

# the chalice

Published by the  
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**A Welcoming Congregation  
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**APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**Friday, April 19**

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## APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

**10:00 am Family Service**  
**10:30 am Adult Service**  
(unless otherwise indicated)

### **Sunday April 7: Religious Education Sunday**

10:15 am Service only

The entire congregation celebrates the wisdom found in each RE group's explorations. We'll hear about how family grounds us; how to cultivate the power of presence; how to celebrate together while upholding the importance of sustainability. We'll honor our teachers and celebrate those who have reached important milestones in their RE journeys.

### **Sunday April 14: We Dedicate Ourselves**

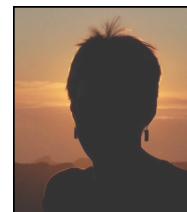
This morning we reflect on what it means to dedicate ourselves to creating a world in which children and families can thrive. The 10:00 service will include a child dedication ceremony, and the 10:30 service will include a presentation about the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and the Mother's Day Walk for Peace.

### **Sunday April 21: Hope Springs Eternal**

Several indigenous peoples and some modern theologians understand the earth to be the body of God, the Mother of all life. This morning, as we celebrate both Easter and Earth Day, we reflect on what gives us hope.

### **Sunday April 28: First Sunday of Candidating Week**

This will be your first chance to join in worship services led by our ministerial candidate, followed by an opportunity to get together with her after the service. Further information will follow as soon as the UUA's timeline permits.



## **Ministerial Search Committee Update**

This is a very exciting time for the Ministerial Search Committee and for all of us as a congregation.

By the time you read this column, we will have taken some very important steps toward finding our new minister.

On March 28th, we will have submitted our rankings of final candidates to the UUA. Shortly thereafter, the UUA will have confirmed a match and we will have made an offer to our #1 candidate. If accepted, contract negotiations will have begun as soon as possible. When our candidate is confirmed, an email will be sent to the congregation to let you know who that person will be.

And then, get ready for **Candidating Week!** Sunday April 28th through Sunday May 5th, our candidate will be at church for a variety of "meet and greet" activities, will preach on both of the Sundays, will participate in meet-

*Continues on page 2*

## From the Minister



This is an exciting month! It's finally spring! The earth is warming, the snow is melting, and the first flowers are beginning to bloom! And, very soon, if all goes as planned, you will begin to learn more about the Candidate selected by the Ministerial Search Committee. On April 28th you will have a

chance to meet that person and you will have many opportunities over the following week to get to know them better. Then, on May 5th, you will have a congregational vote on whether or not to call that person to become your next settled minister!

As your Interim Minister, I will continue to be with you through the end of July. It's hard to believe that is only 4 months away! I have so enjoyed getting to know you and working with you during these past almost 2 years, and I know that I will miss you. I also expect that I will be thrilled for you and super excited about your future with a new minister. This is such a wonderful congregation, doing such great work in the community and the world... any minister would be lucky to serve you!

Please note that I will be away at an Interim Ministers' Seminar from April 22-26.

I will be back in Massachusetts but "behind the scenes" during your Candidating Week from April 27-May 5th, so that you can focus on getting to know your Candidate and they can focus on getting to know you.

Finally, thank you very much for your kind words and warm thoughts and prayers in response to my mother's death. I very much appreciate your support and understanding regarding my unanticipated absence last week!

See you at church!

*Rev. Wendy*

### **Ministerial Search Update, Continues from page 1**

ings, social gatherings, and the regular work of the church. Following the service on Sunday May 5th, we will hold a special congregational meeting, to vote on whether to call the candidate as our minister.

We are excited about each of our final candidates. Now it is your turn! Please keep your eyes out for opportunities to engaged in this process and meet the candidate.

See you at church!

*Laurie Wallace, Beth McGregor, Tom D'Avanzo, Linda Godfrey Bailey, David Slater, and Karen Zelevinsky*

## From the President



Once again, I am writing after another act of terror, this time at a mosque in New Zealand that left fifty dead and many injured at the hands of a hateful and cowardly man. I am heartened by the response from around the world and impressed with

the leadership of New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern. I am also tired. I am deeply concerned (and sad) about what is happening in our country and around the world and very grateful to be part of our Unitarian community and congregation.

