

# the chalice

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## **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Friday, January 25**

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## **DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

### **Sunday December 2: What Gives You Hope?**

10:00am Family Service  
10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)

Last week we reflected on what breaks our hearts. This morning, on the first Sunday of Advent, we will reflect on - and share some of - what gives us hope.

### **Sunday December 9: Revels**

10:15am Intergenerational Service (No religious education classes)

The dark time of the year offers the opportunity to celebrate light in darkness. Children and youth will lead us in an appreciation of the many ways this season is celebrated: with a wisdom tale from India, and joyful traditions from Yule, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and Santa Lucia Day.

### **Sunday December 16: Mindfulness in Times of Challenge**

10:00am Family Service  
10:30am Adult Service (while children are in their religious education classes)

This morning we look at the Buddhist practice of Mindfulness meditation as a tool for surviving - and even thriving - in challenging times, whether the challenges we face are primarily personal or societal.

### **Friday December 21 Solstice**

7:00pm service (Childcare is not available.)

In one of the most moving services of our entire year, our choir will lead us in a celebration of the winter solstice. Through music, readings and the play of dark and light, we will enter into the heart of this ancient earth-based spiritual passage. Open to all.

### **Sunday December 23: True Christmas**

10:15am Intergenerational Service (No religious education classes)

We explore the "true" meaning of this holiday season.

### **Monday December 24: Christmas Eve**

No morning service  
5:00pm and 7:00pm Service

### **Sunday December 30 New Year's Music Service**

10:30am service in Easton  
No service at UCS

New Year's Music Service will be held at **Unity Church of North Easton**, 9 Main Street, at 10:30 a.m. The service will include a variety of music, spoken word and poetry, and there will be opportunities to sing and participate in the service. Following the service, Unity will be hosting a Coffee Hour where music may spill into our time for fellowship and community.

## From the Minister



On November 25th in worship, we reflected on what breaks our hearts. Those of you who were present know that this was a very moving experience, with lots of real emotion expressed by many, as we faced and named some of the things that break our hearts. I was

deeply moved by how willing you were to share in one another's pain and vulnerability. I believe that's a sign of a strong community.

Near the end of the service, I mentioned Maria Shriver who has said that "What breaks your heart?" is "about the best question [she's] every heard to help you get closer to your soul's longing and closer to your life's *passion and purpose*." *She continues,*

*"But, I think before you can even answer that question, you must first acknowledge that your heart is broken, or has been broken....There are several things that break my heart today [she says]. It's broken by the fact that we still don't have a cure for Alzheimer's. It's broken by the injustice so many of our fellow Americans face as they work so hard, yet still live paycheck to paycheck. It's broken by the state of our criminal justice system and the way it treats many Americans. It's broken listening to the young women of the USA gymnastics team speak out against the abuse they endured for far too long..."*

*But, what really breaks my heart right now is how divided we are as a nation. How mean we are to one another. How critical we are of one another. How judgmental we are of each other and how angry we are at each other. Also, how lonely we all seem to be.*

*Yet, what moves me is the deep belief that we are all longing for the same things. We are all longing to be accepted, to be seen and understood, and to be invited into the space that unites us. What breaks my heart is also what simultaneously fills and fuels my heart. It is a deep belief that we are more alike than we are different. It is the belief that we long to be more united than separate. It is the belief that we ache and break and want to put the pieces back together again, and that we want to do it together."*

This month, as the darkness of December deepens and we begin to look forward to the return of the light, let us remember to be kind and gentle with one another, to breathe deeply and assume good intentions. Let us continue to share the light of our love with one another and to show the community around us the light of love that shines within our congregation so that they might know us by our love and by our tender, compassionate hearts.

In faith, hope, joy, and love,

Rev. Wendy

## From the President



It's December, already.

My flower gardens have not been put to bed. I ran out of time and decided to embrace the leaves and clean up in the spring. Besides, this way I can see the remnants of green!

I find December daunting. So much to do in just a few weeks. The holidays are coming! However you celebrate them. It is a time with family and friends, remembering times gone by with traditions that feel like home (cookie making, a big tree, my Dad's reindeer outside ...). It is also time of mourning the ones who aren't here to celebrate with us. For some, this may be a very lonely time. Let's gather together.

