

the chalice

Nov. 2004

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**Our Futures Await
Help Plan Them! »»**

Direct newsletter items to :
newsletter@uusharon.org
Deadline: Nov. 19, 5pm



“Focus on our Futures” Small Group Sessions Nov. 19, 20, 21

Do you remember this conversation between Alice and the Cheshire Cat, from Alice in Wonderland?...

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where—” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat. “—so long as I get somewhere,” Alice added as an explanation.

“Oh, you’re sure to do that,” said the Cat, “if only you walk long enough.”

Where do we want to go as a congregation? And perhaps more importantly, why do we want to go there?

There’s a general feeling at church this fall that things are going really well—this year’s Bean Supper, the revitalized choir, our wonderful new DRE, the service honoring Mrs. Richardson, and the building and gardens that are so beautifully maintained. Yet, none of us come to church primarily to weed, mulch or serve beans. We come here to grow our souls, to renew our hope and confidence, to find enough peace to get through another week. Even more, we come here hoping to serve, to make a difference through our teaching, singing, giving, praying, and social action.

However much we each receive here, we don’t just come here to fulfill our own private needs. The church serves us, and in turn we serve others by bringing them the good news of Unitarian Universalism, that each person has inherent worth and dignity, and we’re equals who are related in a mutual web of community. *See Page 6*

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FRIDAY
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Submit EMail
by 5pm to
newsletter@uusharon.org
MS Word attachments
preferred
Or
drop off in the RED
Newsletter Mailbox in the
Church Office
(on disk, preferably)

A Meetinghouse for Souls

Like the color in the trees this fall, the autumn we're having at church has been pretty spectacular. In addition to the things mentioned in the Futures Meetings article, there's been more building use by small community groups, we have a terrific new Administrative Assistant, 18 teens have been regularly coming to senior youth group and the Board has spent a month raising awareness about our larger UU connections and run a major fundraiser.

From the Minister

So where are we going? And why? If we don't know, any road will get us there, and any old time will be just fine. While this is exactly the right way to care for the soul, which requires solitude, time for play and dreaming and discovery, it's not the best way to put our values and beliefs into action. And it's not the best way to help others find a way into the good things going on here that would help them grow their souls.

Have we got a good thing going on here? You bet! But is it just for us alone? No way. This church is not a private club. We don't pay dues and expect to be served. We don't take care of the building to have a pretty place to host events. The building is a Meetinghouse, a place where souls grow in relationship with other souls. The point of being in a congregation is to grow our souls in order to serve others, even to save the world.

In religious traditions, hospitality is a core teaching. It's not about manners and playing nice. Opening your home, your life to another is a radical, dangerous thing to do. But the greatest danger isn't that the stranger might harm you; it's that because of the stranger, your life might change in irreversible ways. Your life will become larger and more full of grace, and it won't fit nicely back into its little box.

Well, Alleluia! Like the color in the trees this fall, how spectacular might our congregation's life become if we talk together and discover what we value, then figure out where in the world we intentionally want to put our values to work? The world is crying with need. While we can't possibly meet it all, what a lost opportunity if we don't get ourselves organized enough to meet the small part of it we alone might have the power to affect.

Toward that good end, I have a great hope that everyone, all friends and members will find a way to participate in one of the small group meetings planned for mid-November.

In faith,

Presidential Ponderings

I used to attend meetings where the Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Howard Koh, gave speeches. He always began with, "I'm delighted to be here this morning . . ." Once, I whispered to the person next to me, "He's going to be delighted." Dr. Koh fooled me by being thrilled.

From the Board

I should have repressed my irony, be-

cause I am now BOTH thrilled and delighted. I'm delighted with our Board of Trustees: a WORKING board. It has produced volunteers for projects, has followed through, has prepared for meetings.

Two board members serve on the Building Use Committee. Another spearheaded the deficit-busting Fair-Share fund drive and organizing the beer-tasting which topped it off. Board members proposed and researched the church accepting donations of cars. A board member on B&G installed bathroom grab rails and hand-rails by the step outside the sanctuary. A board member drafted a Gift Policy.

