

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
4 North Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781/784-3652
www.uusharon.org

President
Susan Drisko
president@uusharon.org

Interim Minister
Rev. Wendy L. Bell
781/784-3652 x2
minister@uusharon.org

Director of Religious Ed.
Louise Marcoux
781/784-3652 x3
DRE@uusharon.org

**Office Manager &
Newsletter Editor**
Linda Cveckova
781/784-3652 x1
admin@uusharon.org

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

Friday, February 22

Inside this issue

[RE News](#) 4

[Programs](#) 6

[Social Justice](#) 8

[Five Days at the Border by
Janet Schmidt](#) 11

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday February 3: St. Mary: A Reflection on Direct Experience and Wonder

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

This morning we honor the life of the poet Mary Oliver and we reflect on her work in light of the first source of Unitarian Universalism: 'Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.'

Sunday February 10: Why is it so hard to talk about racism?

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

This morning, we honor the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we reflect on why it can be so difficult to talk about race and racism.

Sunday February 17: People of the First Light - Flashback

10:15am intergenerational service (no religious education classes)



Join us this morning to explore Native American Culture from a new perspective. Prepare yourself to be challenged! (The UCS will be the host church for the 5 Point Cluster this morning.) Service Leader:
Annawon Weedon, Wampanoag Educator

Annawon Weedon is an enrolled member of his mother's Mashpee Wampanoag tribal community located on Cape Cod. He currently works in the MPTN Cultural Resource Dept. as the Eastern Woodland song/dance instructor for his father's Mashantucket Pequot Tribal community located on their reservation in southeastern CT. Growing up on the Narragansett reservation in south coastal RI, Annawon was instructed on the traditional dances & customs of New England natives throughout his entire life.

Sunday February 24: No Free Lunch

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

Wendell Berry has written, "Eaters...must understand that eating takes place inescapably in the world...and that how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, the way the world is used." This morning we reflect on the environmental – and spiritual – costs of our food choices and on how we can best answer Berry's call to "eat responsibly."

From the Minister



On Friday, January 25, President Trump ended the government shutdown which, to that point, had been the longest government shutdown in the history of our country. Many of us have heard poignant and heartbreaking stories about

the impact of the shutdown on government employees and their families as well as on contractors and others who rely on government funding. Hundreds of thousands of workers in the government sector went without pay for over a month, and of those, many struggled to buy food and to pay their household expenses.

Fortunately, the shutdown has ended. Unfortunately, the President has said he considers the end of the shutdown temporary and may consider shutting down the government again in three weeks' time.

Some have begun to express concern about how we might best respond, as a congregation, to the need within our church and within the larger community. I have found myself wondering the same thing. I am also aware that I don't have a sense of how many people within the church or the community may have been impacted by the shutdown, nor am I aware of the responses put in place elsewhere in Sharon and surrounding towns to help those with need.

My mother always taught me to "hope for the best, but prepare for the worst," and so, while I am grateful for this respite, it seems like it would be wise to take this opportunity to learn more and to prepare ourselves for potential future impacts.

If you or someone you know has been directly impacted by the recent shutdown, I invite you to let me know. If you know of resources or responses that have become available in Sharon or in surrounding towns, please let me know that as well. And if you have ideas about how we, as a church community might respond, let me know that, too. I'm especially interested in ways that we can either contribute to other on-going efforts or things that we could do ourselves that would be within our capacity to do without duplicating other efforts. I look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings,

Rev. Wendy

From the President



Several Sunday's ago Wendy Bell quoted from a book, *Braving the Wilderness*, by Brene Brown on the quest for true belonging and the courage to stand alone. The sermon had to do with having conversations with others whose point of view we may disagree with;

with being civil, curious and remembering our mutual humanity. This is hard to do in general, but especially now in these polarizing times!

So, I began reading the book. I am slowly working through it, finding myself trying out her key points. First, that people are hard to hate close up. Move in. 2) Speak truth to bullshit. Be Civil. 3) Hold Hands. With Strangers and 4) Strong Back. Soft Front. Wild Heart.

I haven't finished the book yet. I am working on one and two.

This brings me to a Board update.