I wish all of you the best in December and new year. I wish to be **with** you in community and, especially, with those who have had deep and agonizing losses this year. I wish to celebrate the joys and honor the sorrows to create a new year with new traditions and memories. I wish for peace, better outcomes, acceptance and holding up one another. I am thankful for my church community, for those who hold us, help us and sing with us.

I hope all of you, however you do it, have comfort, help, love, peace and wonder this month and through the new year.

Susan Olson Drisko  
President

## A New Way to Holiday

Gather with friends and families for an enhanced coffee hour after services on **Sunday, Dec. 16**, when the Membership Committee will be hosting a **potluck holiday brunch** in the vestry starting at 11:30 a.m. Bring a favorite dish, sweet or savory, or just bring yourself, and take a little time to savor the community that we all cherish (but sometimes may take for granted). The all-ages event will also feature festive activities -- there's talk of singing, and games, and maybe even fancy/ugly/silly sweater contests, and child care will be available -- so please plan to stick around and join the fun.



## Ministerial Search Committee

### Ministerial Search



The Ministerial Search Committee has been hard at work... but you may not know what we've been doing.

We have gathered lots of information from all of you through our cottage meetings, surveys, and the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. All of this has now been summarized and incorporated into our congregational record and packet. These documents include LOADS of information about the congregation, the physical space, the contract and benefits we are offering, the community of Sharon, and our hopes and dreams for the new minister. This has just been submitted to the UUA Transitions office.

### What happens now?

During the month of January, we will begin to receive information packets from interested ministers, which we will review carefully and consider. Then begins the intense process of narrowing down the field to a few best choices, *pre-candidates*, through more reading, interviews, reference checks, and discussions. This part of the process is done in total confidentiality; we can share *what* we're doing, but not with *whom*. Finally, after more interviews, observations of pre-candidates in neutral pulpits, and tours of our community, by the beginning of April the Search Committee will bring a recommended candidate to the congregation for an 8-day 'candidating week'. Events and meetings that week will give everyone a chance to get to know them before a final congregational meeting to vote on extending a call to the minister.

This is a quick summary of an intense process involving lots of paperwork and meetings. However, through it all, we have continually reminded ourselves that the important work is more than that. It is to listen carefully to all of you in the congregation and to look deeply at those who would seek to work with us to meet our spiritual and personal needs and to fulfill our mission as a congregation.

If you have any questions about the search process and its timelines, please feel free to ask anyone of us. We would be happy to fill you in!

Sincerely,  
The Ministerial Search Committee

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

## An Open Letter to our Jewish Friends and Neighbors from the Unitarian Church of Sharon

When we learned of the shooting on Saturday, October 27th at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, our hearts collectively broke. We join with you in mourning the loss of the 11 victims of this hateful attack: Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stern, Melvin Wax, and Irving Youngner. We continue to hold their families, as well as the wounded and their families, and the entire Tree of Life Community in our hearts and prayers.

We also hold you in our hearts. We value you as our neighbors and friends. We can only imagine what it must be like, in the aftermath of such a vile and hate-filled act, to gather together and worship, while fearing for your own and your children's safety.

As Unitarian Universalists, we choose to side with love...against oppression, injustice, discrimination, hatred and violence. We condemn anti-Semitism with the full force of our being. We join with you in unity and solidarity, and we vow to do all that we can to ensure that Sharon continues to be a safe and welcoming community for all those who choose to live, learn, grow, work and worship here.

We remain yours, in peace and friendship,  
*The Rev. Wendy L. Bell, Interim Minister*  
*Susan Olson Drisko, President*

### Job opening: Assistant Nursery Provider

The church is looking for an assistant nursery provider. Do you know someone who enjoys caring for young children and is regularly available on Sunday mornings? Please spread the word! Question? See Andrea Pannone or Louise Marcoux.



Childcare at UCS / picture taken in the Nursery



## Religious Education News

### From the Director of Religious Education

#### Simple joys

So the world says,  
Do, do, do  
Buy, buy, buy and  
More, more, more!

Why not harken to the spirit  
of the season?

