

# the chalice

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

**President**  
Susan Drisko  
[president@uusharon.org](mailto:president@uusharon.org)

**Interim Minister**  
Rev. Wendy L. Bell  
781/784-3652 x2  
[minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org)

**Director of Religious Ed.**  
Louise Marcoux  
781/784-3652 x3  
[DRE@uusharon.org](mailto:DRE@uusharon.org)

**Office Manager &  
Newsletter Editor**  
Linda Cveckova  
781/784-3652 x1  
[admin@uusharon.org](mailto:admin@uusharon.org)

## **MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**Friday, May 24**

## **Inside this issue**

<a href="#">Candidating Week</a>	3
<a href="#">B&amp;G</a>	4
<a href="#">RE News</a>	5
<a href="#">Programs</a>	8
<a href="#">Social Justice</a>	10

## **MAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**10:00 am Family Service**

**10:30 am Adult Service**

### **Sunday May 5:**

### **What a Time To Be Alive**

The scale and impacts of climate change are overwhelming, to say the least. If you're like me, sometimes you prefer to be a bit ostrich-y about it, and hide your head in the sand. But we can tap into our inner resources and the resources of our communities to face this "great turning" with resilience and hope.

This is the second Sunday of the Candidating Week. To learn more about our Ministerial Candidate Rev. Jolie Olivetti go to [page 3](#).



### **Sunday May 12:**

### **Mother's Day!**

Join us for Worship Service led by the Senior Youth Group. Our theme will focus on moms and the cultural role of motherhood. We have reflections and stories to share and thanks to give. Youth hope to create space and inspire moments to recognize the people in our lives who relate to us in a "motherly" way.

### **Sunday May 19:**

### **Seeing the Way Forward**

This morning we reflect together on the interim journey - where we've been and what is next - and on how you envision your collective future.

### **Sunday May 26:**

### **River of community.**

We live amidst divisions, yet sometimes we find deep unity in moment of crisis.



The **Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs** is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served congregations in Indiana, Quebec, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida and California. He presently serves the All Souls Church in Braintree, MA. Clyde honors his Texas Cherokee heritage, which informs his spiritual understanding and practice, and his anti-racist and anti-oppressive commitment. He has worked for peace, justice and equality since he was in the Unitarian Universalist youth movement, Liberal Religious Youth.

## **Special Congregational Meeting To Call A New Minister**

**Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 11:40am**

**We need at least 95 members to attend!**

Our bylaws require that at least 50% of the members be present and that at least 80% vote to call the new minister. The UUA guidelines ask for at least 90-95% vote in favor! If you cannot attend, email Linda at [admin@uusharon.org](mailto:admin@uusharon.org). For more information go to [page 3](#).

## From the Minister



Greetings from Texas! As you prepare for this exciting moment in your collective congregational life - meeting your Ministerial Candidate - I am meeting with 35 or so other Unitarian Universalist Interim Ministers for professional development and anti-racism training. There is so much wisdom here, and I

am delighted to glean what I can and to share what I know. We gather together each spring to reflect on where we've been and to look ahead to where we might be going next.

As your Candidating Week approaches, I simply want to thank you for the opportunity to have served with you as your Interim Minister for these last almost 2 years. Yours is a remarkable congregation, filled with gracious and gifted and committed people, and I very much look forward to seeing where you go from here.

I want to encourage you to show up next week - in body, mind and spirit - for what will be a week full of opportunities to meet Rev. Jolie and to begin to get to know her better. I encourage you to share yourselves with her generously, and to help her get to know you. Tell her about who you are, what you most care about, and what you envision for your collective future. Ask her questions about her calling and gifts and about how she envisions sharing them with you as you imagine building a future together.

Candidating Week can be a profound and transformative time in the life of a congregation. There are so many opportunities for sharing ideas and hopes and dreams, it can become a wonderful time of cross-pollination and creativity and a launching pad for what is yet to come.

So have fun! Enjoy yourselves!

I plan to be back in Sharon the week of May 6th (and with you through the end of the year) and I look forward to seeing you and hearing about your week!

In faith,  
Rev. Wendy

## From the President



This is a big month for the future of our church and our community! After an extensive process, the Ministerial Search Committee has selected a candidate! The Reverend Jolie Olivetti will be visiting our church when you get this newsletter! If you are a

member of the church, you get a chance to vote on whether to call her as our minister on **Sunday, May 5th** – right after services. As you know, we need at least 50% of our membership present for the vote to take place (about 90 members), and 80% of these members must vote to call the new minister. Members and friends of our church can take advantage of the many opportunities to meet Jolie, ask questions, wonder with her and learn about her ministry, service and background. This is a critical moment for our community, only members can vote to call a new minister. Members who cannot make the May 5th meeting should let Linda Cveckova know by emailing [ad-min@uusharon.org](mailto:ad-min@uusharon.org).