I'm thrilled with the life of the congregation. Folks have been signing up for coffee, greeting and flowers. Lots of Adult RE

and fellowship and Welcoming Congregation activities are upcoming. The Task Force on Growth has taken hold and has a plan!

Our RE director is doing a fabulous job. Our administrative assistant is working out well and is able to be in the office three times a week. Edele Panessidi was able to recruit volunteers to present "Portals of Prayer" during Family Week. The service in honor of Dorothy Richardson was well received. The choir performed its Brahms anthem at a District choir concert October 17. The Accessibility Task Force is effective.

I was inspired by the BCD President's Council meeting and the Fall Conference, and I will attend the BCD Academy for Healthy Congregation Development. Three of us will be able to attend a reunion of the seminal Small Church Growth conference which has inspired much energy and direction in this congregation.

I'm thrilled and delighted.
Sorry, Dr. Koh.

Valerie White
President

Memorial Garden News

Thank you to the people who have volunteered to help with the Memorial Garden Maintenance. Susan Edinger and Ruth Ashley have agreed to help.

Not sure if you know the difference between a weed and a flower? The Memorial Garden Committee gives free weeding lessons.

Another advantage of helping in the garden is being exposed to a lovely variety of plant material. Ellen Schoenfeld has studied many aspects of horticulture and loves to incorporate interesting specimens. In fact I have added some of the Memorial Garden planting ideas to my yard.

The previously-scheduled mulch and stone dust spreading were cancelled because foul weather interfered with delivery.

These activities have been rescheduled for Saturday, November 6 from 9:30am-12noon.

Please call Garden Committee members to confirm work day if you are able to help that day.

Thank you.

Debbie Schulz

DREams About the Dark

With the end of daylight savings time, the early darkness intensifies my feeling of entering the dark time of the year. It's too dark to play outside after 4 pm. It's

*From the Director
of Religious Education*

really dark when most of us come home from work.

I find it very mysterious and exciting. Orion in the night sky, the smell of decaying leaves, the chilly air, light displays popping up in windows and on lawns. The darkness has such power. Instinctively, we fear it. Nocturnal predators had the advantage of us in the darkness. They could see us, and we could not see them. But early humans had fire – the ability to light the darkness and warm themselves in the cold. The dark time of the year gave people time to slow down and sit together around the fire.

With electricity, we have distanced ourselves from the power of the darkness and the beauty of the candle's flame. That circle of light and comfort from the past is frighteningly irrelevant to us – we just flick on a switch (or let the motion sensor do that for us) – and darkness is dispelled from our world.

Yet the image about gathering around the fire still resonates.

I hope you'll take time in November and December to gather with your fellow humans at home and at church to enjoy the beauty of fire in the darkness. We'll be trying hard to kindle that flame downstairs during religious education classes. We invite you to join in slowing down and experiencing the mystery of the dark time of the year.

Louise

Louise Marcoux
Director of Religious Education

Unplug the Holiday Machine II: Finding and Keeping Your Spiritual Center During the Holidays

The Holidays can be a stressful time.

How can we find what is most meaningful to us and what are some ways to keep these ideals in our minds as we go through the next several weeks.

What can we do now to make the Holidays be more joyful, spiritual and stress-free? How can we support one another in these efforts?

Please join us for this lunchtime discussion on Sunday, November 14 from 12-1:45. On a related note, the Massachusetts Council of

Take Back Your Time

Churches is urging everyone to create four "windows of time" (of two hours each) to nurture body, mind, heart, and soul between now and Dec. 31.

Celebrating Mrs. Richardson

It's not too late to get your own copy of the recording of Mrs. Dorothy Richardson singing at Norton College in 1953, which was converted to a CD by George Bailey, with beautiful graphic design work by John Prendergast. It is available for sale for \$15. Checks should be made payable to the Unitarian Church of Sharon, with "Richardson CD" in the memo line. Speak to George at church or send orders to George Bailey at 74 Glendale Road, Sharon 02067. The CD includes an extensive biography—and would make a splendid gift.

First Friday Potlucks: Join us on November 5

First Friday is a chance to unwind with church friends at a (very) informal supper.