We are lucky to have an amazing group of Board members (Brenda Wilbur, Vice President, Paul Tuck, Treasurer, Chuck Bordman, Clerk and Janet Schmidt, Barbara Rose and Brian Cook as at-large members. This group is clever, civil, curious, diverse in its thinking, reliable, accountable and generous with their time (all important aspects of trustworthiness mentioned in Brown's book). We are looking forward to the recommendations from the Minister Search Committee, to the growing understanding of each Committee's goals, the scope of their work, how each of the Committees get their work done and a report from a taskforce charged with finding ways to make our Church safer. We are also on the cusp of a new fundraising for our next Church year (thank you Stewardship Committee) and to producing a new membership directory (thank you Membership Committee, Jeff Rose and Linda Cveckova).

Our Board goals are:

Unified by our mission, develop greater specificity and definition around the Board's role as a governing body and more clearly delineate and distinguish this role from the ministry role of the minister, staff and congregation, in an open, creative and accountable atmosphere.

The Board will set aside time to read and discuss the book "Governance and Ministry" to further clarify the role of the board and the role of ministry, beginning at

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

the January 2019 board meeting.

Board liaisons will enhance communication between the church committees and the board.

Create a clear and empowering structure for staff and committees to make operational decisions.

Encourage a strong and supportive community within the congregation by helping to connect members with each other and achieve the mission. (Ongoing spiritual leadership oriented to a dream of a beloved community and collective liberation).

Board Committee Liaisons engage in conversations with committees on how this goal can be achieved.

Lindsay and I are hoping to see many of you at the Super Bowl Party on February 3rd at our home. Even if you are rooting for the Rams! J I'll be curious.

Susan Olson Drisko
President

Ministerial Search Committee

Ministerial Search



The Ministerial Search Committee is right in the thick of it this month. We have been reading the packets prepared by candidates interested in our congregation, have done many phone interviews and have begun to narrow down the field. Next, we will be hosting our favorites for pre-candidate weekends. This lets us do more in depth interviews, watch them preach, and also let them come to our community to see what our church and our town are all about.

As you all know, much of this process is done by the search committee on your behalf. We have taken all of the information gathered in the survey, and during cottage meetings to guide us in the discernment process. We are thinking carefully about all of the information shared and are using that to help us find the best match for our congregation. There are many talented ministers in search, but the important step is to find the one that matches our wants and needs as a spiritual and congregational leader.

In April, we expect to present a candidate to the congregation. This will then be followed by candidating week, when all of you will get to meet and experience worship with him or her. Lots of excitement to come!

Faithfully yours,

The Ministerial Search Committee

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

PAN-WAFF

BREAKFAST WITH SENIORS & YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, February 10th 2019
8:30 am - 9:45 am

Benefit for Rosie's place

\$7.00 for adults
\$5.00 kids under 12
\$20.00 max per family

Stewardship Campaign

10 - 24 March 2019

March 2nd Potluck Supper

We are all invited to a potluck dinner at the Canton UU church from 5-8 on March 2, 2019. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet UUs from nearby towns and have a delicious meal. There will be cards with discussion topics on the table to help break the ice. You can register at the following address: <http://whoozin.com/7F4-NJ4-JQKK>. You can



Potluck

also say what you are bringing to eat or see which foods are under-represented while at that site. The Canton church is at 1508 Washington St, Canton, a ten to fifteen-minute drive for most of us. Questions to Jim Mullin

Religious Education News

From the Director of Religious Education

It Matters

Seems like every time I buy something, the clerk circles a web link on the receipt and asks me to give feedback about my shopping experience. I don't think I have ever felt compelled to do that. Or even if I felt like giving feedback at the time, I didn't remember to.

Alas, the tables are turned. I find myself about to ask you to please go online and complete a survey. And I can't even offer you a discount on future purchases.

The survey, which will come out later this month, is about the Religious Education program. Your answers will help the RE Committee and me understand what works for you in the current RE program. And what you'd like more of and less of. Your responses will shape next year's program. March is planning month – and our goal is to design an RE program that is relevant to the children, youth, parents, and teachers who are part of it.

Later this month, a survey link will arrive in your email. What you have to say matters. We're all ears.

Blessings,

Louise

RE Office Hours in February:

DRE out of office: February 5-13. Please contact Karen MacKinnon, RE Assistant, with questions during this time. reassistant21@gmail.com.

Normal office hours resume on February 14.

Our Whole Lives in February

OWL 5-6 will meet on February 3 from 3:30 to 5 pm

OWL 5-6 will meet on February 10 and February 24 from 4:30 to 6 pm.

OWL 7-8 will meet on February 3, 10, and 24 from 10 am to 11:30 am.

No OWL on February 17.



February in RE

February will comprise only three weeks of RE classes so that the children may join their families mid-month for the Native American guest worship leader.