I look forward to meeting Jolie, listening to her preach and seeing members on May 5th!

*Susan Olson Drisko*  
President

## Endowment Committee

The endowment committee has the goal of increasing and preserving the church's endowment. Our endowment is money that has been donated, usually in the form of bequests, for the purpose of enhancing the church's operating budget in perpetuity. This is accomplished by the rule that only 4% of the amount of the fund can be distributed each year and then only when the fund is at least \$50,000.

Currently there is just over \$22,000 in the fund and the committee has the goal that the fund will grow and become an important part of the church's finances. An endowment fund is a long range project. Our goal is to encourage church members to name the church in their wills or estate plans, or as a beneficiary of their IRA, or insurance policy. Over time these planned gifts will accumulate and the next generation of church goers will benefit. Furthermore, if times become hard, the endowment will ensure the church's survival.

Building an endowment is an important part of supporting the church. We give money each year to the church not only because of what we get personally from the church community but as a gift to others in the church community, those not yet in the community, the towns that the church serves, and the world at large. We support the endowment fund because we want that gift to continue after we die. We are the recipients of a gift from those who supported the church over the last 250 years and we need to pay it forward for those who will come to the church 250 years from now.

More information is available online at the uusharon website <https://www.uusharon.org/about/committees/endowment-committee/> (Or go to — About Us -- Committees -- Endowment) Or email [endowment@uusharon.org](mailto:endowment@uusharon.org)

*Submitted by Pamela Baker-Webber*

## Ministerial Search Committee Update

### ***Candidating Week Has Begun***

A two-year intensive process by your elected Ministerial Search Committee has finally come to its conclusion with Candidating Week, April 28-May 5. The week began on the 28<sup>th</sup> with Sunday worship, a gathering with the RE children, an expanded coffee hour for all, and a meeting with the senior youth. This was the congregation's first opportunity to meet the **Rev. Joanna (Jolie) Olivetti**, and we hope many of you did. The week is full of meetings with staff members, chairs and committees, as well as opportunities for anyone who is interested in sitting down with her. Please check the church calendar for the schedule. We also hope that you have all seen Rev. Jolie's letter introducing herself and sharing a bit about her background and interests. If you've missed it, you can find it on the UCS website.

The week will culminate in the May 5th church services followed by a special congregational meeting to vote whether to call her as our next settled minister. It is important for you as members of the congregation to attend the service and stay for the meeting to follow. Our bylaws require a 50% quorum and a minimum 80% approval vote in order to call our new minister. So please save the date. A remote option to dial into the meeting exists, but please bear in mind it is new to the USC and experimental. Please attend the meeting in person and ask Linda Cveckova ([admin@uusharon.org](mailto:admin@uusharon.org)) about a remote option only if necessary.

It has been a pleasure to get to know Rev. Jolie during the last few months of this search process. Through in-depth reading, observations, and conversations with her and her references, we on the search committee have learned about her passions and goals, and have seen the energy and spirituality she brings to her preaching, pastoral care and justice work. We are eager for all of you to meet her and begin to get to know her too, and we welcome any questions you may have.

See you at church!

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

Please note, the announcement from the Search Committee and the schedule for candidating week can be found here: <https://www.uusharon.org/meet-our-ministerial-candidate/>

To the members, friends, youth, and staff of the Unitarian Church of Sharon,

I am delighted that your Ministerial Search Committee has invited me to be your Ministerial Candidate. When I started learning about you in your Congregational Record, I began to feel a resonance with UCS: your commitment to one another and the vitality of your congregation, and your care for the community and the world beyond your church walls. You inspire me! When I met your Ministerial Search Committee, first online and then in person, the resonance only grew stronger, calling me to serve in ministry with you.



I feel called to join you in your mission to grow in mind and spirit across and in celebration of our differences, to be part of UCS's liberal religious witness in the community and the wider world, and to support your powerful culture of shared ministry. This is a call I will gladly follow if you vote to call me as your next settled minister. We will have time to discuss the possibility of our shared call during **Candidating Week, from April 28 through May 5**. I hope to meet you that week!

But first, I would like to share a little bit about myself. I grew up in the UU Church of Arlington, Virginia. As a kid at UUCA I learned to think deeply and sing loudly, and I learned that church is the place where we can promise to be better, break that promise, and then try again. I attended Boston University for undergrad with a major in Environmental Studies. I followed my love for the environment to work with environmental education in Boston Public Schools, community gardening, and organic farming. I then worked at an urban farm based at a homeless shelter in Dorchester for about five years. It was there that I began to feel called to Unitarian Universalist ministry, as I sought to understand more about the roots of what divides us from one another and how to be in loving solidarity with those on the other side of the lines from me.