People arrive as their schedules permits (our microwave is helpful for late arrivals) and we all enjoyed a relaxed end-of-the-week communal meal in the vestry.

No sign-up or reservations are needed – just bring food to share (main dish, salad/vegetable or dessert) and the beverage of your choice. Without any planning, we achieve a delicious, varied menu.

Clean-up is fast and easy, and we're all home early. Child care is not provided, so parents are asked to bring a quiet activity for their children.

If this sounds like a good way to end your week - or start your weekend – please join us at our next First Friday Potluck on November 5, from 6 to 8:30 pm in the church vestry.

Mark your calendars now for future First Fridays: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6 and June 10 (immediately before Annual Meeting).

Goodwill Alliance "Flop" Slated for November 12

Bring a memory, make a memory . . . getting everyone on the same page.

Here's the rundown for the next Women's Goodwill Alliance Meeting, slated for 6:30pm on Friday, November 12.

6:30 "Friday Nite Flop" Just bring your own beverage (and dessert, see specs at 7:30), soup, hearty salad and coffee/tea will be buffeted.

7:30-8:00 Conversation and coffee/dessert. Bring two servings if you'd like dessert, one for yourself and one to share.

8:00-9:00 Program, small discussion groups, door prizes.

Where: Mary Nelson's, 132 North Main Street

Questions? E-mail: MsMaryCNelson@cs.com.

A mailing with parking directions, etc., will be sent to the women of the church. If you don't get one, please call.

We'd like all the women to come to make this flop a success!

Concerns of the Larger Community

MainSpring Coalition for the Homeless presents it's 4th annual "Dishin' it up for the Homeless" auction and dinner at Christina's Restaurant in Foxboro on Thursday, Nov. 4 beginning at 6:45pm.

The Metro South Animal Shelter and Adoption Center in Brockton's 3rd annual "Happy Endings" silent auction and dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Thorney Lea Golf Club in Brockton, starting at 6pm. Info: 508-586-2053

The Neponset River Watershed Association is looking for volunteers to locate dams in the towns of Canton, Stoughton and Sharon. Are you interested in learning more about dams? It is easy, fun, and a great family activity. Info: Wendy Roemer roemer@neponset.org, 781-575-0354.

"Focus on our Futures"

From Page 1

This inclusive message is what we really offer. We deliver our good news through our programs and projects—through Sunday worship and religious education for adults and children, through fellowship events and social justice projects.

Would there have been a human rainbow celebrating Equal Marriage last May in Sharon if we hadn't created one? Probably not. What other messages of hope and courage, love and faith do we want to bring to our larger community?

Like Alice, the way we decide to go, the plans we decide to make for our programs will depend very much on where we want to end up. The Board of Trustees has asked a small task force to create a way for the congregation to talk together. In mid-November, the Futures Task Force invites you to come to one 90 minute small group session to talk about what we're dreaming and hoping for our church. The Futures Task Force will take the results of these small group conversations and report back to the congregation in early January. These results will also be available to leaders for planning.

Please sign up to join us one of the following times: Friday, November 19 from 7:30-9pm or Saturday, November 20, 7:30-9pm for conversation over dessert and coffee. Or join us Sunday, November 21 from noon-1:30pm for conversation over soup. Child care will be provided if needed (please sign up by November 16).

If we do this together *now*, we'll have a clearer sense of where we want to go, and why. This spring, figuring out *how* will be a lot easier.

The Futures Task Force
Gary Webber, Chair, Beth McGregor,
Laura Raymond, Rev. Deborah Cayer

"Everybody counts. Everybody needs to be counted"
UUA President Bill Sinkford

Harvest Home/Halloween

Celebrate the harvest and welcome in the dark time of the year on Saturday, October 30, from 6pm—8:00 pm, at our Old-Timey Halloween Party! We'll be making vegetable lanterns, luminaria, and masks, listening to storytelling, playing old-timey harvest games, and gathering around an outdoor fire (weather permitting). Costumes optional (but fun).

RSVP to Louise Marcoux at 781.784.3652 or dre@uusharon.org. Additional game and/or story ideas are welcome. This party is co-sponsored by the Fellowship Committee and the Religious Education Program.