Notice the bones of the trees.

Breathe in the crisp air.

Crunch leaves beneath your feet.

As early darkness draws you inside,  
Why not celebrate the spirit of the hearth?  
Cultivate its warmth and light in your heart.

Tell the stories of the season,  
Read together, sing together,  
play together.

Make an apple pie and gather  
To watch the steam curl up as it cools.  
Listen to it simmer.  
Inhale deeply.

Blessings,  
*Louise*



### December in RE

December is always an exciting month for our Religious Education classes! The curriculum includes learning about many different holiday traditions, pondering the significance of the solstice, and then preparing to share it all creatively with the congregation.

The first Sunday of the month will find all of the students busy making the final preparations and rehearsing for our annual Revels celebration which will take place the following week on December 9th.

On December 16th the Preschool-Kindergarten children will spend their class time creating gifts for loved ones, the Grades 1-6 students will enjoy a Yule party complete with dancing, singing and other Yule traditions, and the Grade 7-8 students will return to their OWL curriculum.

There will be no RE classes on December 23rd and 30th. Classes will resume in the New Year on January 6th.

*By Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant*

### What is Revels?

A treasured tradition at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, Revels is a worship service focused on the theme of "The Return of the Light" led by children and youth. Revels is also the November Sunday mornings of exploration and creation about Hanukkah, Yule, the Winter Solstice, Christmas, Santa Lucia Day, and more for congregants in preschool through Grade 8. Everyone is invited to join this celebration of the return of the light on Sunday, December 9 at 10:15 am.

### Save the Date: Revels Rehearsals

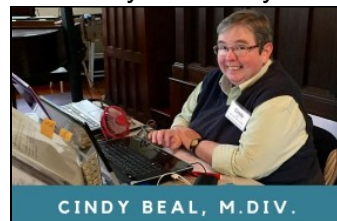
Sunday, December 2, from 11:45 am to 1 pm

Sunday, December 9, from 9 am to 10 am

Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are asked to arrive earlier on Sunday, December 9, to bake Lucia Buns.

### RE Teacher/Youth Advisor Workshop: Preemptive Radical Inclusion with CB

How do we create spaces where everyone is truly welcome? We're very lucky to have one of the leading voices in UU religious education, CB (aka Cindy Beal), to help us explore what gets in the way of inclusion and develop practices as teachers and youth advisors and mentors that consciously welcome all.



Please save the date: **Sunday, January 27**, from noon to 3 pm. Lunch and fun-care for your children are included at no cost. In order to include those allergic to scents, please refrain from wearing scent at this workshop.

Curious about what CB means by "Preemptive Radical Inclusion"? Find out more at: <https://justiceandpeaceconsulting.com/preemptive-radical-inclusion/>

### RE Teacher needed

**Grades 5-6 Teacher/Assistant** (7 Sundays between January and June). The *Sing To the Power* curriculum focuses on both the work of social justice and the cultiva-

### Our Whole Lives in December

On December 16:

OWL for Grades 7-8 meets 10 am-11:30 am.

OWL for Grades 5-6 meets 4:30pm-6 pm.

After the holidays, classes resume on January 6.

## Religious Education News, continued

### YOUTH GROUPS

#### Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group Meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Observatory (new youth-selected name for the nursery). Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! November saw many exciting milestones for SYG members. Several students completed their SATs, seniors are actively applying to colleges, and we have a newly licensed driver, Tyler Webber! We had a positive experience attending the "Seeing Me in the World" workshop at the UU Urban Ministry campus. The event included conversations about racial disparities and a service learning opportunity with Fair Foods. [Check out photos](#) over in the Social Justice Committee section of the Chalice! Coming up in December we'll be contributing to the annual Gifts for Kids drive and enjoying each other's fellowship with our annual Senior Youth Group Dinner Out.



#### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

Had a blast zapping each other at Lazer Tag this past month and playing arcade games at Lazer Quest. Our upcoming event for December is a game night at church in the vestry on Friday Dec 14th from 6-9pm. JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation.