I attended Boston University School of Theology and received my Master of Divinity in 2016. I served as ministerial intern at the First Parish of Watertown for two years, and as Youth Ministry Coordinator at the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn for one year. Since September I have been a Chaplain Resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital. My partner Adam and I live in Jamaica Plain, Boston. We have been together for about 10 years, and we have an almost-two-year-old daughter named June. Adam teaches English at Milton Academy Middle School. If you would like to learn more about me, you can check out my website: [uuministry.com/jolieolivetti](http://uuministry.com/jolieolivetti). And I will certainly share more about myself during Candidating Week!

With blessings and happy anticipation,  
*Rev. Jolie Olivetti*



## Buildings & Grounds

### Updates, Awareness and Tips on How You Can Help

#### A Sustainability and Energy Conservation Awareness

– "Keep those doors closed". Each room in the RE/ Administration wing has a thermostat. When the rooms are not in use, these thermostats are set to lower temperatures in the winter and higher temps in the summer. We are saving energy by only heating or cooling a space when it is occupied. The savings is because we block off unoccupied spaces by closing the doors. So you know.

Kitchen Refrigerator Management- 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? We hope so. 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. For the April 13 Work Saturday, thanks to Tawnya Smith, Beth & Rory McGregor, Fred Bramhall and Lindsay Drisko for helping to get our grounds in spiffy shape – and to Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks for organizing the work.

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*

### Spring Garden - Clip and Clear Day

Thanks everyone who participated in the First Spring Cleanup and for coming out on April 13! Help still needed. **Next Spring Garden "Clip and Clear Day" is Mother's Day weekend SATURDAY May 11, 9-11:30.** Join us if you can and bring clippers, saws and diggers if you have them. Shed does not have a good inventory yet.

Let us know if you want to maintain a little piece of the garden in your own time.

*Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks*



**Sugar Maple Trees** in the Memorial Garden need to be removed.

### Goodbye to Two Pillars of the Church

Buildings & Grounds would like to update you on the status of two pillars of the church - two elders who have been a part of this community for far longer than most. For several years now we have been tracking the failing health of the two sugar maple trees that grace the Memorial Garden to the south, and sadly it is now time for us to say goodbye to them both. Sometime in the coming weeks they will be removed. Planning is underway for how we will reconfigure the Memorial Garden to maintain it as a special spiritual retreat for us all. If you need to say goodbye to those magnificent leafy stalwarts, who have been watching over us all for more than a century, now would be the time to do so.

*Submitted by Gare Reid*



**Rain Garden still works** and is 3/4 full. It's time to clear out accumulation of old brush in RG and drainage pipe area.

## Religious Education News

### *From the Director of Religious Education*

#### **Fifteen**

There is nothing like being pampered by the congregation you serve. Nothing.

Your choice to honor my 15 years of service on RE Sunday with 15 meals has underlined for me how much my work here is appreciated. Imagine 15 meals in which every bite is an appreciation, in which every dinnertime is a celebration! You found a wonderful way to help me feel seen and loved.

Our 15 years together have been filled with so many challenges, experiments, so much learning, and change! Over the years, this congregation continued supporting all the RE programs that were in place in 2004, added comprehensive sexuality education for Grades 1-2 and Grades 5-6, created and funded a Youth Coordinator position, planned and built a new building (ending the need for my flood management skills), adopted comprehensive safety policies, increased the number of RE classes from 4 to 5, and added an innovative weekly family worship service. This anniversary is an opportunity to savor all these collective accomplishments – and the joys and struggles that were part of making it all happen.

Over 15 years, I've served with four ministers, three youth coordinators, ten RE chairs, and more than 100 religious education volunteers. All our accomplishments are a tribute to the power of collective action.

A special shout out to those REC chairs: Beth Hoke, Rick Dumont, Peter Raskin, Christine Cavallaro, Pam Baker-Webber, Brenda Wilbur, Karen Zelevinsky, Lilly Zhou, Christian Roulleau, and Andrea Pannone. These dedicated folks partnered with me to keep the RE program moving forward as this congregation has grown and changed.

I look forward to our continuing journey together, with a newly settled minister and new youth coordinator in the coming year.

Blessings,  
*Louise*



### **May in RE**

Our **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will begin the month of May taking in all the seasonal changes during an outdoor session that will aid in their awareness of and appreciation for nature. The class will then spend the rest of the month joined with the nursery group for games and stories.