I was heartened by the demonstration of our values in diversity, love, respect, equality, honesty, integrity, peace, and justice during a vigil at the Islamic Center of New England on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Many, many people from our congregation were there to lend support with hundreds of others from churches, synagogues, mosques, and the community. I was struck by the welcome of the members of the Center. Our Muslim community was so grateful that we had come to their Center to support them, and I heard many comments about the isolation that they increasingly feel. There was some genuine surprise that the community had come there in support, and my heart broke at that surprise. Of course we were there. Where else could we be? We need to continue to do good and do better, so that our brothers and sisters of all faiths know that we are one community; support should never be a surprise.

During the vigil, attendees were challenged to respond to this latest terror attack by doing fifty good deeds to remember the 50 victims as a way to drive out evil. To take our sadness and anger and move it to something greater - loving kindness. These good deeds include continuing our practice as Unitarians and advocating for justice, love, and respect. Clearly, continued support for those impacted by terror attacks is needed. It all feels too big. But, I know that universal change begins with us, and our community, and each of us can start by doing 50 MORE acts of kindness. I challenge you not to stop with your 50 acts – let them never stop.

I am so grateful to be part of this community. Thank you for always showing me what human kindness is.

*Susan Olson Drisko*  
President

## Buildings & Grounds

### Updates and Tips on how you can help

Sustainability and Energy Conservation Tip - keep those doors closed! Each room in the RE/Administration wing has a thermostat. In the winter, these are set to drop the room temperature to 58 degrees when the rooms are not in use. If you leave a door open, the cool air escapes and the heat will go on. Shutting the doors saves on fuel bills!

Let's keep up the good work of discouraging the ants. Cleaning up after ourselves has convinced them there's nothing for them in our church. Thank you to everyone on helping to keep the ants out.

A plea from our refrigerator, Please, please date anything you put into the refrigerator that might spoil (or lose its fizz). We've found some pretty colorful stuff in there!

Love our new conference room chairs? Borrowing them is OK, but please return them at the end of your meeting so groups scheduled for the library don't need to hunt them down.

Many people help to maintain our building and grounds. Rory McGregor reset all the clocks for daylight saving, including testing his new knee by climbing up into the steeple to reset the town clock. Thank you Rory!

And last - but definitely not least – a huge thank you to Don Fail (aka Star Painting) for spending four days making the vestry look like new again and doing lots of touch-up work on the hallway and vestibule.

Lindsay Drisko, B&G Chair



The Unitarian Church of Sharon  
seeks a part time

Youth Coordinator

to lead its ministries with youth.

Could it be you?

Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/YCSharon>

### Spread the Word:

#### UCS is looking for a Youth Coordinator

Personal networks have been key for finding candidates for our Youth Coordinator position. Your personal network may very well be the source of the next Youth Coordinator of this church! The RE Committee is asking everyone to spread the word about this open position. They'd love you to share UCS's publicity graphic on social media. The job description is online at <https://tinyurl.com/YCSharon>

Please share this information now! With your help, The RE Committee will have candidates to interview in May.

### Look What's Cooking at Stoughton

Join us for the first ever five-point cluster **Indian cooking class** at First Parish Church of Stoughton on Saturday, May 4. It'll be a hands-on lesson where we will prepare a vegetarian and non-veg meal together. Cooking will start at 3 P.M. followed by the most delectable dinner starting around (approximately) 6 P.M. Space is limited to 40 and will be on a first come first served basis.

A nominal fee of \$10.00 per person will be charged to include the cost of ingredients, dinner, take-home spices and recipes so you can replicate the lessons learned. Please email [rumni.saha@gmail.com](mailto:rumni.saha@gmail.com) to reserve your space.

Come learn the secrets and basics of one of the most flavorful and forgiving cuisines of the world!





## Religious Education News

### From the Director of Religious Education

#### Noticing what's going on inside

It is a joy to watch a child grow. To see a child try new things and realize themselves in new ways. The outer activity is mostly window dressing for the growth that is going on inside – the taking of risk, the learning from mistakes, the adjustment to disappointment, the experience of confidence, the discovery of meaning



On RE Sunday, children will lead worship. They'll share an experience that they find meaningful – with the hope that the gathered congregation will discover meaning in it as well. I encourage all adults to attend to the outer activity (interesting, but mostly window dressing) while seeking the inner growth which cannot always be discerned by eyes and ears, but which can be felt in an open heart. You have to be there to feel it. I invite you to set down your camera and watch it all unfold with the unaided eye and your full presence.