This month our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will learn about Chinese New Year and the symbol of the dragon. A Valentine's themed lesson will explore ways we can share love and friendship with others through sharing, helping and playing. The children will try a puzzle game and create a group Valentine. The end of the month will find the class celebrating the fact that families come in all shapes and sizes.

In their continued study of Islam, the **Grade 1-2** students will hear about the Sufi poet, Rumi and will make connections to our church while creating a timeline. The class will also talk about memories and how they connect us to our family and faith homes. At month's end they will begin preparations to visit our Muslim neighbors.

The **Grade 3-4** class will spend a large part of February planning a service project that they will carry out in March. The theme for the project is caring for our environment. The students will also revisit a session which taught the story of Nasruddin and explores the belief in being welcoming to all.

The **Grade 5-6** group will explore the power of listening with a listening game and a non-verbal communication activity. They will then revisit the powers of stillness, presence, silence and listening and design a learning experience to help further their understanding of these gifts.

The **Grade 7-8 OWL** students will be covering the topics of sexuality as it relates to social media and the internet, bullying, and redefining abstinence.

By Karen MacKinnon, Administrative Assistant

Welcome Macushla Roulleau to our Nursery Team!

There's a new face in the nursery: Macushla Roulleau, our Assistant Nursery Provider. Macushla has worked with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in a Montessori school. Her superpowers lie in the areas of dance and movement -- she's been teaching dance for years. She resides in Mansfield with her husband Christian and daughter Miranda, who also happen to be active members of this community. Please pop by the nursery to wave hello to Macushla!



Religious Education News, continued

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group
Upcoming Events:
Pan-Waff!!!



The annual Pancake-Waffle Breakfast will be held on Sunday February 10th at 8:30am in the Vestry before services. Senior Youth host this annual event to raise money towards serving a meal at Rosie's Place, a Boston based shelter for homeless women. Cost for Pancake Breakfast is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child, and maximum of \$20 per family. Please mark your calendar and join us!

Highlights this past month for SYG include the first Youth CONvention of the year, a 2night overnight held at the Unitarian Church in Rockland, MA. Four of our youth were in attendance for a weekend of fun and connection with other local UU Youth.

SYG meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Observatory. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends!

Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG had a great time getting into their wizarding characters and puzzling through a murder mystery at our murder mystery dinner event held in January. It was fun to see the costumes and character quirks people acted out through the course of the evening, as well as figuring out and solving whodunnit!

Our upcoming JYFG event for February is an outing to Boda Borg in Malden for group challenge games and puzzles at what has fast become a favorite JYFG Outing. JYFG families can check their email for details. 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

Buildings & Grounds

Honor Our Grounds Keepers

Meetinghouse Gardens include the Meetinghouse Memorial Garden, lovingly and steadfastly attended by Jean Zaniewski and Susan Drisko. The garden at the street by the Commemorative Memorial Rock, maintained by John Schumacher and Janet Schmidt, speaks a welcoming invitation to passersby. The McGregors, Beth and Rory, have tackled a tough spot along Depot St. above the rock wall where hardy junipers have succumbed to years of drought. We saw pops of wildflower color in the gaps. Ellen Scott took a hiatus from keeping weeds at bay near the Rain Garden, and now has a new knee. The Summer watering team... Beth Hoke, Dinah Altman, Patty Fitzgerald, Jack Armstrong, Brad Larson, Bri McAlevy, and Susan Edinger...kept the Courtyard planters lush, (confession: I came home and neglected them and Susan D. replanted...thank you. I promise to do better.) A big thank you to all who turned out for Rory McGregor-organized Blue Jean Saturdays. B&G can't do it without you.

Thank you all.

Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks



Become a Grounds Keeper in 2019

The Gardens get compliments all the time. This is good because when you hear a compliment you can say, "Thank you. We plant many native plants to attract insects that feed wildlife. We think gardening ecologically requires our attention to the little piece of land we own." Or, you could say, "Thank you. I love gardening my little spot in the gardens here!" And so you could! Join the Keepers of the gardens. We have just the right spot for you. Little or big. Keeping one weed at bay or a whole garden of them. Edging the beds, watering, weeding, mulching. Take the challenge, choose a small area to call your own. Compliments will surely follow! Sign up with Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks or Rory McGregor.