Children's Make-and-Take Holiday Craft Workshop

The children in our Sunday School (pre-k and up) are invited to attend a Make-and-Take Holiday Craft Workshop on Saturday, November 20, from 1—3pm, sponsored by the Religious Education Committee.

The children will be free to visit various stations to create Hanukkah and Christmas gifts for family and friends.

Adults are needed to help at the various stations. This year, we are hoping to add simple wood-working projects as well as a cookie station. Volunteers are needed to prepare cookie dough and/or help the children bake gingerbread cookies or help with other crafts.

The fee is \$10.00 per child or \$20.00 per family, which includes materials and a light snack. Please register now, so that we can plan to have enough supplies.

If you have any questions, or you would like to share some craft ideas, please call Alison Reid or e-mail Alison at agreid@rcn.com.

Among UUs

Our condolences to Glenn Rivard and family. Glenn's grandmother, Viola, passed away at age 97.

Irene Rivers is now living at the Maples Nursing Home, Taunton St., Wrentham. She's in good health and spirits and says hello to all friends in Sharon.

Congratulations to Jennifer Spencer and members of the Choir on their fantastic performance at the BCD Choir Concert at Murray Church in Attleboro.

Jennifer Spencer's husband, Nathan, will be having throat and soft palate surgery on November 2 (after he votes, Jennifer says) and recovery is expected to take a couple weeks and be very uncomfortable. Susan Edinger is coordinating soup and any other help Jennifer's family might need. You can call Susan to help.

Don't miss the Letters to the Editor in the UU World; you'll find one by our own Susan Edinger.

Portal of Prayer Thank Yous

Thanks to sound artist Ellen Band, who (despite some last-minute technical glitches) made Portal of Prayer available to us. Thanks very much also to Gary Weber who loaned us and installed a wonderful sound system, and to Bill Fox, Frank O'Brien, Susan Allison, Stefani Langol, Melissa Mills, Julie Armstrong, Phyllis Silva and Gare Reid for taking shifts so the Meetinghouse could be open to the public. Thanks, too, to Rev. Deborah Cayer for support and backup.

Though we had less than hoped for attendance, this unique and sometimes challenging experiential art was quite interesting to most of those who were able to attend. And it was truly wonderful to see the church open and lit up in the early evening darkness a few nights that week. Events like Portal of Prayer help people remember that we're here, pique some folks' interest in coming to learn more, and build our identity in the community ("Oh, that's the church that..."). Thank you to everyone involved for bringing this interesting art experience to Sharon!

Edele Panessidi

Partner Church News

Our partner church ministers, Erika and Levente, are gratefully enjoying their reliable new car, purchased by the combined efforts of themselves, their own congregations, and their U.S. partner churches, including the \$600 we raised here in Sharon. It will become particularly valuable as winter hits the country roads that separate their congregations. And their offer stands to use it to pick up any one of us who comes to Romania to visit.

To help support our Partner Church fund, I have a limited supply of 6" round detailed chalice wood-carvings by Sandor Janos, available for \$50, plus a few left of last year's small carvings at \$10. Donations in any amount are of course also welcome; just make a check out to Unitarian Church of Sharon with a memo note "Partner Church Fund" and give it to me. We use the money to assist with Erika and Levente's car expenses and with needs that arise in our partner church in Gyulakuta. They are a small congregation with few resources and a number of members living on very small pensions.

One of the things we've helped them do is to send members to regional Unitarian gatherings (the equivalent of our District meetings and General Assembly). Just as for us, that connection means a lot. I would also like to send them a Christmas gift again; last year they used it to help hold a party and give small presents to village children who needed them.

If you'd like to know more about the UU Partner Church program, which involves hundreds of Unitarian churches in the U.S., Canada, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, India, and the Philippines, you can talk to me or visit the Partner Church website at www.uua.org/uupcc.



♪ *Sing, Sing, Sing* ♪

Walt Whitman wrote: “All music is what awakes from you when you are reminded by the instruments.”

Be reminded and awakened—come sing with the choir, led by Choir Director Jennifer Spencer.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7 and Sunday mornings at 9.

The choir will sing at services on October 31, November 21 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) and December 24, Christmas Eve.