Blessings,

*Louise*

#### Appreciating our teachers, assistants, and youth advisors!

RE Volunteers, you've prepared lessons, gathered materials, led games, and told stories – and now it's time to put your feet up and let this congregation pamper you. We hope you plan to attend a luncheon in your honor on Sunday, April 7, at noon. RSVP (helpful but not required) to Rumni Saha [Rumni.saha@gmail.com](mailto:Rumni.saha@gmail.com)

*The RE Committee*

#### A Way to Say "Thanks"

The RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, April 7, needs volunteers to set up tables and chairs (10 am-10:15 am), serve food (11:40-12:20), and clean up (12:30-1:30). Ready to volunteer? Contact Rumni at [Rumni.saha@gmail.com](mailto:Rumni.saha@gmail.com).

#### RE Sunday: April 7 - Children lead worship

9 am	rehearsal
10:15 am	worship service

### April in RE

April begins with RE Sunday on the 7th! Every age-group is excited to share with the whole congregation something they have accomplished or learned in this year's RE program.

On the second Sunday of April students in grades 1 through 6 will join together for a session with special guest Laurie Wallace of the Search Committee who will explain the ministerial search process to the students.

Another multi-age class will take place on the third Sunday of April when grades 1 through 8 will celebrate Easter with art and meditation activities.

**Preschool Kindergarten** will join the children in the nursery for their mid-month sessions and will end April exploring the changes spring brings while taking a color walk outdoors.

The **Grade 1-2** group will end the month exploring how their family and faith homes are tied to their memories. They will make foil handprints.

The **Grade 3-4** students will participate in a session that focuses on generosity and empathy. They will make a gift to share with one of the younger RE groups.

The story of a girl who inspired her family to move to a smaller home in order to donate money to charity will be the focus for the **Grade 5-6** class at month's end. They will explore how one's passion can lead towards acts of goodness and justice.

The **Grade 7-8** students will return to their OWL curriculum for the last week of April. They will explore the topic of unintended pregnancies.

*Karen MacKinnon, Administrative Assistant*



**The science of stillness:** Grades 5-6 extended their learning about stillness by exploring the effect of encountering and holding a bunny on a person's mood, heart rate, and blood pressure. The entire group volunteered to be subjects in the study. To find out what they learned, please ask a member of the class.

## Religious Education News, continued

### YOUTH GROUPS

#### Senior Youth Group

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!

This past month has been one of reconnection and reflection for planning our spring activities. We had three youth participate in the recent Youth CON held at the Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, RI over the weekend of March 8th-9th. It was a small, intimate one-night CON which everyone seemed to enjoy.

The Senior Youth Group has planned an outing to Boda Borg for the end of March and is starting to discuss topics in preparation for our Youth Led Worship Service planned for Sunday, May 12th. This also happens to be Mother's Day, and we are hoping to make it a special day to celebrate with everyone. Please mark your calendars to join us!

#### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

Had a fun afternoon on Saturday March 23rd meeting for pizza lunch and creating beautiful dyed designs on eggs using a traditional Ukrainian folk art technique of wax-resist known as Pysanky. This is a perennial favorite relaxing activity for junior youth and it is always fun to see the designs folks create.

Our upcoming event for April will be some more artistic pursuits of designing and creating our own silk-screened t-shirts. We have two meetings planned: design creation and selection on Saturday April 13th from 4-6pm and then follow-up event to actually print our shirts and items on Saturday April 27th, also from 4-6pm.

Have questions about our Senior and Junior youth programs? Want to sign up for an upcoming event? 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).

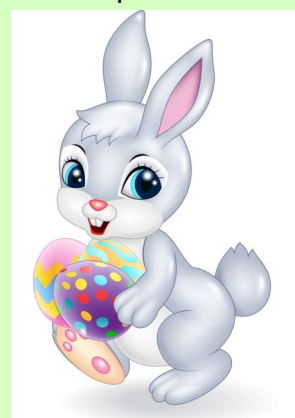


### Canned goods, volunteers needed for Annual Easter Can Hunt

Every Easter, the Easter Bunny hides cans on the church property so that during coffee hour, children can use their best sleuthing skills to gather canned goods for the Ilse Marks Food Pantry. All children are welcome to participate. (The playground is set aside for our youngest can hunters).