February Programs

Music and Arts

Not Just Another Coffee House

The Lied To's

Saturday, February 16

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

The Lied To's are Susan Levine and Doug Kwartler, two Massachusetts-based singer-songwriters who joined musical forces in 2014, released their self-titled debut cd at the legendary Club Passim in February 2015, and have been playing together ever since. The Lied To's collaborate to put the challenges of relationships squarely under their musical microscope with a formidable blend of folk, rock and country-tinged music.

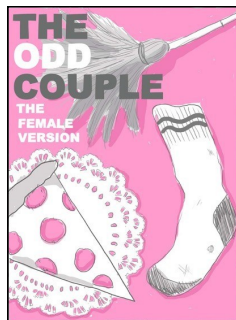
Susan has been a finalist at the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Rocky Mountain Folks Fest, and the International Songwriting Competition, among others. She also was a Tri-Centric Showcase artist at the 2008 Northeast Regional Folk Alliance Conference (NERFA). Columnist, Joel Brown, in an article for The Boston Globe noted that Susan has "Some of the wistful knowledge of Dolly Parton at her best."

<https://www.liedtomusic.com/>

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



Change of venue - the March 16 Coffeehouse will be at the First Congregational Church at 29 North Main St. across the street. The Beantown Buckaroos are going to teach the 2-step and there will be lots of fun dancing!



The 2019 UU Theater Nights

The next UU Theatre night at Mass Music Arts Society is on Saturday, March 23 for **Odd Couple Female Version**. Unger and Madison are at it again! Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is, in Simon's hilarious contemporary comic classic: the female version of The Odd Couple. As delightful a

comedy as Simon's iconic original, this familiar version offers a fresh take on how challenging it is to live, day in and day out, with anyone.

If we have enough people our make-our-own-pot-luck reception will start at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$28.00pp. If interested please email me at mcdougal.pat@gmail.com.

If cost is an issue, limited complimentary tickets for this performance may be available through the Caring Committee. If interested, contact Evelynne Swagerty, Caring Committee member.

The date for the upcoming show is:

May 4

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 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) 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.

February Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – our next book group meeting will be in the Church library at 7:30 on Wednesday, February 6.

We will be discussing *White Chrysanthemum* by Mary Lynn Bracht. It's the story of a (female) Korean sea diver captured during the Japanese occupation of Korea in World.

Everyone is invited to come, whether or not you have finished the book.



Let's Laugh Today— is on Wednesday, February 9th. Bring the whole family and get your giggle on by attending a FREE Laughter Yoga session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on Saturday, February 9th (and every second Saturday of the month). 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 can be 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. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. New laughers are always welcomed! See more information and more opportunities to laugh at 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 - The movie Group will meet Friday February 8 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 - Sunday group:

We'll listen to Episode 35: Little War on the Prairie <http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-35-little-war-on-the-prairie-seeing-white-part-5/> prior to class. Discussion: Sunday, February 24; 7:30-9 pm.

Tuesday group: We're taking a side trip into Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*. Workshop 1: Tuesday, February 26, 7:30-9 pm.

Writer's Group – Meets on second Sunday of the month, at noon 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.

SHARON CHINESE COMMUNITY PRESENTS

Year of the Pig

20th Chinese New Year Celebration

FEBRUARY 2ND
STARTING AT 6:30PM
SHARON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK
<https://www.sharonchinese.org>

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Updates & news from the Social Justice Committee – your passion and support are needed as we work together to help make the world a better place!

Brown Envelope donations:

Our Brown Envelope collections in December were split: we again supported the **5 local food pantries** in the surrounding communities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton and Stoughton/Sharon from our Sunday service collections. We were able to send each pantry a \$250 donation of Shopping for Justice grocery cards to support their programs. In addition, donations from our two Christmas Eve services totaling \$975 in the form of Shopping for Justice grocery cards were sent to Father Bill's & MainSpring House to support their work on homelessness in our area.

In January we asked for your support for the **Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC)**, as they continue the important work of community organization and training of the skills necessary to make effective, deep changes in our communities. A number of our fellow congregants are members of **Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA)**, working in collaboration with BIC. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

For February, the SJC has chosen the **Equal Justice Initiative** (www.eji.org) as our Brown Envelope recipient. The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, the EJI provides legal representation to people who have been illegally convicted, unfairly sentenced, or abused by the state jails and prisons. They challenge the death penalty and excessive punishment and provide re-entry assistance to formerly incarcerated people.