Calendar Notes

Events take place at church unless otherwise noted. Choir rehearses Weds. (new day) 7pm and Sun. 9am. Services and child care begin at 10:15am Sundays.

- F Nov. 5 First Friday potluck 6pm-8:30pm drop in
- Sa Nov. 6 Memorial Garden work 9:30am
- Su Nov. 7 Bernie Jacobs Memorial Concert 3pm
- W Nov. 10 Board of Trustees 7pm
- Th Nov. 11 Men’s Group 8pm
- F Nov. 12 Goodwill Alliance (Mary Nelson’s)
- Sa Nov. 13 BCD Social Justice Workshop 9am
Circle Suppers (various locations)
- Su Nov. 14 Unplug...II 12pm
- W Nov. 17 Membership Committee 7:30pm
- F Nov. 19 Newsletter deadline 5pm
Futures Small Group Meetings 7:30pm
- Sa Nov. 20 Make-and-Take Workshop 11am
Futures Small Group Meetings 7:30pm
- Su Nov. 21 Futures Small Group Meetings 12pm
- Th Nov. 25 Men’s Group 8pm (may be rescheduled)
- Su Nov. 28 Leaf Raking 12pm

SAVE THE DATE: Holiday Party Sa Dec. 11 5pm

A Lasting Gift

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

Our church owns two burial plots in Knollwood Memorial Park which were donated to us many years ago. They are located in a beautiful section of the cemetery, under a spring flowering tree overlooked by a statue of Jesus.

Should this location not be appropriate, there are other locations within Knollwood to choose from.

Each plot will accept one body or two cremations. Market value per plot is \$1450.

Interested people should contact Melissa Mills.

Denominational News

The 3rd annual conference of Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), an organization for UU People of Color and their allies, will be held the weekend of Nov. 5—7. Check <http://www.druumm.org/> for info.

Reminders

It’s not too late to contribute your \$64 to cover our (per-member) UUA/BCD Fair Shares!

In November and December, the Sunday morning Religious Education program will switch gears for a new twist on Revels. We’ll slow down to use all our senses to explore this time of gathering darkness, of expectation and hope. Then we’ll gather to share our new understanding with our congregation. To join us downstairs for this active yet meditative approach to Revels. Speak with Louise Marcoux, our Director of Religious Education, or write to dre@uusharon.org.

Thanks to Those who Helped To Honor Mrs. Richardson

On a gorgeously sunny Sunday morning we remembered Mrs. Dorothy Richardson in a service complete with ushers in jackets and ties, a choir processing in borrowed robes and many members of Mrs. Richardson's family and former junior choir members in attendance. People who hadn't heard her voice in years were in tears as the Music Upon Entering concluded with the CD version of Mrs. Richardson singing her favorite spiritual, "Steal Away." We were all deeply moved when Cynthia Miles Gray, our guest soloist, sang from Elijah.

We used the order of service that this congregation used in the 1950's and 60's, and prayers and readings from the old red hymnal. There's a kind of power that great artists have; Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Miles Gray both have in their voices. The Buddhists talk about how hard it is to describe spiritual experience. The closest we get sometimes, they say, is a finger pointing at the moon. It's not the finger that's the main point, and not even the moon; but without them our attention wouldn't be captured. Their voices were like fingers pointing at the moon that morning, and we were captured, completely. That, I believe, is what some mean when they talk about a spiritual experience.

But actually, the whole of the morning added up to more than the sum of its parts, which is how others describe a spiritual experience. Mel Springer flawlessly played all the music, including the challenging Brahms, "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" with his left hand, just out of unexpected surgery, in a splint (a musically heroic accomplishment). The beautiful floral arrangements by Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks were almost radiating light, and Joyce Bramhall coordinated a very lovely coffee hour. The depth of feeling for their teacher that former choir members brought to the day was powerful. It also was a joy to meet so many members of Mrs. Richardson's family. And the babies, children, and young adults who had never known their great grandmother heard many new stories.