The Social Justice Committee is setting aside the canned goods you donate between now and April 14. We need to accumulate 125 cans. Please consider bringing in a few extra cans to help us reach our goal.

Volunteers are also needed on April 21 to support this event: crossing guards for our busy church parking lot, can receivers/counters (11:45 am-12:05 pm), and early morning volunteers (wink, wink). Please contact Louise Marcoux if you would like to help out.



**Learning how to be good neighbors:** Teachers Jenna Koiner and Jessica Clay accompanied our Grades 1-2 group to the Islamic Center of New England on March 14. The children met and played with children at the Arabic School's Sunday program and received a tour of the mosque led by the Imam. Good neighbors reach out when a neighbor is grieving; the following Sunday, the children made a condolence card for their friends at ICNE.

### Save the Date: Coming of Age info session

If your child is currently in Grade 7 or 8, please save Tuesday, May 14, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm for an important information session about next year's Coming of Age program. You and your child will learn about what happens during this yearlong journey into what each youth believes. We'll talk about how to choose a mentor and how small group ministry works. And we'll play, because that's an important part of every COA meeting. See Louise for more information.



## April Programs

### Music and Arts

#### Not Just Another Coffeehouse

### Kathleen Guilday and Laurel and Sarah Martin

**Saturday, April 20**

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

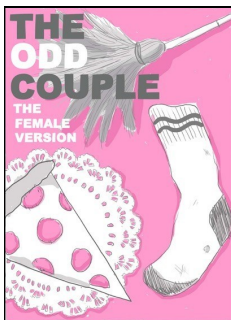
Please join Kathleen Guilday and Laurel and Sarah Martin for an evening of traditional Irish and Scottish music.

An All-Ireland harp champion, **Kathleen Guilday** has appeared at Boston's Symphony Hall with The Chieftains, and entertained President and Mrs. Clinton and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at the White House on St. Patrick's Day 2000. Kathleen teaches harp at the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann music school in Boston.

**Laurel Martin's** fiddling is colored by the intricate ornamentation and rhythmic bowing characteristic of the old musicians of Clare, East Galway and Sligo that are her musical influences. Laurel, who studied with Master Irish fiddler Séamus Connolly, was an instructor for the Boston College Irish Studies program from 1994 until 2007 and currently teaches at the Indian Hill Music School in Littleton, Massachusetts. Laurel has released two solo recordings, *The Groves and Larks & Thrushes*, and a book and CD set *Forget Me Not: Fifty Memorable Traditional Irish Tunes*. Both Laurel and Kathleen are members of the renowned Childsplay fiddle ensemble.

**Sarah Martin** grew up in a house full of music. Trained as a classical violinist and violist, Sarah has gradually moved towards traditional Irish fiddle music. Sarah also loves singing, composing and playing guitar, and in 2010 she released an album of her own songs, *In-Between Lullabies*.

During intermission enjoy our homemade desserts and fair trade beverages. Hope to see you there!

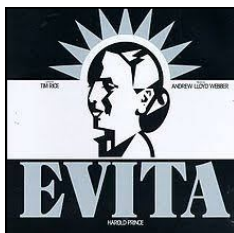


#### **The 2019 UU Theater Nights**

The next UU Theatre night at Mass Music Arts Society is on **April 23 for The Odd Couple, Female version** at 8:00pm. 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 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 to let me know and then send a check.



The next show is **Evita on May 4** under the direction of Meg Dussault.

**We are sold out, but email Pat at [mcdougal.pat@gmail.com](mailto:mcdougal.pat@gmail.com), if you want to be put on a waitlist.**

Please don't wait 'til the last minute.

Tickets for this are \$30.00. It's a fabulous show if you haven't seen it. Members rate is \$28.00.

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.