UU Principals and Environmental Stewardship

The Social Justice Committee is interested in attracting a team of people to explore best environmental practices for the UCS. This interest has evolved out of a number of conversations and reflections from across the congregation that there are many ways in which we can be more in keeping with our UU principles as we go about the life of the church. We intend to start small, drawing together input from various committees and constituents, and to look for practical, achievable steps to address areas of better or best stewardship of our resources and to minimize our environmental footprint here at church.

The project may expand over time to include consideration of reaching for a full commitment to becoming a certified Green Sanctuary church within the UUA's formal program, but that benchmark is not necessarily the goal at this point.

If you are interested in learning more and/or being part of the project, please contact Gare Reid <ag Reid@rcn.com> or Bri McAlevey <brimcalevey@gmail.com>



The Sharon Power Choice Program – a new opportunity

This means more renewable energy, stable electricity prices, and new electricity choices for Sharon customers through community choice electricity aggregation. The Sharon Power Choice program, a community choice electricity aggregation, will provide a consumer-friendly, town-vetted alternative to other electricity supply offers and will increase the amount of renewable energy in the community's electricity supply. Through electricity aggregation, the Town will use the group buying power of the community to secure a number of benefits for residential and business customers in Sharon. The program will cost effectively increase the amount of renewable energy in the community's electricity supply so that it exceeds the minimum state requirements. By locking in electricity supply prices for longer periods of time than the electric utility does, the program will provide price stability for residents and businesses.

The draft Sharon Power Choice aggregation program plan is available for public review from January 29 2019, until 5:00 PM on February 12, 2019. Those interested in reviewing the plan can access it online at sharonpowerchoice.com.

An overview of the plan will also be presented at a public meeting on January 29, at 6:30 PM, at the Sharon Public Library. Hard copies of the plan will be available at the public meeting and at Town Hall at the Town Clerks Office.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Climate Change

The Good News

"We are called to pay attention to many urgent matters and learn to manage it all. We have a responsibility to educate ourselves and center equity in all our actions. This means listening to those who have borne the greatest hardship and working to find solutions that are both effective and just. This approach is the perfect extension of our UU values and principles. Remember, we are always stronger when we work together." *Laura Wagner, Executive Director UU Mass Action*

The Climate Crisis – What's Happening and What are We Doing in Response? At UU Mass Action and UU congregations, one primary focus has been on passing state legislation. We take this approach because comprehensive change is needed in order to have a significant impact. While we oppose the priorities of the fossil fuel industry, we recognize that we must create a vision to work towards and not simply define what we are against. Our priority in action and legislation is creating an equitable response.

What does an equitable response mean? It means a "solution," such as increasing the gas tax, is not a solution. It penalizes people who have a low income and depend on their car to get to work. Equitable means those who have resources pay more than those who don't. It means the communities who, for years, were forced to bear the burden of fossil fuel pollution are prioritized for emissions reduction solutions. And it means the people who live in these communities should be given priority to be trained for new, clean energy jobs. This is Environmental Justice.

The "lens" through which the new climate legislation supported by UU efforts at the state level will focus is Environmental Justice (EJ). The Priority Bills are:

- Environmental Justice -
- 100% Renewable Energy -
- Equitable Investment in Green Infrastructure



Lobby Day - Bri McAlevey, Elizabeth Siftar, Gare Reid and Paul Lauenstein with Senator Paul Feeney

Information on each of these bills can be found at the **Do It Now** table in the Vestry. You can also talk to Bri McAlevey or Elizabeth Siftar.



Lobby Day - UCS/Social Justice members Elizabeth Siftar, Bri McAlevey, Gare Reid and Paul Lauenstein with Jack O'Brien, Legislative Aide to Senator Walter F. Timilty

Climate Legislation Lobby Day -

January 24, 2019 State House Beacon Hill

UCS /Social Justice Committee members Gare Reid, Bri McAlevey and Elizabeth Siftar met with legislators and staff to lobby for the new climate bills and ask for co-sponsorship of upcoming legislation.