None of this would have happened without Susie Gray, who had the idea several years ago that we should make

sure the congregation of today knew who Mrs. Richardson was, and what her lasting contribution has been. We certainly got a sense of that. (If you missed the service, see Valerie White's welcome, my sermon, and pictures by Rick Dumont on the church website.) George Bailey produced the CD from an LP Mrs. Richardson had made in the 1950's, an adventure that took more than a year to accomplish. John Prendergast created the beautiful graphic design for the CD's liner notes. Gare Reid put together the wonderful exhibit at the Sharon Historical Society, and Susan Allison, Phyllis Silva and Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks created a lovely reception there too.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this morning so very special. This was a day that those who attended will long remember.

Belated Biographical Note: Cynthia Miles Gray

Cynthia Miles Gray, who graced us with her voice and presence as we celebrated the life of Mrs. Dorothy Richardson, has been singing and perfecting her craft for most of her life. Singing is her avocation and her talent, but she is a little reticent about singing in public. She says, "I'm a shy person – if you've heard me at a performance, I'm glad!"

A member of the Affirming Diversity/Celebrating Community Committee in Sharon, Cynthia serves as Choir Director at both the Berea Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Dorchester and Sacred Music Ensemble at the Historic Charles Street Roxbury A.M. E. Church in Roxbury. She has made solo appearances at several churches and at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in Boston, and had the distinct pleasure of singing for the opening of the Edward Brooke Federal Courthouse in honor of the former state senator.

Cynthia feels that what she does is part of a wider ministry. "I feel I have been given a gift from God and I like to share it!"

Having heard her, we are both glad and grateful!

Nov. 2004

BCD ACADEMY FOR HEALTHY CONGREGATION DEVELOPMENT

the chalice

2004-05 Seminars for Congregational Leaders

The BCD Academy for Healthy Congregation Development aims to enhance our congregations' effectiveness and well-being by offering their leaders opportunities for education and training. Academy sessions will offer a grounding in congregational systems, practical tools, case studies from the experience of fellow BCD congregations, and opportunities for discussion. They are designed for the officers, board members, ministers, committee chairs, and professional staff who make up our congregations' leadership, supplementing the more general offerings provided at our conferences.

This year's series of three workshops focuses on the theme of building strong, effective communities that can endure the conflicts and tensions inherent in our diverse congregations, turning them into opportunities for deepening and growth.

1. Saturday, November 13. Channeling the Passion: Working for social justice in community-building ways.

Learn from congregations that have engaged in healthy decision-making processes to engage their congregants in effective social activism. Panel participants: Rev. Steve Landale of Bell Street Chapel, Providence; Dexter Robinson of First Parish Norwell; Rev. Bob Thayer of Universalist Unitarian Church, Brockton; Davalene Cooper of First Parish Hingham and the Northeast Leadership School, Moderator

Location: Unitarian Church of Sharon, MA, 9 AM-noon, coffee 8:30.

2. Saturday, January 29. The Ties that Bind: Covenants and processes that help hold us together, even when the going gets rough.

UUA Trustee Eva Marx and former BCD President Bill Robinson will explore the kinds of structures and agreements that every congregation should have in place, whether they think they need them or not—because eventually they will.

Location: Murray UU Church, Attleboro, MA, 9 AM-noon, coffee 8:30.

3. Saturday, March 12. Conflict for Cowards: No one wants it, but it won't kill you.

This program will offer advice from professionals in conflict training and mediation, along with a congregational case study in conflict management.

Tentative Location: First Parish Duxbury, MA, 9 AM-noon, coffee 8:30.

Name: _____ Congregation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Session: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ (\$20 each). All sessions: _____ (\$50).

A BCD Leadership Certificate will be awarded for completion of all three sessions. Please make check payable to 'BCD' and send to Ballou Channing District Office, 325 W. Elm St., Brockton, MA 02301.

Social Justice Update

I will try to make this column a regular feature of the Chalice, each month I will report on social justice initiatives that come to my attention and, if space permits, I will provide a brief commentary on a social justice issue. If anyone has anything to contribute to future Social Justice pages please contact me (david@schoenfeld.org).