**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**

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

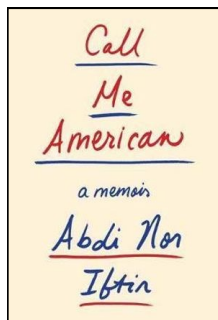
**Men's Group** is a group for men who are members and friends of UCS. We gather on the first and third Monday of each month at 8 pm to talk about our lives and topics of mutual interest. We are open to new members. If you're curious please feel free to drop in on one of our meetings. For more information 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.

## April Programs, continued

### Interest and Discussion Groups

**Book Group** – On April 3 at 7pm, join us in the Church library to discuss the Sharon One Book, One Town choice, *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin, who grew up in war-torn Somalia and eventually escaped to America, first by way of the movies then, years later, through a miraculous green card.



On May 1st, at 7pm, we will discuss *Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym. Mildred Lathbury, a clergyman's daughter and mild-mannered spinster in 1950s England, is one of those "excellent women," the smart, supportive, repressed women who men take for granted. As Mildred gets embroiled in the lives of her new neighbors, the novel presents a series of snapshots of human life as actually, and pluckily, lived in a vanishing world of manners and repressed desires.

Our choice for June 5th is *Cat Country: A Satirical Novel of China in the 1930s* by Lao She. When a traveler from China crash-lands on Mars, he finds himself in a country inhabited entirely by Cat People. Befriended by a local cat-man, he becomes acquainted in all aspects of cat-life, including language, poetry and the local narcotic. Curiosity turns to despair when he ventures further into the heart of the country and the culture, and realizes that he is witnessing the bleak decline of a civilization.

We're going to take a break for July, and will meet again on August 7th.

You are always welcome to join us (7pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month), whether or not you've finished the book.

**Let's Laugh Today—** Let's celebrate Bill and Linda's new status of becoming Master Trainers! 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, April 13th** (and every second Saturday of each month). Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Enjoy this unique ex-



ercise 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 Master Trainers, Bill and Linda 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. New laughers are always welcomed! 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.

**Seeing White** - We'll continue the exploration of whiteness in our ongoing conversation about racism.

**Sunday Group:** April 28, 7:30-9 pm *Seeing White* Part 7 "Chenjerai's Challenge" <http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-37-chenjerai-s-challenge-seeing-white-part-7/>

**Tuesday Group:** April 23, 7:30-9 pm Workshop #3 on *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo (chapters 5-8)

**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.

### Movie Group

#### ***If Beale Street Could Talk***

April 12 at 7pm

A young African-American woman seeks to clear her partner's name before the birth of their child. Based on the novel by Barry Jenkins. The popcorn is free!

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





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



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

### Brown Envelope donations:

We recently discovered that the Brown Envelope donation from our 2018 **Christmas Eve** services, which was sent to **Father Bills & MainSpring House** in Brockton to support their ongoing work to end homelessness, was eligible for a 1:1 match by a generous donor; thus our \$975 gift became \$1950.

Our Brown Envelope collections in February raised \$1,190.35 for the **Equal Justice Initiative**. The EJI 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. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

In March, following the informative Sunday worship service presentation by **Annawon Weeden** on Native American culture and related environmental concerns, we have chosen the **Native Land Conservancy** ([nativelandconservancy.org](http://nativelandconservancy.org)) as our Brown Envelope recipient. "After centuries of hardship and economic struggle, it is only now that we can finally attend to the important work of protecting sacred spaces, habitat areas for our winged and four legged neighbors and other essential ecosystems resources to benefit Mother Earth and all human beings."

During April, the Brown Envelope collection will be dedicated to support of the annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**, hosted by the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** ([mothersdaywalk4peace.org](http://mothersdaywalk4peace.org)). This year the SJC will field a team of walkers from Dorchester to Boston City Hall on Mother's Day, Sunday 12 May, and the Brown Envelope collection in April will contribute to our financial commitment to the cause.

### Rise Up and Tip the Scale Toward Justice:

#### **The Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace - May 12, 2019**

Every year in the United States, approximately 15,000 people are murdered. For every homicide victim, there are at least 10 immediate people directly impacted by that loss. It is safe to say each year there are at least 150,000 new survivors of homicide victims dealing with the emotional, physical and financial stress of losing a loved one to a traumatic death such as murder. This is not including families who are impacted by a loved one committing a murder. Together we can heal and have an impact.

The Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace started in 1996 so mothers of murdered children could receive support and love from their neighbors. Twenty-three

years later, the Mother's Day Walk continues to be a powerful way to honor our loved ones who have been murdered and embrace our partners in peacemaking. The Mother's Day Walk is also the Peace Institute's most important fundraising event. We hope you will help us raise our goal of \$400,000. **SIGN UP AT THE DO IT NOW TABLE IN THE VESTRY AFTER SERVICE and WALK WITH US.** For more information, contact Elizabeth Siftar

### **UUMass Action Legislative Advocacy Day**

Tuesday, 9 April 2019 (9:30am – 4pm, lunch included)  
Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston & then on to the State House

Action Breathes Life Into Our Values - When We Take Action, Everyone Benefits. What Do You Want To Do? One Day - 6 Hours - A Deep Breath of Action at the State House in Boston: Talk to Your Legislators on the Issue of Your Choice - These Issues Need Your Action:

**Safe Communities Act** – pass basic protections for immigrant families here in Massachusetts and help make our communities safer for all residents

**Work & Family Mobility Act** – Make drivers licenses available to people who are undocumented and ensure that all drivers are licensed, trained and insured

**Fair Share Amendment** – Raise the earn income tax rate by 4% for income earned over \$1 million. Use this \$2 Billion in new revenue to fund transportation & education

**Prevent Wage Theft** – prevent wage theft, promote employer accountability and enhance public enforcement

**Protect Injured Workers** – protect workers who are injured on the job and promote employer accountability

**Solitary Reform** – add LGBTQ data to restrictive housing reporting requirements to enhance transparency and support efforts to end the torture of solitary confinement

**Environmental Justice** – Accountability to the people and communities that have suffered as a result to our collective addiction to fossil fuels

**100% Clean Renewable Energy** – re-power Massachusetts with 100% clean, renewable energy, with justice and equity for those communities where the impacts are the greatest

Talk to a SJC member and [register](#).





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Transgender and Non-Binary sensitivity within the UUA and UCS

An article in the Spring 2019 edition of UU World, titled After the L, G, and B while written with the intention of encouraging the inclusivity of trans and non-binary people within our UU congregations, ended up with a strong backlash from those it was intending to support, and an apology by the Editor acknowledging the damage it had actually inflicted. [For the apology and other resources see <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/apology-spring-2019>]. We cannot take away the harm this article has already caused to those identifying as trans, non-binary or any other non-traditional gender identity, whether within or without our congregation. We can however, honor their right to feel whatever pain this article has caused them, and seek to limit additional harm in the future. We can use this as an opportunity to revisit what we can do to insure that we are truly an inclusive congregation, which fosters respect and open-mindedness in all of our relationships - to people of all gender identities, including trans and non-binary.

This article has reminded us that we need to continually examine our core values as a UU congregation and how we can keep our commitment to truly being an inclusive community. The ideal of inclusivity is easy. Putting it into practice is much more challenging and may indeed require us to go to places of discomfort and call upon us to look within to that which we fear and resist, individually and as a community. It is the goal of the Social Justice Committee to help the congregation explore honestly and with an open mind just how inclusive we actually are and how to continue building respectful relationships.

Some of us met in the immediate aftermath of the UU World article to explore how we as a congregation can best understand and support transgender and non-binary members both here and elsewhere. We discussed a wide range of ideas spanning from more immediate actions we could take to those more long term and ongoing. As one of our first steps of action, we are offering a 'Tip Sheet of Key Practices' at the **Do It Now** table. These tips were provided by The Transforming Heart Collective, a group "of four trans and queer faith leaders that support congregations in becoming radically welcoming spiritual homes for queer and trans people of all races, classes, abilities, sexualities, and ages." The SJC, in partnership with RE, is in the process of developing a series of workshops and discussions based on their resources to be offered to the congregation in the future. We invite you to check out their website: [transformingheartcollective.org](http://transformingheartcollective.org) as one excellent source of information.

