

the choice

Published by the
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**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
Universalist Association**
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MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, March 22

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MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Adult Service

Sunday March 3: Responding to the Climate Crisis through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection

Reverend Barbara Nelkin-Rose will help the congregation explore how we as individuals and as a community can face the climate crisis from a RESPONSIVE state grounded in centeredness, peace and hope rather than a REACTIVE state stemming from fear, anger and guilt. An [opportunity to continue](#) this exploration will be provided from noon to 1:30, following coffee hour. (A light lunch will be offered).



Sunday March 10: The Sermon on the Amount

This morning we reflect on the power of generosity and giving. And we kick off the annual fundraising pledge drive.

Sunday March 17: Credo Service

Come join us this morning as two of our members share their credos – what they believe – with the gathered community.

Sunday March 24: Confronting Structures of Evil

Unitarian Universalists don't talk much about "evil," and yet the 2nd Source of our Living Tradition names "structures of evil" as something we are called to confront. This morning we reflect on the nature of "good" and "evil."

Sunday March 31: Stories from the Border

Janet Schmidt and a special guest will share their reflections and stories of people they met while visiting the Arizona-Mexico borderlands in January.

From the President



In March we start looking forward and planning for the fiscal health of our Church. Committee Chairs and the Board are working with the Finance Committee to establish our annual budget for July 2019 through June 2020. The Stewardship Committee has developed a strategy to raise enough money to support our Church mission to "gather as a liberal religious community, honoring our differences, to support one another as we grow in mind and

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From the President

Continued from Page 1

spirit and reach out to serve the world." This is a big and important mission. We achieve it through all of you and the ways that you support our Church community with volunteering, attending services and functions and through your yearly pledge.

For the coming fiscal year, the Board has made a commitment to continue to pay our staff fairly and equitably following the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) guidelines. We also will be welcoming a new minister and are anticipating additional costs to support an experienced and excellent ministry. You will get a chance to meet and learn about the minister candidate the Search Committee has worked diligently to select in May. You will have a chance to hear the candidate preach and to vote on whether to call the candidate to be our new minister at a member meeting on May 5th.

I want to thank the Membership Committee as well as Jeff Rose and Linda Cveckova, for their work updating our Membership Directory. We had not had an updated directory in close to three years! We printed the directory this year, enough for one per family. If you have not picked yours up yet, please stop by the Administrative Office for your copy. We have had discussion about the cost of printing the directory (almost \$600) and the fact that it is out of date the moment it is printed :)! The Board, with the Membership Committee, will consider making the directory available as a PDF file (electronically) in the future. I would like to hear your opinion on this. Please email me at president@uusharon.org or stop me after a Sunday service.

As you think about the coming church year, please consider volunteering for one of our church committees! It is a great way to meet other church members, make friends and feel a part of what is happening. You can reach out to the committee chairs by following this link <https://www.uusharon.org/about/committees/>. The committees vary from Building and Grounds to Personnel, Religious Education to Social Justice – and more. Want to learn something about gardening? Join the Memorial Garden Committee! The Church runs with these committees and they welcome new members!

I am excited to be part of this church community and the good work we do. Please join me in considering increasing your pledge this year to support and sustain the ministry of our church.

Susan Olson Drisko
President

From the Minister



During this past 12 months or so, the Board has been reading and discussing the book *Governance and Ministry* by UU minister and church consultant Dan Hotchkiss. The book is subtitled "Rethinking Board Leadership," and our discussions have focused on clarifying the role, responsibilities, and best practices of the Board. That has included trying to understand what is - and what is not - the Board's work.

According to Hotchkiss, "Governance includes top-level tasks of articulating mission, selecting strategies for getting there, making sure the strategy is followed, and ensuring that people and property are protected against harm." Governance includes making sure a congregation's resources are "used to serve its mission." It includes making sure that the congregation lives "in harmony with its own values." That is the work of the Board.

"Ministry," he says, "is everything else: the congregation's daily, practical work, including all the rest of the decisions about what to do and how." That is the work of the "staff," but when Hotchkiss refers to "staff," he's talking about all of us - paid staff and unpaid volunteers - who together are responsible for the "operations" and "programs" of the church. And so, ministry is what all of us do together. "Ministry brings into being worship services, study groups, mission trips, service projects, mowed lawns, happy children, and renewed hope."