The **Grade 1-2** students will start the month participating in a session which focuses on being in tune with their bodies using movement games and mindfulness activities.

The **Grade 3-4** group will hear a story about how human actions can have unexpected negative consequences on the earth, which will help them explore the ideas of interdependence and balance with nature.

The **Grade 5-6** class will learn about climate change. They will hear about a non-profit which fights climate change as well as create their own solar oven.

The students in **Grades 1 through 6** will be uniting for several sessions this month. They will spend time together preparing for our upcoming transition: they will talk about welcoming our new minister while creating some welcoming artwork and décor, and the group will also prepare to say goodbye to Reverend Wendy.

The **Grade 7-8** students will learn about contraception, sexual decision making, and communicating with a partner in their Our Whole Lives sessions. They will also attend the Senior Youth led service on May 12th.

*Karen MacKinnon, Administrative Assistant*



**Honoring 15 years of service of DRE Louise Marcoux**

### **Thank yous:**

Percussionists for RE Sunday: Brad Larson and Glenn Rivard.

RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Hospitality Team: Rumni Saha, Peggy Moran, Ivy Krull, Elizabeth Siftar, Kerstin Gallant, Shannon McLaughlin, Gabby Pannone, and Andrea Pannone.

Easter Can Hunt support: Elizabeth Siftar, Beth Hoke, Georgia May Cheney, Zoe Plumridge, and Andrew Plumridge.



## Religious Education News, continued



### **PSST! - Volunteers needed for the Sunday Morning RE Program**

Now's the time to sign up to teach RE. Find out how by talking with Rumni Saha or Louise Marcoux. Also check out the big blue brochure titled "*Who? ME?! Teach RE?!?*" for details about curricula, age groups, and teaching teams. Let us help you find the right task for you. Or just sign up on the poster in the vestry.

### **FAQ about volunteering in Religious Education**

#### ***Do I have to teach every Sunday for the whole year?***

No! Most people volunteer for a total of 6 to 12 Sundays over the 42 weeks between Ingathering (September) and Father's Day (June). This gives you plenty of time to be an active participant in the Sunday morning worship community.

#### ***Can I choose when I want to teach?***

Yes. You will be part of a team of 7 to 10 volunteers. Each team works out its own schedule to accommodate the needs of its members. Some people choose to teach a sequence of lessons. Others teach occasionally throughout the year. The calendar is kept online and is updated through the year. When plans change, a volunteer can alert the team via email and trade Sundays with other team members. It's fast and easy.

#### ***Can anyone teach RE?***

Anyone who's finished 8<sup>th</sup> grade and who is willing to submit to a background check. Our teachers are high school students, young adults, parents, grandparents, and non-parents. All you need is an open mind, helping hands, and a loving heart.

#### ***But I'm so new to UUism. Shouldn't RE be taught by experts?***

No. We think RE should be taught by people who care about their community. Learning happens when there is a caring connection. Most RE volunteers find themselves reflecting on themes from the lessons they teach. Teaching can end up enriching your faith journey.

#### ***But what skills are required?***

A sense of humor is helpful. We provide orientation, training, specific lesson plans, and ongoing support from the DRE. So you know what is expected of you AND you can ask for help when you need clarification. Also, everyone teaches with a partner – help is always at the ready.

### **RE Registration – Already??**

Yup! May is Registration Month in the Religious Education Program. We ask that parents register all children ages 1 month through 18 years for September 2019 programs. Hearing from you now helps us plan class groupings, staffing levels, and room assignments for the church year. It also helps us be prepared to accommodate children's needs, promote safety, and know whose photos may be posted on our website (never with names, of course!).

Starting May 1, online registration is possible 24/7 at [http://www.uusharon.org/religious\\_education/registration/#form](http://www.uusharon.org/religious_education/registration/#form). Paper forms can be picked up from the literature rack outside the RE office (near the Preschool classroom) and dropped off (with a check) in the "registration forms" tray in the information station in the RE office (in the bookcase closest to the window).

Bring your checkbook to church on Sunday, May 5, and you can register while you check in at the Congregational Meeting!

Fees: \$40 for one child; \$60 for two or more children. All registrations received before July 1, 2019 qualify for a \$10 discount. Fees are waived for youth who volunteer in the Sunday morning RE program. Please do not let the fee get in the way of registering: scholarships are available. Please see Louise Marcoux or Andrea Pannone for details.

### **Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

### **Coming of Age Information Meeting**

How does the UU story fit with your personal life story? Which truths form the foundation that you stand on? These are Coming of Age questions.