Join us for the next round of visits – it's empowering, and not too hard. *"A drop of water alone has no power. Many drops together carve canyons and create massive waves. We need to be that collective wave that hits the State House, not tiny drops of water."*



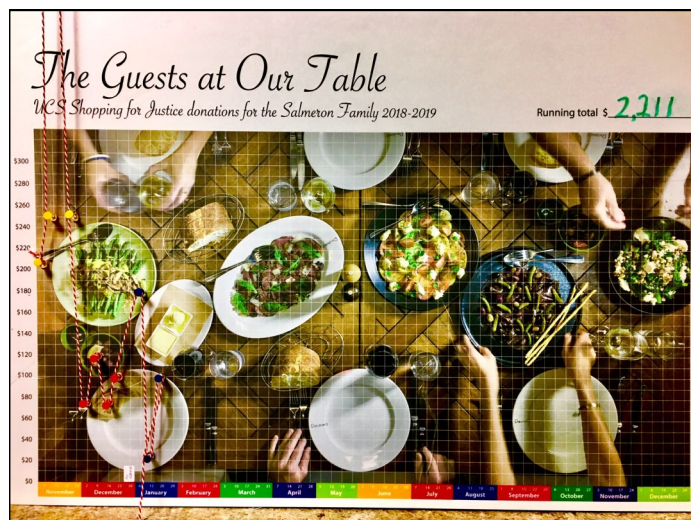
Lobby Day / Elizabeth Siftar, Bri McAlevey, Gare Reid, Paul Lauenstein, with Mark Hogan, Legislative Director, Representative Louis L. Kafka (and two members of the Mass Power Forward Coalition from Sharon and Stoughton)

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Migrant Justice

Our Faith in Action - Helping a Salvadorian Family Seeking Asylum

Thank you to all who have donated funds for grocery cards for the Salmeron family. This family of 6, the youngest being two years old, escaped from the violence and threats to their lives in El Salvador to seek safety and asylum in the United States. The family is headed by the oldest son and his wife, both in their early 30's. The parents were murdered in El Salvador before the family could escape. They are living near Sharon and working through a formal asylum process. The interfaith community is helping the Salmeron family, with the Unitarian Church of Sharon providing a base of financial support for groceries. We have committed to do this for fourteen months, through at least the end of 2019. So, stop by the Shopping for Justice table in the Vestry at Coffee Hour to purchase a grocery card for this family, and check out our new graphic report.



Salmeron family donations: Cumulative donations to help feed the Salmeron family: over \$2,211

SAVE THE DATE

February 6-8: Lobby Days in Congress to Shut Down Immigrant Child Prisons (Lobbying in Congress & National Call-in Day to Legislators – Details to follow)

UUSC: Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime

Updates on *Shut Tornillo Down*

"Despite Tornillo closing, the administration announced they expect to almost double their capacity at the Homestead, Florida facility from 1,350 children to 2,350. The recent expansion of the Homestead facility represents this administration's continued interest in increasing the detention rates at the peril of immigrant children, one of the most vulnerable populations in the U.S. immigration system today." See the full article - copies available at the **Do It Now** table in the Vestry.

SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT MASSACHUSETTS 2019

A renewed bill has been drafted for the new legislative session, with the support and input of 50 Safe Communities Coalition members. It's far more succinct and at least as strong as the 2017 version, with better due-process protections and new language on training, implementation and accountability. (SD.926 /HD.1520 *An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents*; Senate Sponsor: Jamie Eldridge; House Co-Sponsors: Liza Miranda and Ruth Balse.)

Fact Sheet - Copies of the Fact Sheet on Safe Communities Act can be found at the **Do It Now** table in the Vestry; a **Reading List**, a list of current books on migrant experiences crossing the border, seeking asylum, and economic conditions in Honduras, El Salvador and Ecuador can be found there as well.

Community Closet

Located at the UU Church of Brockton (325 West Elm St.), the CommUnity Closet is a project of the 5 Point Cluster, and is open on the second Saturday of every month, free to all.

We continue to collect donations of new and gently used clothing for all ages, new socks and underwear, diapers, reading glasses and women's sanitary products. Items can be dropped off in the Vestry. It will be our turn to staff the Pantry on **Saturday, 9 March**; see Jim Mullin to sign up for a morning or early afternoon shift and a chance to meet our neighbors. Volunteers are also needed for transporting and sorting of donations on an ongoing basis. (jimmullin25@gmail.com)

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, *continues*



US Border: Janet and Nancy on the US side of the border fence, which ends at the Native American land beyond.

Five Days at the Border An Overview

I just returned from Arizona, where I visited my friend Nancy, who I met on my first trip to Nicaragua (1995) and haven't seen in at least 15 years. She is an Arizona native who now lives in Tubac, a small town south of Tucson and about 25 miles from Nogales, AZ and Nogales, SON (Sonora), Mexico. She is active with the Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans (GV Sams), a group of mostly retirees who are involved in humanitarian work in support of migrants. If you attended the Jan. 4th Conversation at the Meeting-house, you heard about the GV Sams, and the speakers had visited some of the same places that I did. Here's a quick summary:

Day One: Visit to Nogales. Parked in the US and walked over to Mexico. Visited a small room near the DeConcini Port of Entry, where 25 people (men, women, children), guarded by friendly Mexican police officers, waited for their turn to request asylum. Walked around the town and briefly visited La Roca, a migrant shelter.