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This month, we begin the annual Pledge campaign, which is the major fundraising project of the church, and which supports the annual operating budget. Later this spring, the congregation will have the opportunity to call a new minister! And, if all goes well, you will begin your new ministry together August 1st. Your financial contributions to this congregation are what make the ministry of this congregation possible, as you fairly compensate minister and paid staff, and support the operations and programs of the church.

Thank you for your generosity as you make decisions to support this church with your money, with your time, and with your energy. Thank you for your collective ministry to the town of Sharon!

Blessings,

Rev. Wendy

Ministerial Search Committee

Finding Our Next Minister

The Search Committee is drawing closer to final decisions. Our last pre-candidating weekend with a finalist will be March 9-10. Then we'll discuss, reflect, call more references, and hope to be ready when the UUA first allows offers to be made, beginning March 18th. If one of our preferred candidates is willing to commit to us, contract negotiations will begin, a thorough background check will be run, and in April the Board will be invited to review and approve the contract. Once the Board approves, we'll be able to share lots of information about the candidate with the whole congregation. This leads up to Candidating Week in late April-early May, a full two-Sunday week of multiple opportunities for all congregation members to get to hear and meet with the candidate before making a decision whether to call them as our minister. This has been an exciting and rewarding process so far. We're very pleased with the choices we have, and we hope you will be too.

Your Ministerial Search Committee: Tom D'Avanzo, Linda Godfrey-Bailey, Beth McGregor, David Slater, Laurie Wallace, Valerie White, Karen Zelevinsky

Ministerial
Search



Do you miss worship with children?

There was a time, not that long ago, when every worship service included 20 to 30 minutes of multigenerational worship. The voices of children were part of Joys and Concerns and Time for All Ages -- and everyone got to hear them.

If you miss that part of worship, the good news for you is that worship with children is still available to you -- because multigenerational worship still happens regularly at this church. It happens at 10 am most Sundays -- and everyone is invited. The 25 minute worship service is designed to be accessible to children, youth, and adults. You don't have to have a kid or be a kid to participate -- all are welcome.

You can expect the sharing of joys and concerns; some storytelling or dramatics; some conversation about what just happened, should happen, or could happen; and some singing. And when it's all done, you don't have to move before the 10:30 worship service begins.

See you in the sanctuary!

Louise Marcoux, DRE

Moving from Reactivity to Responsiveness in Facing the Climate Crisis

With Rev. Barbara Nelkin-Rose

The challenge we face with the current climate crisis typically evokes a broad range of thoughts and feelings, many of which are difficult to experience. Following the first March service (3/3/19) - **Responding to the Climate Crisis through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection**, we will be offering an opportunity for you to continue your inquiry into this very important topic, as we explore in more depth:

- your own thoughts and feelings on the climate crisis,
- how your inner state might be affecting your attitude toward the global climate crisis we now face and
- how, using the qualities of curiosity, compassion and connection, we can find ways to help us move, both individually and as a nation, from a reactive state of fear, anger and guilt to a responsive state of hope, solution seeking and centeredness.

The program will take place from noon to 1:30, fol-



lowing coffee hour and a light lunch will be offered. Children in grades 3 or above are welcome to join us and childcare will be provided for younger children. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Barbara.

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 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

ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

All members and friends of the church are asked to participate in the annual pledge campaign which finances our operating budget for July 2019 thru June 2020. Pledge kits will be mailed and emailed to all by March 7th. The worship service on Sunday March 10th is the formal start of the pledge campaign. We ask that you complete your pledge form and return it to the church by Sunday March 24th. A special celebratory buffet takes place in the Vestry immediately after the worship service.

The Parish Board has set the pledge campaign goal at \$304,000. Special focus on the compensation package for our new minister, who joins us at the outset of the new fiscal year, is the primary reason for the 10% increase in our proposed operating budget. The Ministerial Search Committee has high confidence that the candidates under consideration are all excellent choices for our active church community.

Give your pledge the deliberation that it deserves to help us reach the important financial goal set by our Board.

Your Stewardship Committee: Rory McGregor, Fred Bramhall, Pat McDougal, Peter Raskin, David Schoenfeld, Colleen Tuck, Lisa Yeransian

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 to reserve your space.

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



Buildings & Grounds

From the B&G Chair

Thanks to the many people help maintain our building and grounds. Last month we were grateful to Jeff Rose and Paul Tuck for installing a motion-activated video system at the entrance. This enables employees to see who is at the door, and a video of everyone who enters will be kept for 30 days before being deleted.