Youth in Grade 7 or 8 and their parents are invited to find out more about next year's Coming of Age program on Tuesday, May 14, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. You and your adolescent 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 Marcoux for more information.

## 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!



Recent highlights from Senior Youth group include a super fun outing to Boda Borg at the end of March. We solved puzzle rooms for the bulk of an afternoon and went out for pizza dinner following. Everyone had a great time!

We also met with ministerial candidate Rev. Jolie Olivetti at our last April meeting. Youth enjoyed the opportunity to engage with Rev. Jolie and to provide their views/hopes for the future of the church.

Upcoming on Sunday May 12th is the Youth Led Worship service, which coincides with Mother's Day. Youth have chosen to focus the theme on Moms and the cultural role of motherhood. We will have some reflections to share and thanks to give. Please join us!

Also coming up on May 19th Senior Youth will be serving a lunchtime meal at Rosie's Place as part of their service work and the use of donations raised from this year's PanWaff Breakfast.

#### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG designed and printed silk screened t-shirts this past month. This is the second year we've done this craft and it was again well-received. The design was an awesome collaboration between multiple youth, and special thank you to Dylan Gould, graphic designer, for helping to facilitate the combinations digitally. Check out a JYFG member sporting their new threads!

On Saturday May 25th JYFG will be headed to Treetop Adventures in Canton for an afternoon of, well, treetop adventures! We'll be walking the ropes course and sliding down the zip lines. Details email should be in JYFG Families' inbox. JYFG meets approximately 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](mailto:yc@uusharon.org).

## Final Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting ~

### BCD Plans Merger with UUA

**May 4, 2019  
9 - 12 p.m.**

First Parish UU Church  
1508 Washington Street, Canton, MA

You're invited to the Ballou Channing District Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 4, 9 AM-noon, at First Parish UU Canton. The theme is "The Everybody Church", featuring worship (we hope including a choir) led by the Five Points Cluster, a presentation by the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, and a brief business meeting moving us toward dissolving the District by merger into the UUA. This may be the last formal Annual Meeting of the BCD (congregations in southeastern MA and RI), though we hope to keep gathering in other ways.

Historic meeting with critical need to have 2/3 of congregations present in person or on ZOOM. It is important that UCS is represented. If you are interested, please talk to Beth McGregor.



Beautiful river of daffodils captured by Forbesy Russell



## May Programs

### Music and Arts

#### Not Just Another Coffeehouse

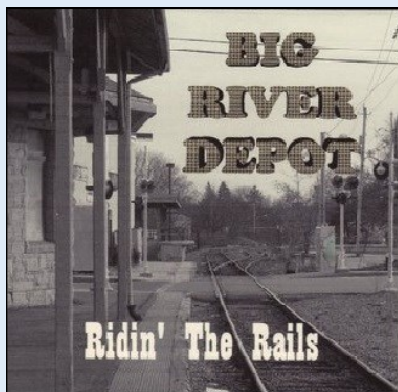
### Big River Depot

Saturday, May 18

7pm, doors open 6:30pm

Please join us on Saturday, May 18th for an evening with Big River Depot featuring the music of Johnny Cash. Big River Depot consists of Robert and Peter Greer on guitar and vocals, and our own Steve Tapper on bass, and specializes in the songs of Johnny Cash. Their repertoire includes some of Johnny's lesser known songs and little known life stories, along with songs by selected other Classic Country, Rock, and Folk artists. If you love Johnny Cash you will love this band!

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



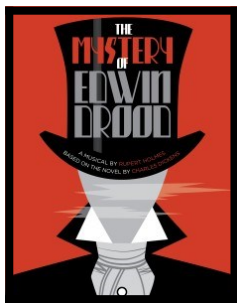
A PETE SEEGER  
100th birthday  
SONGFEST  
singer-songwriter  
Jim Scott  
remembers Pete

2:00 PM Sunday May 5  
Foxborough Universalist Church  
60 Bird St. Foxborough MA 02035  
Suggested donation - \$15, Kids under 12 free with parents  
[www.UUFoxborough.org](http://www.UUFoxborough.org)

Jim Scott collaborated on many projects with the folk legend and leads a celebration of Pete's and his own songs of earth, justice and peace. A prolific composer in his own right and former guitarist with the Paul Winter Consort, Jim's guitar skill and infectious manner brought Pete to call him "some kind of a magician."  
[www.JimScottMusic.com](http://www.JimScottMusic.com)

### The Mystery of Edwin Drood:

#### Save the Date(s)



Come to a UU Theater Night at Wheaton College in Norton on Saturday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. to see *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, presented by the Norton Singers. UCS members Christian Rouleau and Janet Schmidt are in the cast. "Drood" is a musical murder mystery, based on Charles Dickens' unfinished final novel, with

great songs, quirky characters, improvisation and comedy. And the audience gets to vote on how the show ends! A block of reserved seats will be available for the final show on Sat., June 22, which you'll be able to buy online at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com), using a special code (which will be available soon) to access those seats. If you prefer to go to a different performance (Fridays June 14 and 21 at 7:30, Saturday June 15 at 7:30, and Sunday June 16 at 2), you can buy tickets at the same website. Contact Janet Schmidt with any questions or if you want assistance with online ordering.