Have questions about our Senior and Junior youth programs? Interested in volunteering to help with the groups or have a student who might be interested in joining? Email our Youth Coordinator Chelsea Gould at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org)



#### Church Face Lift

If you had passed by the church during the last week of October or first week of November, you would be forgiven for thinking we had extended our welcoming congregation to a group of Oompa Loompas. In fact, what you saw was Alberto Severiano and his crew of painters from Buddy's Painting working very hard and very efficiently to paint the meetinghouse before the really, really bad weather set in. The Buddy's Painting crew scraped, primed, and put two coats of paint on everything below the roof line of the meetinghouse.

The paint was beginning to peel significantly since the last painting in 2009. Many thanks to Terry Fitzgerald who researched and put together a list of 12 qualified painting companies that he winnowed down to a final two. Buddy's was the final selection based on their responsiveness and their experience painting the UU church in Marblehead. The price was right as well. Buddy's Painting also does houses. Speak to Jack Armstrong if you want contact information.

*Jack Armstrong*



**Lazer Tag:** - Junior Youth Fellowship Group



## Conference Table for the Library

The former Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon has donated a conference table to the Church for use in the Library. Acceptance of the table was discussed at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Chairs meeting. A majority of attendees were in favor of accepting the table from the Museum and installing it in the Library provided that a clear process was put in place for how the table and chairs would be installed; how we would determine if use of the table in the Library was acceptable to the principal users of the Library; and what we would do with the table if it were decided that it was not acceptable for use in the Library.

When the addition was built, the Library was intended primarily as an adult meeting room, but like all of our spaces, it is a multipurpose, multi-use room. Today, there are ten different adult groups who meet regularly in the Library plus the grade 7-8 RE class and OWL class. The room was originally intended to include a conference table for committee meetings and Board meetings but we ran into two problems. For one, we didn't want to spend the amount of money that would be required to purchase a proper table and chairs. But also, we weren't certain that the different uses of the room could accommodate a conference table. RE especially was concerned that the table could be in the way, and would need to be moved for some activities.

So here we are eight years later. A very nice conference table of the exact dimensions that we had originally specified has fallen into our laps. And, we still aren't certain that the table can reasonably accommodate all the uses of the room. But, we do know that there are twelve different groups of users that need to be heard on the subject.

The conference table was installed in the Library on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It has sliders under each leg so that it can be moved out of the way if necessary. The process that has been approved provides for three checkpoints to decide on the continued use of the table. At each checkpoint, the Committee Chairs will

make a recommendation to the Board to continue or discontinue use of the table.

The first checkpoint will be the December Chairs meeting, and is intended to provide for the removal of the table if there is a clear "showstopper." That is, it is immediately obvious the table cannot be used

and there is no point in having a trial use period. The second checkpoint will be the April Chairs meeting that allows for a three-month trial of the table. If feedback from the users justifies continuing the trial, then it will run until the third checkpoint at the November Chairs meeting allowing a full year to get feedback on its use. At that time, the Committee Chairs will make a final recommendation to the Board.



**The new conference table for the Library**

*Jack Armstrong AIM I. and AIM II. Chair*

## Circle Suppers Sign-Up 2019

Church members and friends who want to participate in Circle Suppers in 2019 may sign up now by contacting Allison Jones and Jack Gregory by December 29. If you signed up in October, you do not need to submit your name again. The dates for the upcoming year are Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11, 2019.

Circle Suppers are potluck meals held in the homes of church members and friends. They are an excellent way to get acquainted! Hosts provide the main course. Guests bring appetizers, desserts and salads.

If you are unsure of your schedule or unable to host, you can also sign up as an alternate and be invited by a host on short notice. Newcomers welcome! Please call or email Allison or Jack with the dates you want to participate, along with your name (s), telephone number, email address, street address. Also, the number of people in your household participating (used for counting guests) and the number of people you can accommodate for a meal (not including the hosts). Sign up by Dec. 29.