Could B&G call on you? We welcome folks who are not looking to join a committee but are able to help with a specific task. If you see something that needs attention, you could help. Thanks to Gary Webber and Tyler for being the first to step up to the plate. In addition, we would love to have a small crew organize the kitchen cabinets and drawers once a year before the church year begins. Could that be you?

In the "Where did that come from?" category: someone left his pet rock in the vestry and a small table was found in the coat closet. Could the owner(s) please reclaim their possessions? Otherwise, the rock will become part of the church garden and the table will join the yard sale.

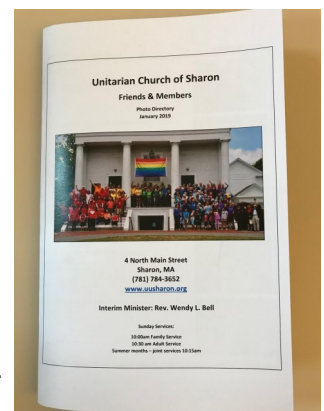
Welcome to new B&G member Kevin McClanahan. He pitched right in and installed a light in the Harry Potter room. (Are you a new church member and don't know where that is? Tours available!)

Lindsay Drisko, B&G Chair

UCS Picture Directory is here!

Pick up your copy of the Picture Directory at the entrance to the Sanctuary or contact our Office Manager, Linda Cveckova to arrange for a pick up. To reach Linda you can email her at admin@uusharon.org or call at 781-784-3652 x1

Please take only one directory per family.



Religious Education News

March in RE

During March our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will talk about families. Additionally, they'll explore the feelings of fear, anger and joy as they learn everyone has these feelings. Their activities will include making puppets and sharing affirmations with one another.

The **Grade 1-2** class will continue to learn about being good neighbors. They will hear a story about a group of neighbors that learned signed language when a deaf baby was born in the neighborhood. The class will also visit our Muslim neighbors at the ICNE Arabic School this month.

The **Grade 3-4** group will continue to work on their "caring for our environment" service project. They will also revisit a session about being welcoming to all which will include acting out a story and learning a new hymn.

The **Grade 5-6** students will explore the topic of non-violent civil disobedience, as well as bringing together a learning experience of their own design which will deepen their knowledge of the power associated with listening, silence, presence and stillness.

The **Grade 7-8** class will be continuing the OWL curriculum. Their sessions will include talking about love-making, consent, sexual health, pregnancy and parenting.

All of our religious education classes will spend time during the month of March preparing for RE Sunday which will take place on April 7th. The students in each class will work together planning how they will share an RE learning experience with the whole congregation.

Karen MacKinnon, Administrative Assistant

Your feedback matters!

The RE Program Evaluation Survey for parents was emailed on Tuesday, February 26. Please complete this brief survey by Sunday, March 3. The RE Committee and DRE thank you in advance for participating.

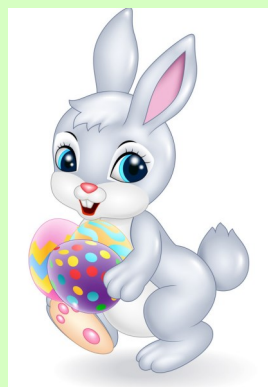
On Sunday, March 3, it will be the children's turn to give their feedback. Children in grade 2 and younger will complete the survey during RE time with the assistance of their teachers. Children in grades 3 and up will complete the survey at 11:30 am in their classrooms with the assistance of the DRE and their teacher; they'll be released to the vestry at 11:40 am. It helps us to know what you like at church and what you'd like to change.

Canned goods 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).

Starting in mid-March, the Social Justice Committee will begin setting aside the canned goods that you donate so that we accumulate 125 cans by April 14. 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.



UUA Workshop on Family Ministry: March 23

The UUA is offering a workshop for congregations about different ways religious education/family ministry can be offered – something that this congregation should be prepared to work on with our new settled minister. You are invited to join an information gathering team from this congregation for a road trip to Springfield on Saturday, March 23. Program runs from 9:30 am to 3 pm. (Road trip from church parking lot: 7:45 am to 4:45 pm.) If you're curious, please check in with Louise Marcoux by March 7 (team registration deadline).

Our Whole Lives in March

OWL 5-6 will meet on March 3 and March 10 from 4:30 to 6 pm. Many thanks to teachers Meg Dussault and Andrew Plumridge for leading our 5th and 6th graders through this comprehensive sexuality education program.