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

### Support Groups

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

**Men's Group** 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.

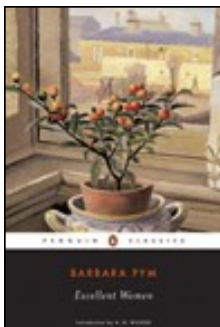
**Women's Support Group II.** - Meets on second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm. New women are always welcome to join.



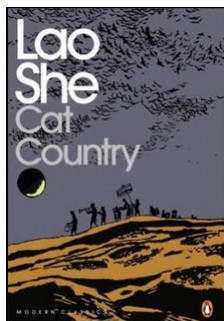
## May Programs, continued

### Interest and Discussion Groups

**Book Group** – 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 LAUGH TODAY in Sharon is on Saturday, May 11th !

What a great way to start the weekend! Bring the whole family and get your giggle on by attending a FREE laughter session in Program Room A/B from 11am to noon on **Saturday, May 11th** (and every second Saturday of the month). Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being.

Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Master Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail [billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com](mailto:billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com). PLEASE BRING

AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. New laughs 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** - What does it mean to be white in America? John Biewens explores whiteness in a series of 13 podcasts titled "Seeing White." Each podcast is a catalyst for a conversation among adults about different aspects of whiteness – its roots in law, philosophy, religion, history, and other aspects of American life. Conversation facilitated by Louise Marcoux, Director of Religious Education.

We'll continue the exploration of whiteness in our ongoing conversation about racism.

Sunday Group: May 26, 7:30-9 pm

Tuesday Group: May 28, 7:30-9 pm

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

### Movie Group

## On The Basis of Sex

May 10 at 7pm

Inspired by the powerful story of a young Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the film depicts a then struggling attorney and a new mother facing adversity in her fight for equal rights.

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 – we look for your ideas, passion, and support as we work together to heal an ailing world.

### Brown Envelope donations:

Our Brown Envelope collections in March raised \$1,201.03 for the **Native Land Conservancy** ([nativelandconservancy.org](http://nativelandconservancy.org)). “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.” Thank you for your generous contributions. We have informed **Annawon Weeden** of the success of our fundraising efforts, which he inspired.

During April, the Brown Envelope collection is dedicated to support of the annual **Mother’s Day Walk for Peace**, hosted by the **Louis 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 May 12th, and the Brown Envelope collection in April will contribute to our fundraising for the cause. See Elizabeth Siftar for details on the Peace Walk and how to join our team.



Rev. Donald Osgood shares his passion for the work of the Peace Institute with the congregation.

In May, our Brown Envelope donations will support the work of two programs with which we have had

long-standing relationships: **MIRA** ([miracoalition.org](http://miracoalition.org)) and **Centro Presente** ([cpresente.org](http://cpresente.org)). The Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition works to ensure that: All immigrants and refugees are empowered to fully participate in their communities’ social, economic and civic life and advocate for themselves. One in six Massachusetts residents, and one in five workers, is foreign-born. MIRA starts from the premise that immigrants and refugees are an asset to our Commonwealth. They come here with a wide range of skills and ambitions, and they strengthen our economy and our democracy. Diversity is a gift, and as immigrant and refugee families feel increasingly rooted in the U.S., and our society becomes more inclusive and welcoming, all Americans will benefit.

Established in 1981, Centro Presente is a member-driven, statewide Latin American immigrant organization dedicated to the self-determination and self-sufficiency of the Latin American immigrant community of Massachusetts. Operated and led primarily by Central American immigrants, Centro Presente struggles for immigrant rights and for economic and social justice. Through the integration of community organizing, leadership development and basic services, Centro Presente strives to give our members voice and build community power.

### Stories from the Border and Nicaragua

During the discussion following the March 31<sup>st</sup> worship service, “Stories from the Border,” Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry and Janet Schmidt enjoyed talking with people and sharing a slideshow as well as a variety of materials from the Green Valley-Sahuarita (AZ) Samaritans (GV Sams). If you missed the service and would like to learn more about what they saw and who they met during our January trip, Janet can make the materials available at church at a time TBD (or contact her directly). You can also learn more about, and/or donate to one of the groups they worked with: GV Sams ([www.gvs-samaritans.org](http://www.gvs-samaritans.org)) or to the Kino Border Initiative ([kinoborderinitiative.org](http://kinoborderinitiative.org)).