## December Programs

### Music and Arts

#### Not Just Another Coffee House

### The KC Moaners

**Saturday, December 15**

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

Back again by popular demand, bringing back that jug band music that sounds so sweet. Jim Chapin, Deck Neiforth, Kevin Collins, Greg Andreozzi, and David Haller play jug band music. The music comes from an African American tradition recorded in the 1920's and features early jazzed up blues lyrics with elements of ragtime, medicine show, string band and hokum sounds. The washboard, washtub bass, jug, kazoo and mouth harp add rhythm and accent to the guitar, mandolin and ukulele which provide string band support for the vocals. KC Moaners Jug Band's music is up-tempo and energetic, with deep roots in the early 20th century.

<https://www.reverbNation.com/kcmoaners>

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



#### The 2018-2019 UU Theater Nights



The next UU Theatre event at Mass Music Arts Society is **on Sunday, December 9 at 2:00pm** for *Scrooge's Christmas*. Written by Charles Dickens. Adapted by Ken Jones. The ever popular, *A Christmas Carol* is a Victorian morality tale of an old bitter miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of one evening.

Tickets are \$28.00 pp for adults and \$20.00 for students 18 years and under. There will not be a reception prior to this show. The show will take place at 377 North Main St. Mansfield. Please contact Pat McDougal at [mcdougal.pat@gmail.com](mailto:mcdougal.pat@gmail.com) if you are interested.

The dates for the upcoming shows are:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Dec 9 (2pm)</b> | Scrooge's Christmas for families (no reception) |
| <b>Jan. 26</b>     | The Complete Works of William Shakespeare       |
| <b>Mar 16</b>      | Odd Couple Female Version                       |
| <b>May 4</b>       | Evita   |

**Children's Choir** meets regularly on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the vestry. Pizza included. Performing in church twice a month. The choir does not meet when the school is out. Questions? Contact Forbesy at [forbesyrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:forbesyrussell@hotmail.com) or 781-201-9533.

### Support Groups

**Al-Anon Meeting** - An 11th step Al-Anon group meets at UCS each Sunday evening at 7:15pm. It is an open meeting.

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

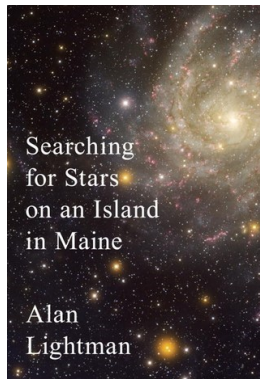
**Women's Support Group II.** - Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm. New women are always welcome to join.



## December Programs

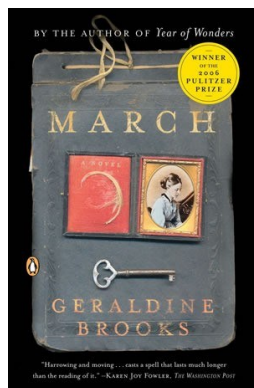
### Interest and Discussion Groups

**Book Discussion** - Join us on December 8 at 10am to discuss a book Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine by Alan Lightman - an inspired, lyrical meditation on religion and science, with an exploration of the tension between our yearning for permanence and certainty versus modern scientific discoveries pointing to the impermanent and uncertain nature of the world.



For more information, please contact Susan Edinger.

**Book Group** - On Wednesday, Dec. 5th, at 7pm, the Book Group will meet in the Church Library to discuss Geraldine Brooks' Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, March, based on the character of the absent father from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Leaving behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War, his experiences change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs.



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

**Let's Laugh Today**— Give yourself the gift of laughter. You and your friends are invited to a FREE Laughter Yoga session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on **Saturday, December 8th**. What a great way to start the day! Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail [billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com](mailto:billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com) PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/



**STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY.** Children usually come to this morning session. See more information and more opportunities to laugh at [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com).

**Meditation Group** meets weekly. It is an open group, available to anyone who cares to give it a try. We meet Tuesdays at 7pm for one hour of silent meditation. The one-hour period is divided into two sitting periods with an optional period of walking meditation in the middle. This division also allows participants to join us for just 30 minutes of meditation and then leave, without any disruption, instead of (or after) the walking meditation. Please call Susan Allison or Ray Wallace with any questions.

**Movie Group** will meet December 14th at 7pm to watch "**Their Eyes Were Watching God**", a true adaptation of the Zora Neale Hurston novel, starring Halle Berry. The popcorn is free!