OWL 7-8 will meet on every Sunday in March from 10 am to 11:30 am.

Religious Education News, continued

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

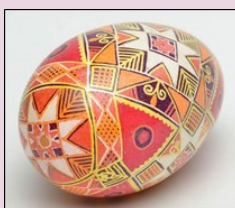
Meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Observatory. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! February saw our annual PanWaff (Pancake & Waffle) Breakfast Fundraiser to benefit Rosie's Place. We met our goal in raising just over \$350 which will allow us to host a meal at Rosie's Place this spring. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came out for breakfast in support of SYG and this cause, we look forward to seeing you next year! For March, SYG will be looking at our plans for the spring, and several of our members will be attending an upcoming Youth CONvention held at the Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, RI.



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG had an awesome time at Boda Borg in Malden, MA for our February outing. Boda Borg is a large warehouse-like space with multiple team-challenge puzzle rooms, similar to escape-the-room style games. Teams work together to solve a series of connected rooms, and often have to repeat attempts over and over as they work through trial and error to solve the challenge. This is a much beloved activity for our group, and this time was no exception. Experienced teams had new puzzles to explore, and first-timers had a great experience discovering the fun!

Our March event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd when we will be gathering at church to do Pysanky Egg Dyeing, a traditional Ukrainian craft to create beautiful and intricate designs on eggs. JYFG meets once a month and all events are open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation.



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

Grades 1-2 Field Trip to ICNE Arabic School: March 10

Our Grades 1-2 class will be visiting with our Muslim neighbors during worship on Sunday, March 10. Signed permission slips, booster seats, and coats can be dropped off in the vestry after 9 am that morning. The group will gather in the vestry DURING the family worship service and leave the parking lot by 10:15 am, so that they have plenty of time to practice their good neighbor skills.



SAVE THE DATE

Religious Education Sunday is April 7. Children will lead worship and share insights from their Sunday morning journeys. Parents – please plan to bring your children to church at 9 am for a quick rehearsal.

RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is April 7.

Teachers and youth advisors – please come and bring your family to a luncheon in your honor at noon in Program A/B. On behalf of the congregation, the RE Committee wants to celebrate your contribution as an RE volunteer. Yay you!

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: APRIL 7

Do you have a few minutes to help say thank you to RE volunteers? Youth and adult volunteers are needed for specific, time-limited tasks.

Set up tables (10 am-10:15 am)
Set up food (11:35 am- 11:55 am)
Take down tables (1 pm-1:15 pm)
Clean up (1 pm-1:30 pm)

Please contact Rumni Saha, if you are available to help.
Rumni.saha@gmail.com



JYFG at Boda Borg in Malden, MA

March Programs

Music and Arts

Not Just Another Coffeehouse

The Beantown Buckaroos

Saturday, March 16

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

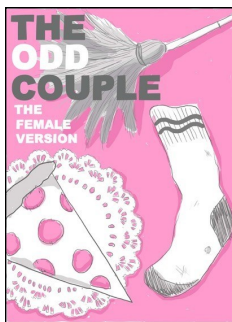
Come dance the night away on Saturday, March 16th with the Beantown Buckaroos! So everyone will have room to stretch their legs we're moving the March coffeehouse to the First Congregational Church of Sharon, 29 North Main Street. You don't need to bring a partner, and if you're not a dancer you can come to listen. Roger Weiss will provide Western Swing Dancing instruction and then the Buckaroos will cook up classic Western Swing and Country music, with a dash of Tex-Mex and Cajun for picante.



The Bucks were born when a few vets of Boston's roots community got to powwow with some cowboys new to town, all of them steeped in the music of the great American Southwest, from Bob Wills, Merle Travis, and vintage honky-tonk, to contemporaries like Doug Sahm, Asleep at the Wheel, and The Hot Club of Cowtown. With four vocalists and six instruments, the Bucks deliver just the right mix of tight harmonies, driving rhythms, and great repertoire to deliver you to the dance floor, smiling! For more information on the band visit: <http://beantownbuckaroos.com/>

During intermission enjoy our homemade desserts and fair trade beverages.

Please note: the Congregational Church would like people to bring canned goods for their food pantry.



The 2019 UU Theater Nights

The next UU Theatre night at Mass Music Arts Society is on **March 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. That show will sell out quickly so email me at mcdougal.pat@gmail.com if you are interested as soon as possible so that I can get more tickets if necessary. Please don't wait til the last minute.