As many of you know, six of our church members had planned to go to Nicaragua last summer, along with some people from Long Island, but we had to cancel the trip due to the uncertainties related to political unrest there. It’s mostly calm there now, and FNE International volunteer trips are happening again. The Long Island group is planning a trip for **August 9-19**, and individuals are welcome to join them. It’s an opportunity to get a sense of life in Central America, to get a perspective of the border from the other direction. Please let Janet Schmidt know, if you have any interest and she can keep you informed.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### How do we pick our Brown Envelope recipients for each month?

There have been a number of questions raised from time to time about which recipients are chosen each month for support via our Brown Envelope program, and why some causes are apparently overlooked. At the monthly SJC meeting we set aside time to discuss the B.E. calendar, to review past, current and future fundraising efforts, and then to chart the months ahead for potential recipients. We strive to strike a balance between, local, state, regional, national and international causes, as well as coverage of diverse topics related to our social justice concerns, including work on issues linked to the environment, racial injustice, homelessness, refugee support, LGBTQ and women's rights, among others. There is value in maintaining and building long-standing working relationships with some organizations, while we continue to seek out new opportunities and worthy recipients. We typically support 501(c)(3) programs whenever possible.



We try to be nimble enough to respond to various unanticipated emergencies, which are always a challenge, as we need to maintain a calendar and the commitments that go with responsible planning, and to build publicity and programmatic support for our various recipients. The recent spate of climate driven disasters, which we expect to see increasing in severity and intensity in the months and years ahead, has left us frustrated that we cannot respond to each and every calamity around the globe with a targeted B.E. funding effort. Instead, we are looking at a model where we may choose to rely more heavily on the wisdom and global reach of the disaster relief programs of organizations like the UUA and the UUSC. By supporting their disaster work in general, perhaps once or twice a year, we would be able to leverage our modest donations in tandem with other UUs, and to trust that the research and follow-up that such programs can provide will ensure that your donations reach those most in need, often long after the headlines have moved on to the next Big Story. If you are interested in working with the SJC on this important, ever evolving task, come to one of our monthly meetings and share your ideas and passions. There's plenty of work to be done out there, and we all need to do our share. Let's lean in together.

### Rainbows / Pride / Welcoming updates

**Rainbow Sunday** - On June 2nd, the Unitarian Church of Sharon will celebrate our annual Rainbow Sunday. On Rainbow Sunday, we honor the diversity in our congregation and that we are a welcoming congregation. Please plan to attend on Rainbow Sunday and wear a shirt with a color of the rainbow for our annual UCS photo after the service.

**Boston Pride Parade** – Don your rainbow colored shirts and flags and join members of UCS for the annual Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8th. We will meet at the Sharon train station and ride the 9:08 AM train into Back Bay. We will then attend the Pride service at the Arlington Street Church at 11:00 AM. At noon, the parade begins and participants can choose to march with the Arlington Street Church group or watch the parade from the sidelines. Please join us! Happy Pride!

**Welcoming Congregation** – The SJC continues to plan for the renewal of our designation as a Welcoming Congregation within the UUA. This will be a challenging and engaging opportunity for the congregation to reexamine our commitment to the principles of inclusivity and the spiritual practice of welcoming *everyone*. This work is never truly done, and we will explore together what it means to fulfill this commitment. Stay tuned for more information and upcoming events, including an exciting workshop series on Transgender and Non-Binary Inclusion.



### Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, 5 May** - monthly SJC Meeting, Library, following the Congregational Meeting & Coffee Hour

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

**Sunday, 19 May** - MSH lunch making (1 week later than usual), Vestry, during Coffee Hour

**Sunday, 2 June** – Rainbow Sunday

**Saturday, 8 June** – Pride Celebration & Parade, Arlington St. Church & the Streets of Boston (train 9:08am)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

### Environment, and Advocacy and The-Green-New-Deal, Oh My!

The environmental crisis remains a focus for a number of groups working at the church. The **Green Team**, devoted to exploring and encouraging best practices and sustainability across the life of the church, continues to meet and engage various committees and groups in a process of improving our activities, both here and out in the wider community. Look for some changes and new thinking around how we celebrate, travel, and break bread together, with an eye to doing it GREEN! Likewise, the **5C Group** (Climate Crisis through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection) remains committed to exploring the spiritual aspects of our response to a challenging world in transition, and they welcome fellow travelers to expand this exploration. See Barbara Nelkin-Rose for more information.