International

Oxfam America announces its program *Fast for a World Harvest*, see http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatyoucando/act_now/fight_hunger. You forgo one meal and donate the money to Oxfam America whose mission is to combat hunger around the world. Oxfam's program is to provide resources to help people feed themselves. This is also the theme of *Heifer International*. The idea is to give an animal as a gift to someone in your family who has everything. The animal doesn't go to your recipient (what a relief!) but goes to a family that will really appreciate it (<http://www.heifer.org>).

We received solicitations for collections Guest at our Table and Trick or Treat for Unicef. Both are opportunities to teach children that most of the world is in need and we can do something about it. <http://www.uusc.org/ia/gayt/2004/index.html> and <http://www.unicefusa.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=59730>.

We received a letter for the *Darfur Relief Fund* that is helping to provide relief to victims of the crises in Sudan. For online donation go to (http://www.uusc.org/programs/support_darfur.html), or mail donations to the Darfur Relief Fund, UUSC, P.O. Box 845259, Boston, MA 02284-5259. For information on how you can express your concern to U.S. policy-makers visit: <http://www.uusc.org/info/article071604.html>.

December 1st, 2004 has been declared *World AIDS Day*, the *UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy* (arose@uua.org) is asking congregations to organize

worship services, classes, community events or fundraisers to support the fight against global aids.

Help out closer to home

MainSpring House is in desperate need for twin size comforters and blankets. If you have questions contact Linda Gately at 508-427-6448 ext 18. If anyone has blankets to donate I will collect them and get them over there (contact me at david@schoenfeld.com). Mainspring house has shelters in Brocton, Middleborough, and Stoughton.

Interweave Continental, a membership organization which seeks to enhance the lives of UU bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people and their allies (<http://www.uua.org/interweave>) has sent its congratulations to us on becoming a welcoming congregation. Their newsletter is on the Social Justice Bulletin Board. The newsletter announced President Sinkford's Freedom to Marry Fund, <http://www.uua.org/giving/ftmfund.html>.

Prison Reform

The *Church of the Larger Fellowship's Prison Pen Pal Program* is looking for people to be pen pals to UU inmates in American prisons. For more information contact Rev. Kathy Reis, at 618-948-6167 or email clf@clfuu.org. The summer Newsletter of the *Unitarian Universalists for Alternatives to the Death Penalty* is on the rack near the Social Justice Bulletin Board

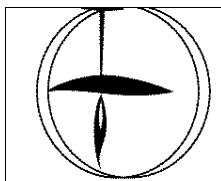
Remember to Vote for a just world on November 2nd. Better than just voting, help get out the word. A few of the web sites for volunteering in November's election are Democratic: <http://www.democrats.org/volunteer/index.html>, Republican: <http://www.72hour.com/>, Socialist Workers: <http://www.themilitant.com/2004/campaign/campaign01.html>, Libertarian: <http://www.lp.org>.

the church

**BCD ACADEMY FOR
HEALTHY CONGREGATION
WORKSHOPS**
INFO INSIDE (WE'RE HOSTING!)

"FOCUS ON OUR FUTURES"
PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP
SESSION (F 11/19, SA 11/20 OR SU 11/21) TO DISCUSS
WHERE (AND HOW) WE GO FROM HERE!

Mailing
Label
Goes
Here



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.unsharon.org

EMAIL ADDRESS
ADMIN@UNSHARON.ORG

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

NOVEMBER SERVICES

SERVICES AND CHILD CARE BEGIN AT 10:15 A.M. JOIN US!

November 7 *To Build the Common Good*

The election is over (hopefully) and some of us are relieved, some concerned. Whatever our feelings, it's time to come together to remember that what unites us is far more and far greater than what divides us. Rev. Deborah Cayer, worship leader.

November 14 *Called*

What are we called to be and to do in this community of faith? Rev. Deborah Cayer, worship leader.

November 21 *This I Believe*

This lay led service was so popular last year that the Worship Committee asked three more church members to briefly share their diverse beliefs this morning. Karl Arruda and Friends will lead this service. The Choir sings today.

November 28 *Gathering In*

This has been a season of gathering in preserves to sustain us through the cold, dark winter. What do we gather besides food, and what might we be trying to keep at a distance? Rev. Deborah Cayer and Kathleen Guilday, worship leaders.