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

**Seeing White** will not meet in December, as our meetings coincide with the holiday break. We will return to action on Tuesday, January 22 and Sunday, January 27, at 7:30 pm. Please listen to <http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-34-on-crazy-we-built-a-nation-seeing-white-part-4/> prior to our meeting. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact Louise Marcoux in advance.

**Writer's Group** - Meets on second Sunday of the month, at 12noon to 1pm, in the church library. Come share a poem or prose piece you have written with a supportive and interesting group. Or just come along to enjoy to writings and the conversations.

### Intergenerational Movie Night 2019

Friday, January 11

7:00-9:00 -Movie

5:30-7:00 - Activities/Pizza Party

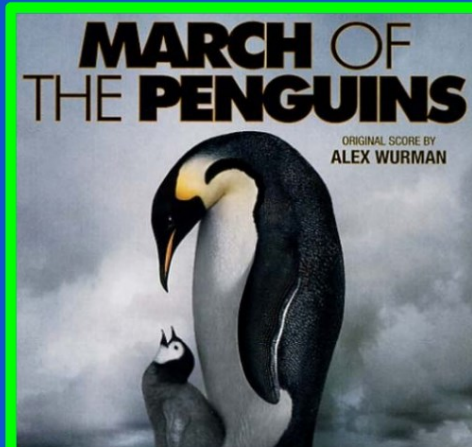
Special Attraction: Airbrush tattoo. Also fun raffles to win.

Suggested donation: \$5.00 covers food, drinks & tattoo.

Wear your fav pjs, bring your cuddly stuffies and your blankies.

RSVP Rumni [rumni.saha@gmail.com](mailto:rumni.saha@gmail.com)

(Poster by Gabby and Shayak)





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Here is what's happening within and beyond our walls as we work together to make a difference in the world, guided by our UU principles. See where your passions and concerns take you, and jump right in – you are needed!

### Brown Envelope donations:

When we selected the **UUA's Disaster Relief Fund** for our October Brown E donations, we were focused on recent hurricane events - little did we expect the extent of the recent overwhelming forest fires in the West. We raised \$1,738.45 in October, and we know that the UUA is already putting those funds to use wherever they are most needed.

For November, we have been collecting donations for the UUSC's **Guest at Your Table** program, focusing this year on Immigration. In addition, we have offered families a chance to carry the conversation home for additional discussions and giving via GAYT collection boxes. Any funds gathered in this way, up until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December, will be added to the Brown E funds and sent to the UUSC this month. [



**Guest At Your Table** - Skit performed by Louise Marcoux, DRE and Gare Reid, co-chair of Social Justice Committee at the Family Service on November 18

During December, we will once again support the **5 local food pantries** in our surrounding communities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton and Stoughton/Sharon through the Brown Envelope program. And as has been our tradition for many years, the entire collection from our Christmas Eve services will be donated to the Father Bill's & MainSpring House program for the homeless in our area.



**Guest At Your Table** - Children adding coins to a collection box during the Family Service on November 18

### Tragedy in the Merrimack Valley

#### Our Faith in Action:

Thank you to all who have donated blankets, towels, underwear, personal items, cash and checks for the victims of the Columbia gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley. We were able to purchase 24 new 100% wool blankets to add to those that were donated. Thank you for your generosity. All of the items collected were delivered to the City of Lawrence Senior Center in late November where they were gratefully received.



**Merrimack Valley Donations** - The two co-chairs of SJC with donations of blankets and other items to the victims of the gas explosions



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Senior Youth visit UUUM in Roxbury

The Senior Youth Group spent a day in Roxbury in November, attending the *Seeing Me In The World* youth-led workshop, touring the community, and participating in a number of service projects. We hope to build on the relationships forged that day and provide opportunities for other members of the UCS to engage in the numerous programs offered by the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry ([uuum.org](http://uuum.org)).

**Photos on this page:** UCS youth in Roxbury and food delivery project. Fair Foods is a non-profit food rescue organization, providing surplus goods to those in need, working in collaboration with the UUUM.