Some of the short- and long-term ideas that may help educate us and support us in our broader goal of being a truly inclusive community include:

- **Use of pronouns** - Prior to the meeting, some congregants had already expressed a desire to include on their name tags the identifying pronouns they would like used (i.e. him/her/they, she/him/them);
- **Teaching Tools.** For instance, we have committed to making available to interested congregation members a 6 session course provided by the Transforming Hearts Collective and an opportunity for shared discussion. The course is designed to help us be a congregation that is "fully inclusive and affirming of the full breath of gender diversity" including trans and non-binary people;
- Addressing the **signage on the bathroom doors**;
- **Providing a workshop** to educate ourselves on how we can be BOTH curious AND respectful at the same time, in all our relationships and in all our discussions, balancing a need for greater understanding with a need for privacy.

We invite you to share with us any other ideas you might have and we look forward to working with you to make this a truly inclusive community, respectful and open-minded to all.

[Thank you to Rev. Barbara Nelkin-Rose for preparing this article, based on conversations, emails and brainstorming sessions among numerous congregants who desire to explore this topic in the weeks to come.]



# LGBTQ

## Welcoming Congregation

UCS as a **Welcoming Congregation**: it's time to reexamine our status and reaffirm our commitments!

The SJC, under the leadership of Mia Joiner-Moore, has begun a process of self-reflection and eventual renewal of our designation as a Welcoming Congregation within the UUA. Over the course of the year, we will explore our intention to being a welcoming and inclusive community, and to reaffirm our goal of ensuring that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are truly welcome and at home here at the Unitarian Church of Sharon.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Environmental Stewardship

#### UU principals and environmental stewardship at the USC

A new group is coming together at the UCS, with the intention of exploring how to achieve a higher standard of environmental stewardship as we all go about the life of the church. Provisionally calling itself the *Green Team*, it consists of members who are concerned that we can and should be examining everything that we do with an eye to our UU principles, especially #7. The draft Mission Statement currently reads as follows: **"We seek to support the Unitarian Church of Sharon in living our Seventh principle more fully – honoring the interdependent web of life of which we are a part. We aim to achieve this goal by becoming more aware of the environmental impacts of our community practices and initiating conversations around opportunities to improve energy and material conservation."**

Stay tuned for more conversation and brainstorming about this important topic – we will be reaching out to you and your committees for ideas, inspiration, and challenges as we do our best to be good stewards of our world. Contact Gare Reid <[agreid@rcn.com](mailto:agreid@rcn.com)> or Bri McAlevey <[brimcalevey@gmail.com](mailto:brimcalevey@gmail.com)> to learn more.

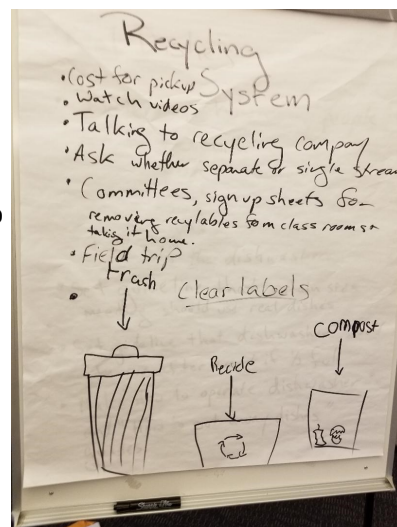
#### 5C Group

Along similar lines, the **5C Group** has begun sessions to explore how we can work together to overcome our fears and anxiety around the looming environmental crisis that is flooding the daily news cycle. Based on a workshop following the Service led by Rev. Barbara Nelkin-Rose on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, entitled *Responding to the Climate Crisis through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection* [thus the '5C' label], the group hopes to examine ways of sharing our hopes and fears, and overcoming a sense of feeling that we are unable to make meaningful contributions to effect change. With plans to connect via email and perhaps at quarterly sessions or events, we were left with this challenge from Barba-

ra: *What are you called to do? What do you choose to do? What are you inspired to do?* (Join [the5cgroup@lists.uusharon.org](mailto:the5cgroup@lists.uusharon.org) to stay informed.)

#### "...and the Youth shall lead us"

Hats off to the 3-4 RE class for their efforts to take up the challenge of finding practical, achievable and meaningful steps to making our church a more environmentally responsible operation. Based on surveys of congregants, thoughtful exploration, and deep online research, they put together a list of ideas and concerns to help open the discussion around a sustainable future for all of us. Several members of the SJC recently were invited to receive a status report on their findings, and it was truly impressive to learn what they have discovered. Working together, we can make a real difference!