“I was more than a little nervous about this, knowing that it's possible to find people who don't survive their trek through the desert.”

Day Two: Delivered Red Cross blankets and clothing to the local Humanitarian Aid Office in Arivaca, AZ on the way to Sasabe (AZ and SON). Nancy and I rode in a pickup truck driven by her friend Mark, along a hilly dirt road with the border fence on one side, until the fence and the road ended at Native American land. On the way there, we saw a group of migrants apprehended by the Border Patrol and were able to give them some water and snacks.

Day Three: Went with the GV Sams to Nogales, SON via the Mariposa Port of Entry (where most, if not all of the produce coming from Mexico enters the US) to help serve food and distribute clothing and other items at *el comedor* (dining room), which is run by the nuns and priests of the Kino Border Initiative, along with many volunteers. People heading both north and south stop here for food, supplies, medical care, and other support services.

Day Four: Border Search on the migrant trails on the US side of the border. I was more than a little nervous about this, knowing that it's possible to find people who don't survive their trek through the desert. But I'm glad I went. We rode in a Toyota SUV up and down mountains and through canyons, and we hiked in beautiful desert terrain. We didn't meet any migrants, but we met lots of Border Patrol agents, who were generally friendly and willing to talk about their work, at least in general terms. They were all working without pay, and when asked, not one said they thought extending the wall is what's needed.

Day Five: Nancy and I went to the federal courthouse in Tucson to observe a session of Operation Streamline. We saw 75 people from Mexico, Guatemala,

Honduras, and Ecuador, all recently apprehended and facing the charge of illegal entry, stand before the judge over a period of 90 minutes. After the hearing, some would be deported and some would be incarcerated. I left with more questions than answers about the process.

And that's the overview. More to come!

Janet Schmidt

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues



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 super-market 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.

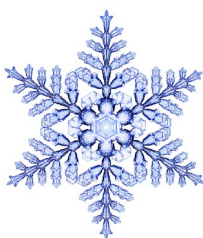


MainSpring House Lunch Making

Inclement Weather Communication

To find out about service cancellation or service changes due to severe weather conditions you can:

1. Call the church (781) 784-3652 and listen to the updated voicemail message
2. Check our website www.uusharon.org on the right hand side
3. Receive an email from the UCS Administrator. To sign up for the emails, please contact Linda Cveckova at admin@uusharon.org



Stoughton Food Pantry dba
Ilse Marks Food Pantry
 P.O. Box 812
 Stoughton, MA 02072
 Sponsored By First United Methodist Church

December 6, 2018

Dear Unitarian Church of Sharon,

Thank you for your generous donations to the Ilse Marks Food Pantry. Your wonderful contributions help us to keep nutritious food on our shelves and feed our neighbors in need. We can't do what we do alone. Together with our community we are making a positive difference in many lives. Thank you again for thinking of us and supporting our cause. We are always grateful for your help, even more so during the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Blocker

Thank you note from Ilse Marks Food Pantry "

News from our Partner Church

Unitarianism survived in Transylvania in the 16th century, when Catholic and Protestant religions suppressed it throughout Europe. The Unitarians are ethnic Hungarians, but that part of Transylvania became part of Romania after WWI. Our financial help for the small congregation in Gyulakuta enables them to have music during their services and provides a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine to each family. We also have provided tuition assistance for David, a secondary school student at boarding school. (There is none in his village.)

Recently, we learned that David's mother Izabella had some malignant lumps removed from her breast. The doctors believe that the operation was successful and will prevent a recurrence of the disease, but this is an anxious time for the family. They are truly grateful for our support

We also received a letter from Rev. Tőkés Lóránt, the minister for Gyulakuta and two other small congregations. The following has been slightly edited.

Our Dear Friends,

We wish you and all your congregation a very Happy New Year. I am gladly writing you this letter, as we have a wonderful, eventful year behind us. We celebrated the 450 years existence (1568-2018) of the Hungarian Unitarian Church and our congregations.

Where should I start? Last year, together with the members of the churches in Csokfalva, Erdoszentgyorgy, we went to Budapest, where we celebrated together in The Houses of the Parliament of Hungary. We went on this trip together and we spent more days at Budapest.