Tickets for this is \$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 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 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) 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.

March Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – On Mar. 6th at 7pm we will get together in the Church library to discuss plans for future months.

Join us on Apr. 3rd at 7pm 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.

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

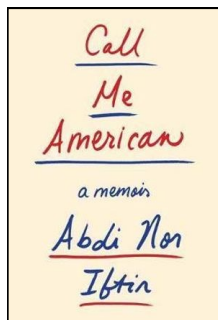
Let's Laugh Today— Bring the whole family and get your giggle on by attending a FREE Laughter Yoga session in Program Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on Saturday, March 9th (and every second Saturday of each month). Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Enjoy 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. Several SPECIAL guests from the leader training weekend are attending this month!

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

Movie Group will meet Friday March 8 at 7pm to watch **Mudbound**. "In 1940s Mississippi, two families come into contact after the white McAllan clan acquires the cotton farm lived on by the Jacksons, black tenant farmers who have tilled the land for generations. The popcorn is free!

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

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 medita-



tion 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: March 24, 7:30-9 pm Seeing White Part 6 "That's not us, so we're clean" <http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-36-thats-not-us-so-were-clean-seeing-white-part-6/>

Tuesday Group: March 26, 7:30-9 pm Workshop #2 on White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo (chap.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.

2019 One Book One Town

SHARON READS TOGETHER

Call Me American

by Abdi Nor Iftin

Writing Contest – Deadline Monday, April 15, 2019
Write about *I Am American*. All genres accepted: memoir, fiction, poetry, essay. All ages: child to adult. 500 word maximum. Prizes awarded. New award category this year: \$250 High School Senior Award sponsored by Whitney Place. Email: obots Sharon@gmail.com or mail submissions to Writing Contest, 1267 Bay Road, Sharon, MA 02067. Guidelines at onebookonetown.org

Book Discussions – Facilitator: Hilary Umbreit, Information Services Librarian
Monday, April 1, 2019 at 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 6:30-7:45 p.m.
Sharon Public Library, 11 North Main Street

An Evening With Author Abdi Nor Iftin
Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Partnered with The Sharon Pluralism Network.
Talk and book signing at Sharon Middle School.
\$8.00 Adult; \$5.00 Seniors and Students.
Please purchase your tickets at <https://onebooksharon.brownpapertickets.com> or call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006.
Sharon Middle School, 75 Mountain Street
Author photo by Michael Lomax

Building Trust: A Conversation With Local Refugees
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Presented by the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences of UMass Boston. Powerful storytelling, open discussion and community strategies for building trust. Sharon Public Library, 11 North Main Street

Being A Muslim Woman In America –
Moderated by Carol Rothenstein
Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Art Display 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Panel Discussion 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Panelists: Ujala Fawad, Nosheen Javed, Zainab Mohamed and Hamida Merchant. The event also features the artwork of Ubah Kahiye, a Somali refugee woman who uses art as therapy. Please come early to meet the artist and enjoy her work.
Sharon Adult Center (at the Community Center), 219 Massapoag Avenue

Writing Contest Celebratory Reading And Awards
Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Winners will read their *I Am American* entries. As time allows, others may share their stories. Whitney Place, 675 South Main Street

All events are free except for An Evening with Author Abdi Nor Iftin.

For more information and snow cancellations, go to onebookonetown.org.

Design by Carol Abram
www.carolabram.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



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

Brown Envelope donations:

Our Brown Envelope collections in January raised \$1034.76 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 Brown Envelope donations are being sent to the **Equal Justice Initiative** (www.eji.org). 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.

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) as our Brown Envelope recipient. "The NLC was founded in 2012 in Mashpee, MA, and is the first Native-run land conservation group east of the Mississippi. 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. All land is sacred in our eyes and worthy of special care; thus our reasons and interest in rescuing and preserving ancient ancestral village sites where our ancestors once live and worked. In recognition of shared values, we enjoy our partnership with other local and regional land conservancies."



UU Principals and Environmental Stewardship

The Social Justice Committee is putting together 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 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. 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>

Responding to the Climate Crisis through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection

March 3rd Service

Reverend Barbara Nelkin-Rose will help the congregation explore how we as individuals and as a community can face the climate crisis from a RESPONSIVE state grounded in centeredness, peace and hope rather than a REACTIVE state stemming from fear, anger and guilt. [An opportunity to continue this exploration](#) will be provided from noon to 1:30, following coffee hour. (A light lunch will be offered).