**Grade 3-4 Recycling:** Just one of a dozen Idea Boards developed by the 3-4 RE Class on Environmental Best Practices

#### Green New Deal - The Boston Tour

Thursday, 18 April, 6:30pm; Strand Theater, 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester

Gather with UUs and others from across the state to launch the Green New Deal Tour. Hear from community leaders about "the biggest opportunity of our lifetime to invest in the American people." Register through UUMass Action ([uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)), and look for details about UUs gathering before and after the

event for a potluck and networking opportunities. An event not to be missed! Carpooling of course....





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Migrant Justice

#### Our Faith in Action - Helping a Salvadorian Family Seeking Asylum

Thank you to all who continue to donate 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. They are doing well, learning English and finding employment opportunities in their neighborhood. They hope someday to be able to come to the UCS to share their story

and to meet the members of the congregation. The Sharon interfaith community is helping this family, with the Unitarian Church of Sharon providing a base of financial support for groceries. We have committed to do this for at least fourteen months, through the end of 2019, and perhaps beyond. 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 fundraising report. .



**Salmeron family donations:** Cumulative donations to help feed the Salmeron family: over \$2,786

#### 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 Shaw's, 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.

#### Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, 7 April:** monthly SJC Meeting, Library, noon – 1:30pm

**Tuesday, 9 April:** UUMass Action Advocacy Day, Boston, 9:30am-4pm

**Sunday, 14 April:** MainSpring House lunchmaking, Vestry after the service

**Tuesday, 16 April:** Green Team planning meeting, Classroom A, 7:00pm

**Thursday, 18 April:** Boston Green New Deal Tour, Dorchester, 6:30pm

**Monday, 22 April:** Earth Day, everywhere, 00:00:01am - midnight

**Sunday, 12 May:** Mothers' Day Walk for Peace, Boston, all morning (short & long walk options)

#### 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. Volunteers are needed for transporting and sorting of donations on an ongoing basis. (Contact Jim Mullin for details - [jimmullin25@gmail.com](mailto:jimmullin25@gmail.com))

## Conversations At the Meetinghouse



# Struggles and Triumphs of Promoting Science and Humanism in Uganda

**KAREN ZELEVINSKY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019, 7 PM**

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON**



Join Karen Zelevinsky for a deep dive into the Brighter Brains Institute (BBI), and its work promoting science and humanism in Uganda, a country in Eastern Africa with some of the highest rates of superstition and religious belief in the world. Who are the bold non-believers who partner with BBI to encourage rational thought, and how did they get the courage to "come out" as humanists? What projects have succeeded and failed in this quest to educate kids and transform communities? What was Karen's experience meeting these Ugandan villagers in person and building a connection across cultural lines? Join us for answers to these questions, and many more.

Karen Zelevinsky is a technology consultant for nonprofits. She's been involved with education projects in Uganda since 2015, visited Uganda in 2017, and is the president of the Brighter Brains Institute, a nonprofit that promotes secular and science education, sustainability, and women's equality around the world by partnering with humanist/atheist/freethinkers/ secular groups and individuals.

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***



## April 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	2 Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	3 Book Group 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	4 ESL 6pm (VES) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	5 Potluck Supper 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	6 Committee Chairs 9am (VES)
7 Service 10:15 a.m. RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 12pm (AB) SJC monthly meeting 12pm (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	8	9 Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Meeting 7pm (MIN)	10 Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	11 ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	12 Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	13 Let's Laugh Today 11am – noon (A/B) Circle Supper (OFF)
14 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) Reiki Support Group 3pm (AB) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	15 Men's Group 8pm (A)	16 Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) RE Committee 7:30pm (B)	17 Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	18 ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	19	20 Not Just Another Coffee House 7pm (VES)
21 Sunday Morning Religious Education 10:30am (VES, ABC, NUR, LIB) Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	22	23 Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Seeing White II. 7:30pm (NUR)	24 Endowment Committee 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	25 ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	26	27
28 CANDIDATING WEEK Sunday Morning Religious Education 10:30am (VES, ABC, NUR, LIB) Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR)	29 CANDIDATING WEEK	30 CANDIDATING WEEK Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)				

To view up to date  
calendar of events go to

[http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/  
month/](http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/)



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)**