Recently groups from the UCS ventured out beyond our walls to carry the message of advocacy and change, in tandem with other UUs from across the state. **UUMass Action Advocacy Day** on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the State House was an inspiring opportunity to build community and engage our state legislators across a spectrum of legislative topics, with an emphasis on climate action and climate justice, civil rights, economic justice and workers rights, and criminal law reform. And then on April 18<sup>th</sup>, a modest team

from the UCS joined 50 other UUs along with almost 2 thousand concerned fellow travelers in Dorchester for the **Boston Tour Launch of the Road to a Green**

**New Deal.** A packed house heard from legislators, religious leaders, and especially from empowered young adults from the **Sunrise Movement** about their ambitious plans to alter the landscape of how we can create real change, built on a proposed stimulus program that aims to address climate change and economic inequality through the lens of climate justice. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/sunrisemvmt/videos/2444764575568498/> for a video that captures the spirit and energy of this growing movement.

### 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.



**Pre-rally for the Green New Deal in Dorchester:** UCS participants along with other UUs from across the state



## 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**, who have 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. Our fundraising effort has already exceeded \$2900,

which is being shared with the Salmerons in modest monthly allotments by the program coordinators at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. While this growing fund is sufficient to carry their grocery needs for some months to come, the timing and outcome of their asylum journey remain unknown, and we remain committed to supporting them for as long as their needs remain critical. Please consider maintaining your giving to this worthy cause as we work to build a safe, stable community for everyone.



**Salmeron family donations:** Cumulative donations to help feed the Salmeron family - over \$2,900

**Community Closet:** Located at the UU Church of Brockton (325 West Elm St.), the CommU-nity 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))

### 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!

### Eastern Bank Parking Lot

Our friends at Eastern Bank are happy to let us use their lot on Sunday mornings, but they do have 24/7 users of their ATM. They have asked that we keep several spots open for their customers. Please don't take those last spots or we may lose the use of the lot. Thank you."



**Good time at Beantown Buckaroos - March 2019:** Rory and Beth McGregor

Conversations  
At the Meetinghouse



# Why We Need a Garden Revolution!

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**ELLEN SCHOENFELD-BEEKS**

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019, 7 PM**

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON**

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Beautiful historic gardens inspired us in the past. What inspires us today? And what does it mean for our backyards and our sense of self? Gardening teaches us to notice, to be patient, but the biggest lessons come when we embrace a new reason to care about what we plant and how we maintain our gardens.

Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeke, a member of the Unitarian Church of Sharon, maintains an extensive garden at her home and also oversees the plantings and Memorial Garden at the church.

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***



## May 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="text-align: center;">To view up to date calendar of events go to <a href="http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/">http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/</a></p>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			CANDIDATING WEEK Drop-in Tea with Rev. Jolie 3pm (VES, NUR, AB) Open Office Hours Rev. Jolie 5:30pm (MIN) Book Group 7pm (NUR) Board meeting with Candidate 7pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	CANDIDATING WEEK ESL 6pm (VES) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ministerial Search 7:00pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES) Youth Coordinator interviews 7:30pm (AB)	CANDIDATING WEEK Potluck Supper with Rev. Jolie and her family 5pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	CANDIDATING WEEK Electronic Recycling 8am (PARK) Committee Chair with Rev. Jolie 9am (VES) SJC meeting w/ Rev Jolie 12pm (VES) Rental – Alzheimer Fundraiser 7:30pm (SAN)
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
CANDIDATING WEEK Special Meeting Prep 9am (SAN) Special Congregational Meeting 11:30am (SAN, NUR, AB) SJC monthly meeting – after Cong. Meeting around 12:15pm (LIB) Youth Coordinator interviews 1:45pm (AB, LIB) Pete Seeger Songfest 2pm (UU Foxboro) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)	Women's Group I. (Closed) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Planning 4pm (LIB) Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Let's Laugh Today 11am – noon (A/E) Circle Supper (OFF)
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Reiki Support Group 3pm (AB) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Meeting 7pm (MIN) Introduction to Coming of Age 7:30pm (AB)	Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)		Not Just Another Coffee House 7pm (VES)
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Rental – music teachers 1:45pm (SAN) Senior Youth Group 5-7pm (NUR) Al-Anon Meeting 7:15pm (LIB)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Endowment Committee 7pm (LIB) Membership Cmte 7pm (AB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES) RE Committee 7:30pm (NUR) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (A/B)	Newsletter DEADLINE	
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
Al-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)	Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (VES)		



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)**