMA Recital 7
Sa	May 7	SCMA Concert 7	Su	June 5	Rainbow Celebration 11:30am 1st SCMA Concert 1:30 2nd SCMA Concert 4
Su	May 8	RE Committee 8am	M	June 6	Women's Group 7:30
W	May 11	Board Meeting 7:15	W	June 8	Board Meeting 7:15
			F	June 10	Pot Luck 5:30 - 7:15 (flow) ANNUAL MEETING 7:30

Church of the Younger Fellowship

Calling all high school graduates to be and college students! The UUA has created the Church of the Younger Fellowship (CYF) to address the spiritual needs of UU Young Adults (18-35 year-olds). A new website will be launched mid-May that will create a cyber spiritual home.

The Church of the Younger Fellowship is one of the most RevolUUtionary ideas in our movement today! Imagine a church that exists to fulfill the spiritual needs of UU Young Adults (18-35 year-olds) and that will allow us to have a voice within the UUA!

The CYF Task Force is currently building an online spiritual community for young adult UUs that incorporates sermons and services by ministers and lay leaders that focus on young adult issues, local organizing for social action, spiritual and social needs, public worship resources for local congregations who wish to reach out to young adults, and much more!

Join the CYF today and help to build our own UU congregation! The CYF is intended to be affordable to its members, and sets its minimum suggested donation at less than \$1 a week!

Among UUs

We send our heartfelt condolences to Fred, Joyce and Jeff Bramhall. Fred's father died at the end of March; his memorial service was held at his Unitarian Universalist church in Lexington.

Peggy Murano is in the process of moving from Sharon to live with her daughter, Andrea Murano, who lives just south of Worcester. The Women's Goodwill Alliance is putting together a book of photos and messages for her; you can find it in the church office. Peggy's new address is 40 Lawrence Rd., Dudley, MA 01571, and phone number is 508-943-1159.

Frank O'Brien bids a fond farewell to all his friends in Sharon and says he will miss everyone very much. Frank moved to Florida in mid-April. His new address is 37 Golf Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952. Call if you're in the area!

Randi Wuertz recently sent the congregation a book on grieving that she found very helpful these past several months; the book is on display near the library bookshelves. In an accompanying card, Randi writes in part: "To my Dear Friends at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, I think of you all the time, with warmth and happiness and a smile on my face. I miss everyone. Thank you so much to all of you for the support and caring you gave to me during that horrible time after Greg's death. I'll never forget the kindness and love I felt from all of you...it meant a lot to us to be involved with such an amazing group of people. How lucky and blessed we are to know you." The card is posted on the Fellowship Bulletin board. Randi's new address, phone number and EMail address are available at church.

At this time of year when we're thinking about next year's leadership, the Board of Trustees is pleased to draw your attention to two books placed by them in the church library in honor of two of last year's outgoing board members. The book "Language of Reverence" is a collection of essays by five prominent UU's and is given in honor of Edele Panessidi, former President of the congregation. And Paul Loeb's book

"The Impossible Will Take a Little While" is given in honor of David Schoenfeld, former trustee. We thank both Edele and David for their many years of continuing service to the congregation.

Evan Wilson is currently engaged in an exciting learning and international development experience in Namibia, Africa. Donations of school supplies and/or cash for his project would tremendously assist the lively, intelligent students Evan works with. (Check the vestry for more details.)

Congratulations to Matthew Panessidi, who knew he'd be among those selected as "Best in Tech" at a mid-April ceremony at the New England Institute of Technology, but who was surprised to receive one of only five "Tech Scholar" awards, as well.

The Doolittle Home Needs You

In 1915 Sarah Doolittle gave her family home to the Universalist Convention of Massachusetts to be used as a residence for the elderly, especially those of the Universalist faith.

Over the years there has been a strong relationship between the Home and the UUA. Now, the current Chair of the Board of Trustees, who is a fundamentalist Christian, is trying to sever that tie. He even hired a policeman in uniform to keep people who disagreed with him (UUs who are members of the corporation) out of last year's Annual Meeting.

The legal costs to fight for Doolittle are mounting. Please contribute - a large check if you can, but a small one if you can't. Checks should be made out to: The UUA Fund for Doolittle Home, Inc. and sent to the UUA, Attention Jerry Gabert, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. Please be generous. We are very grateful for your support.

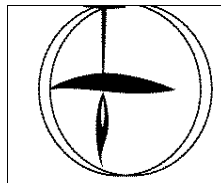
For more information call Rev. Dorothy Boroush, 508-824-2953, dboroush@aol.com

the church

**SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 1, 12 NOON**

**IT'S YARD SALE TIME!
BRIDGING THE GAP
CHURCH OF THE YOUNGER FELLOWSHIP**

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

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

May 1 *Growing Up*
The Youth Group has ideas and feelings to share about this sometimes cool, sometimes awful, sometimes surprising process we've all gone through. Members of this year's Youth Group will lead the service.

May 8 *How Can I Keep From Singing?*
Carolyn Sloan writes, "When we enter the world, we do so, not silently, but with a cry...Before we can speak...we babble. We fill the air with our own voices, feeling ourselves vibrate, enjoying the sensations that our own bodies create. We are our first song. Every syllable, every coo, every heartbeat and pair of hands clapping...creates yet another movement in the song of life. We are music. Music is our birthright." This Music Service will be led by our Choir Director, Jennifer Spencer, and Minister, Deborah Cayer.

May 15 *What We Love Most
(and Why it Matters So Much)*
Some thoughts about community and ultimate matters on this morning when we also welcome our newest members. Rev. Cayer, worship leader.

May 22 *Religious Education Sunday*
Balloons, kids, readings and singing; balloons, teachers, thanks and flowers. Balloons, roses, teens and tears; balloons, FUN, rejoicing and praise. Come and help us celebrate the year in RE! Louise Marcoux and Deborah Cayer, worship leaders.

May 29 *Ugly Truths, Beautiful Lies*
On Memorial Day we rightfully honor the people who have put their lives on the line to serve and protect our country. How can we put our love and respect into actions that support them as well as the ideals our nation holds high? Rev. Deborah Cayer, worship leader.