### Ongoing Social Justice opportunities

There are many ways that you can support our work for social justice: visit the **Social Justice Corner** in the Vestry, following Sunday worship services, where you can buy **Fair Trade** coffees, chocolates and other items, as well as **Shopping for Justice** supermarket gift cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y. Five percent of the card's value is donated by the stores and stays with the church to help fund our social justice projects in support of people who experience food and housing insecurity. We also collect non-perishable food items for the local **Food Pantry** in the front Lobby, along with toiletries for the overnight guests of **MainSpring House** homeless shelter in Brockton. Once a month we also assemble 100 bag lunches for MSH. Clothing items for the **CommUnity Closet** are always welcome (drop-off in the Vestry). Don't forget to learn more about our monthly suggested offering for a worthy cause via our **Brown Envelope** donation program, and keep an eye out for our occasional **Do It Now** action requests at Coffee Hour for participatory efforts on a range of topics. Interested in finding support for a topic close to your heart? Come to the monthly SJC meeting to learn how we work together to make the world a little bit better, one step at a time.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

### Gifts for Kids 2018

Have you been dreaming about being an elf for the holidays? The Gifts for Kids Program, which was started over 25 years ago by our own Pat McDougal, matches children in need with sponsors to provide gifts for the holidays. Over 1,200 children are on the list this year that were identified by social service agencies in 12 surrounding towns including Sharon, and we need your help. Please see Alison Reid during coffee hour at the Equal Exchange table or email her at [areidgfk@gmail.com](mailto:areidgfk@gmail.com) if you would like to obtain gifts for a child in need. You will be given the first name of a child, their size, and his or her wish list. We recommend including warm mittens, a hat, and a warm sweater or sweatshirt. Donations of any size by cash or check are also welcome. Your unwrapped, bagged gifts may be dropped off at church on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Vestry pantry, or you may drop them off at O'Connell Hall next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Sharon from 4:00-6:00pm on Thursday, December 13. Your generosity will help make a child's holiday brighter.

### Affirmation Cards – Our Faith in Action:

Love is Stronger Than Hate. In November, a 10-year-old Muslim girl in Framingham received a series of threatening letters in her school locker. In response, our Santa Lucia youth group encouraged everyone at a recent Coffee Hour to make an affirmation card to send to the girl. Our message: **Love is Stronger Than Hate**. Here are some of their messages:



### Brown Envelope Collections:

**October 2018** – UUA Disaster Relief Fund – \$1,738.45

**November 2018** – Guest at Your Table (UUSC) + GAYT Cube collection – T.B.D.

[Special ongoing collection for Salmeron family seeking asylum - \$1,536.00 to date]

[Special Merrimack Valley Disaster Relief collection - \$620.00 in new blankets + donated items]

**December 2018** – 5 Local Food Pantries

**Christmas Eve services** – Father Bills & MainSpring House homeless shelter

### Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, 2 December:** SJC monthly meeting, noon, Library

**Sunday, 9 December:** drop-off Gifts for Kids at Coffee Hour

**Sunday, 9 December:** MSH lunch making, after the Service, Vestry

**Thursday, 13 December:** drop-off Gifts for Kids at OLOS, 4:00-6:00pm



**Affirmation cards** - youth living their faith in action at the Coffee Hour writing cards to a Muslim girl who received threatening letters



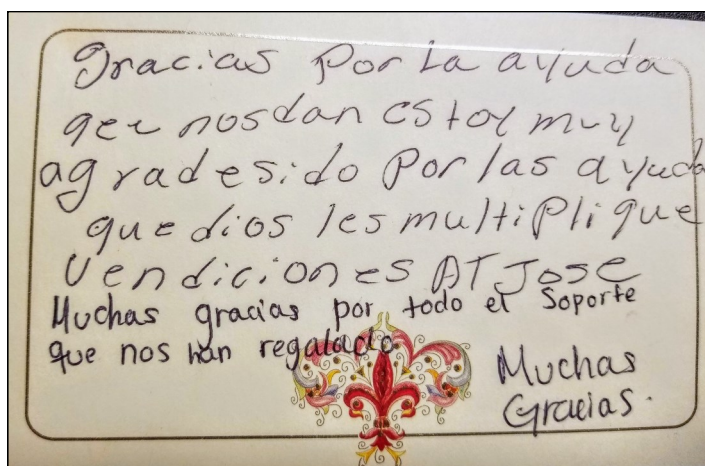
## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, Continued