Recycling Old Gift Cards:

Proud to be a part of our Shopping for Justice program, but anxious about what to do with the plastic cards once they are used up? No worries, we collect them for recycling! Drop your empty cards, along with other plastic cards that have done their jobs (hotel room keys, old credit cards, other gift cards, etc.) when you stop by the to get your next grocery card, and shop in good conscious as we raise funds to end hunger and homelessness in the world. We will see that the old cards get properly recycled.



"Our Mother Earth feeds us in every way. She can restore us to our natural state of being when we find ourselves disconnected from what we think of as real." Ramona Peters, NLC Founder

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

The Climate Crisis

The Green New Deal and the Youth-led Sunrise Movement

Let's be the generation that finally frees America from the tyranny of oil. We can make this moment of global warming into a moment of opportunity for innovation, and job creation, and an incentive for businesses that will serve as a model for the world. Let's be the generation that makes future generations proud of what we did here. The time is now to shake off our slumber, and slough off our fear, and make good on the debt we owe past and future generations. - Barack Obama

WHAT IS THE GREEN NEW DEAL? The Green New Deal is a 10-year plan introduced by Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Markey to mobilize every aspect of American society toward 100% clean and renewable energy, guarantee a good job to all members of our society, and create economic prosperity for all. The goals of the Green New Deal are many, including:

- to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
- to secure clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all people of the United States for generations to come; and
- to promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, de-industrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth. Learn more about this bold new vision for our future at <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/12/21/18144138/green-new-deal-alexandria-ocasio-cortez>

The **SUNRISE MOVEMENT** in support of environmental justice (EJ):

We are ordinary young people who are scared about what the climate crisis means for the people and places we love. We are gathering in classrooms, living rooms, and worship halls across the country. Everyone has a role to play. Public opinion is already with

us - if we unite by the millions. We are not looking to the right or left. We look forward. Together, we will change this country and this world, sure as the sun rises each morning.

We are a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good-paying jobs in the process. We unite to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people.

We are nonviolent in word and deed. Remaining non-violent allows us to win the hearts of the public and welcomes the most people to participate. We need maximum participation in order to achieve our goals. We shine bright. There are hard and sad days, to be sure. This isn't easy work. But we strive to bring a spirit of positivity and hope to everything we do. Changing the world is a fulfilling and joyful process, and we let that show.

Sunrise is a movement of young people uniting to stop the climate crisis. This dark hour in America cannot last. Welcome to Sunrise. <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>

Rise Up and Tip the Scale Toward Justice

Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. Every year families from across the state and region walk together toward peace. Join Unitarian Church of Sharon's team of walkers as we rise up and tip the scale towards justice for all families impacted by homicide. The Walk is organized by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Transforming Society's Response to Homicide. The Peace Institute is the leading homicide response agency in Massachusetts. Every year, they serve 35 – 50 new families in the immediate aftermath of their loved one's homicide and offer ongoing support and services to more than 150 family members impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss. The institute also provides training and technical assistance to hundreds of law enforcement officials, criminal justice and public health officials. The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is the major fundraising event for the Peace Institute. Please join the UCS team of walkers for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace on May 12, 2019.

Sign up for the walk at the Do It Now table in the vestry after services starting March 3. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Siftar, Social Justice Co-chair (esiftar@gmail.com 302 354 1809)

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 \$2,511

Immigration/Migrant Justice Updates:

Immigrants' Day at the State House – Monday 4 March, 10am-2pm, Boston

Join MIRA organizers for the 23rd year in a row, as we make our voices heard at the State House! Be a part of Immigrants' Day, the biggest lobbying day of the year for immigrants, refugees and allies. Let's fill those halls with new Americans and allies ready to

share our stories and tell legislators why 2019-2020 is such a crucial session! Please join members of the Social Justice Committee – contact Elizabeth Siftar for more information. (esiftar@gmail.com 302-354-1809)

Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Training – Saturday, 9 March, 10am-3pm, First Parish Waltham UU

Accompaniment Networks support our immigrant neighbors who face overwhelming stress and the threat of family separation. Attend this workshop to learn how to:

- Support immigrant families who are in crisis
- Accompany people to federal and district courts
- Raise money for legal and bond fees
- Write letters of support for people who are scheduled for federal hearings
- Provide transportation to ICE check-ins & attend vigils at the Suffolk County House of Corrections

RSVP to deborahwild@comcast.net to sign up, or contact Elizabeth Siftar for more information.