In September, the three congregations celebrated together the 450 year anniversary of our churches at Marosvasarhely. Here the members of my congregations together with members of our St.Louis sister-congregation celebrated together. This will remain a beautiful, remarkable celebration for us.

In December, we also celebrated together in the church of Erdoszentgyorgy. On this special celebration, we inaugurated a headboard in the churchyard at Erdoszentgyorgy and dedicated an orchard of 45 fruit trees in the form of one fruit tree, which will be planted in the garden of the vicarage at Csokfalva in spring. In this way we would like to commemorate the past, through the headboard, and the future with the orchard.

This service was co-led by me. At the same time we presented a recording of my memory of the 450th year, and the financial support given by the Federation of the Unitarian Priests and the Hungarian Government. The record also features music from Katai Zoltan, a Hungarian musician and singer, of Unitarian psalms from the 16th and 17th century. These melodies and texts were written at the time of the birth of our church and represent the theological and singing traditions of the time. Some of these songs can be found in our church hymnal, but an attraction of the record is that the musician is playing the instrument of the time, for example the lute.

If I have the opportunity, I will send you a dedicated copy of the recording.

We are thinking about you with love and many thanks, from the long distance. We are grateful for the financial support, for the scholarships, for the help with the projects, and how you supported our congregation during the last year.

We wish you the blessings of God,

Rev. Tőkés Lóránt.

It's Superbowl Party Time!



The Meeting House Preservation Fund invites you to what will certainly be a grand night of football and camaraderie.

On February 3 at 6 all are welcome to gather at the Drisko's at 105 Beach St. to watch the 53rd Superbowl.

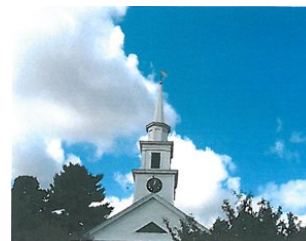
The game starts at 6:30 and in case you haven't heard our Patriots are once again in the big game. Of course the MHPF will be running it's world famous "Play for Preservation" pick your square(s) game.

Information on how to sign up, suggested donations, grab a square or inquire on who the experts pick to win will be available at the coffee hour for the next 2 Sundays. In the meantime, should you have any question please feel free to reach out to Lindsay Drisko at ldriskod@comcast.net.

We hope to see you there.

GO PATS!!!!

Conversations
At the Meetinghouse



Foster Care from Different Perspectives

IVY KRULL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019, 7 PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON



Ivy was placed in foster care as a teenager both in short-term respite care and in longer-term placements. She also spent time in juvenile shelter programs that were intended to function as emergency housing, but due to the challenges of finding foster care for teens, often ended up lasting a few weeks or more. Because of these experiences, Ivy wanted to find a way to offer support to kids in-care, once she was older.

As an adult, Ivy was a foster parent for 11 amazing children and young adults over a period of 12 years. As a professor of social work and sociology, Ivy uses her experiences in care and with the child welfare system to help enhance the human services program at the college where she works.

Conversations at the Meetinghouse is a monthly program held on the first Friday of each month (November 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

February 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div> To view up to date calendar of events go to http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2019-01/ </div>					1	2
					Potluck Supper 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	Committee Chairs 9am (VES) Armed intruder task force 10:45am (Library) Search Meeting 1-4pm (ALL)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday Morning Religious Education 10:30am (VES, ABC, NUR, LIB) Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am SJC monthly meeting 12pm (LIB) OWL Gr. 5-6 4:30-6pm (AB) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB) Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB) Book Group 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 6:30pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Let's Laugh Today 11am – noon (A/B) Search Meeting 1-4pm (ALL) Circle Supper (OFF)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday Morning Religious Education 10:30am (VES, ABC, NUR, LIB) Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) OWL Gr. 5-6 4:30-6pm (AB) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB) RE Committee 7pm (LIB)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Meeting 7pm (MIN)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB) Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 6:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)		Not Just Another Coffee House 7pm (VES)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday Morning Religious Education 10:30am (VES, ABC, NUR, LIB) Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Reiki Support group 3pm (VES) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB) Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB) Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 6:30pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)		
24	25	26	27	28		
Sunday Morning Religious Education 10:30am (VES, ABC, NUR, LIB) Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am OWL Gr. 5-6 4:30-6pm (AB) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR)	Search Meeting 6:30pm (AB)	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 (VES) Ministerial Search 6:30pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)		



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