### Helping an Immigrant Family Our Faith in Action

The Salmeron family of 6 from El Salvador is in the United States, living locally under protective asylum status. Sharon Interfaith Action and the Unitarian Church of Sharon are helping the family with their many needs as their case proceeds. Members of the UCS congregation have been generous in purchasing Shopping for Justice grocery cards to help the family purchase food. Our commitment to is continue helping with grocery purchases for 14 months, through the end of 2019. Please stop by at Coffee Hour to learn more about this family, and how you can help.



**Patricia Favazza** a member of Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA) Committee and a member of Our Lady of Sorrows congregation spoke to us on November 18 about the Salmeron Family.



**Thank you note from the Salmeron family** thanking us for the Shopping for Justice grocery cards. Translation: "Thank you for your help. We are grateful for your help. God will multiply your blessings. Many thanks for all the support you have given to us."

### Parking reminder

At Church parking is allowed only in designated, lined spaces in the parking lot. To comply with fire and safety codes, parking is prohibited in the circular driveway. Additional parking is available in the municipal lots on High Street and in the lot behind the stores on Billings Street. Parking is also available in the Eastern Bank parking lot if the bank is closed. On Sundays, the Board of Trustees encourages members to consider not using the church parking lot, to leave spaces for those who may have difficulty walking a distance.



**Celebration at the Office:** A mini birthday party for our Interim Treasurer, Paul Tuck, with Linda Cveckova on the right and Karen MacKinnon, the photographer and the third donut taster.

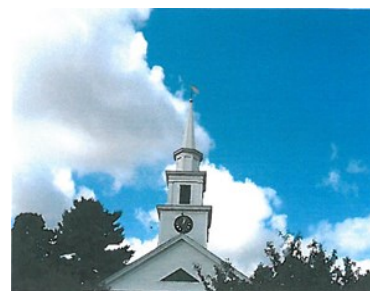
**May you receive the gifts of joy,  
peace, and love during this  
Holiday Season.**

**Happy New Year 2019 to all!**

Linda Cveckova, The Chalice Editor



## Conversations At the Meetinghouse



# Healing Through Art

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**ROSSETTE BECKER**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018, 7 PM**

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

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Rosette Becker, retired scientist and Sharon resident, will share her story through her paintings of how she dealt with her journey through brain cancer, treatment and remission. Dr. Becker found expressing herself through art helped her cope. Her message is use creativity to deal with your emotions when you are facing challenges in your life.



Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held on the first Friday of each month (December to June) at 7PM where members of the community share their expertise and experience about important issues of the day.

***Free and Open To Public***

## December 2018 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">           To view up to date calendar of events go to  <a href="http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2018-12/">http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2018-12/</a> </div>						1  Committee Chairs 9am (VES) Task Force – Armed Intruder 10:45am (VES)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. Revels Rehearsal 11:30am (SAN) SJC monthly meeting 12pm (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Rental SHS Choir 8:30-2:20 (SAN, VES) Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Book Group 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Potluck Supper 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	Book Discussion 10am (LIB) Let's Laugh Today 11pm – noon (A/B)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Revels 10:15 a.m. Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Christmas Carol for Families 2pm (OFF) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	RE Committee 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Meeting 7pm (MIN)	Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	JYFG Game Night 6pm (VES) Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Not Just Another Coffee House 7pm (VES)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Adult service 10:30 a.m. Family Service 10:00 a.m. Holiday Party 11:30am (VES) OWL Gr. 5-6 4:30-6pm (AB) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Chalice DEADLINE Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Solstice Service 7pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Service 10:15 a.m. Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR)	Christmas Eve Services 5pm and 7pm	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Seeing White II. 7:30pm (NUR)	Endowment Committee 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ministerial Search 7:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)		
30	31					
No service at UCS						





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



*A Welcoming  
Congregation of  
the UUA*

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT  
**781/784-3652**

SEND AN EMAIL TO  
**ADMIN@UUSHARON.ORG**  
OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
**[www.uusharon.org](http://www.uusharon.org)**