UUMass Action Legislative Advocacy Day – Tuesday, 9 April 2019

Save the date, and sign up for the annual UU Advocacy Day at the State House! (uumassaction.org) There will be a webinar prior to the event to help you learn more about the priority bills as well how to engage in effective advocacy. On the day of the event, we will worship and sing together, and celebrate our UU justice leaders. You will have a chance to network and prepare for your meetings over lunch before we all head to the State House. UU Legislative Advocacy Day runs from 9:30am to 4:00pm, starting at the Arlington Street Church on 351 Boylston Street, Boston, MA.

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: Border fence as seen from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico in January 2019. More recent photos show large coils of barbed wire added on the US side.

Stories from the Border

Asylum Seekers on the Migrant Trail

For last month's Chalice, I wrote a day-by-day summary of my trip to the Arizona-Mexico borderlands, immediately after I got back home. I've had time to reflect and I want to share a specific experience here. When I spent several hours on a border search with three of the Green Valley Samaritans, our first task was to clean up the *basura* (trash) left behind by a group of migrants at a known location in a state park. We hiked into the woods and found the site. There were water bottles, food packages and containers, clothing, backpacks, blankets, and more. We filled one bag with trash but most of what we gathered could be washed and reused, and/or documented. This kind of task is routine for the Samaritans, and while they seldom if ever know the exact circumstances that led the migrants to abandon their possessions, they explained that one scenario is that the people were apprehended by the Border Patrol and weren't given the time to clean up their camping spot or allowed to bring anything with them. And it's not uncommon for groups of people (especially family groups) fleeing danger in their home countries to choose to cross illegally, with the plan to be apprehended, because they want to ask for asylum. It's still possible to request asylum at specific ports of entry, but the wait to make such a request can be months long, so some people choose this other



Water barrel in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, provided by Humane Borders/Fronteras Compasivas.

route, which is risky for many reasons.

I'm looking forward to telling some stories from the border at the Sunday, March 31 worship service, together with someone I met during the trip. I hope to see you there!

Janet Schmidt

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 3 March, Responding to the Climate Crisis – service, and workshop to follow after Coffee Hour

Monday, 4 March, Immigrants' Day at the Statehouse, 10am-2pm, Boston

Saturday, 9 March, CommUnity Closet, Brockton UU Church, staffed by UCS members 9am-2pm

Saturday, 9 March, Immigrant Accompaniment training, Waltham UU Church, 10am-3pm

Sunday, 10 March, MainSpring House lunchmaking, Vestry after the service

Sunday, 10 March, monthly SJC meeting, Library, following lunch making; +/- noon-1:30pm

Sunday, 31 March, Stories from the Border service

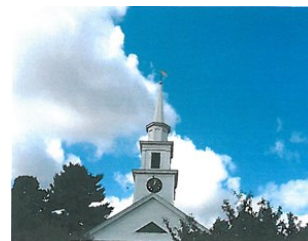
Tuesday, 9 April, UUMass Action Advocacy Day, Boston, 9:30am-4pm

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

Ongoing Social Justice opportunities

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

Conversations
At the Meetinghouse



Turkey at Crossroads

STUART SEARS, PH.D

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019, 7 PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

As the dust clears in the latest conflicts in Middle East, Turkey is emerging as one of the most important powers in the region. Dr. Sears examines the priorities and policies of Turkey today as it helps broker a deal in Syria and defends its interests in the Persian Gulf.

Stuart Sears, Ph.D. is a scholar of Arabic and Middle East History with a Ph.D from the University of Chicago in Early Islamic History. He is co-founder of the Arabic Language Associates and previously taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

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

March 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> To view up to date calendar of events go to http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/ </div>					1	2
					Potluck Supper 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	Committee Chairs 9am (VES) Search Meeting 1-4pm (ALL)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Climate Crisis Workshop 12pm (SAN) 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)	Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Book Group 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) 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
Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) SJC Meeting 12pm (AB) 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)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Meeting 7pm (MIN)	Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)		Not Just Another Coffee House 7pm (OFF)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Reiki Support group 3pm (VES) 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)	Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) RE Committee 7:30pm (B) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)		JYFG Pysanky Egg Decorating 11-1:30pm (VES)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR)		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 7:00pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)		
31						
Family Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Service 10:30am Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) AI-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)						



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