

the choice

Published by the
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of the Unitarian
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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday, November 22

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: ATTENTION

10:00 am Family Service

10:30 am Adult Service

November 3: We Need All Of Us

In our family service this morning, we will dedicate Kitty and Glenn Maffei's baby Drew, and their three older children, Cael, Finn, and Eamon. Please join us for this special ceremony to welcome baby Drew into the world and to formally welcome all the kids into the church community. For our family and adult worship topics, we will ask, what is it like to try to understand the world through another person's experience? We all pay attention in different ways, and our community is strong when we can learn from one another's different points of view.

November 10: Attention with Intention

There are a lot of competing demands for our attention these days. This service will focus on how we can regain some autonomy over what we pay attention to, and what it offers our spirits and our world when we do so.

November 17: Social Justice - What calls you to speak out and take action?

In a world that seems to be collapsing and showing us more clearly than ever the many injustices which exist nationally and globally, social justice work is calling us to raise our voices and take action. This is a Social Justice Committee led service facilitated by Mia Joiner-Moore and Barbara Nelkin-Rose. The speakers today will be fellow congregants who have found purpose and become actively involved in specific areas of social justice and who have agreed to share their concerns, experiences and hopes in their respective endeavors. We will also be asking you to think about, and share with us during coffee hour, where your interests/passions lie.



Open House Sep 2019 - Rev. Jolie

November 24: Abundance and Gratitude

Mary Oliver wrote: attention is the beginning of devotion. This Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will reflect on gratitude, abundance, and devotion: all outgrowths of attention.

From the Minister



I love fall. I love the leaves blazing orange, red, and yellow. I love breathing in the crisp air and putting on a cozy sweater. One of my favorite autumn activities is harvesting sweet potatoes. Adam (my partner) and I have enjoyed growing sweet potatoes in our community gardens over the years be-

cause they don't need much attention. Once they're well established, we can employ benign neglect. Their vines spread low and dense all over the soil, shading weeds, and they don't require regular harvest – just one big effort at the end. Once mid-October comes around, it's time for the treasure hunt! I sink the digging fork into the ground, unsure of what I'll find, and unearth these big dark pink beauties. The bounty is always breathtaking. I have to rock back on my heels, fingernails caked with dirt, arms full of food, and give thanks.

Speaking of giving thanks, I also have long loved Thanksgiving. I was ignorant about what to mourn when I first heard about the National Day of Mourning. Thanksgiving seemed to me an unquestionably positive day, free of the rampant commercialization that plagues Christmas, and what's wrong with eating food with family and friends? Learning about the Day of Mourning, an event that has been organized for 50 years by the United American Indians of New England on Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth, MA, I came to understand that our primary story about "The First Thanksgiving" glosses over the terrible truths of genocide. The Day of Mourning is a space for protest, a ceremony to honor Native ancestors, and an affirmation that Indigenous people still exist, they are still strong, and they still resist the ongoing impacts of settler colonialism. Our November worship theme is Attention. The Day of Mourning sure got my attention – it disrupted my simplistic understanding of Thanksgiving and it pushed me to recognize that not everyone celebrates the Pilgrims' arrival on these shores. I have been grateful to participate in this event over the years.

Like many families, my sister and I have kept up our family's tradition of going around and saying what we are grateful for on Thanksgiving. When my older niece was barely three, she caught on and fell in love with this practice. She insisted that they keep doing "gratefults" after Thanksgiving was over, and now it's a staple of dinnertime in their house. There's nothing quite like witnessing very young children express their gratitude and love for their family. When my younger niece was two, she once said she was grateful for water, which blew my mind. The Rev. Galen Gugenrich of All Souls Unitarian in New York City has said, "the eth-

ic of gratitude demands that we nurture the world that nurtures us in return." When gratitude is central in our practices of faith, it opens us up to our interdependence in a profound way, which moves us to build a world that reflects our gratitude. Given the food that the earth provides, the support we can provide one another in the face of great harm, and the simple wonder of water, I have much to be thankful for this November.

And finally, you're invited to a brown bag lunch on Thursday, Nov 14 at noon. If you're around town during the day and can bring a bagged lunch to church, come on by for some company and conversation. Any church visitor, friend, or member is welcome. Call or email me to RSVP: (781) 784 – 3652 x2, (617) 851-9356, or minister@uusharon.org.

Warmly,

Rev. Jolie Olivetti

From the Director of Religious Education



Honoring the Gathering Darkness

The turning of the year presents us with wonderful opportunities to notice and celebrate the wisdom we've gained this year. The gathering darkness offers us the

chance to go inside -- not just our homes but inside our hearts and minds as well. We can pause and reflect on the journey that we've been on during the long days of summer and the harvest time. What was special? What do we want to carry with us? What do we want to leave behind?

It's also the chance to celebrate light in darkness. Now's the time to set out a votive on the front porch, or light a candle on the windowsill, or light a chalice on the kitchen table.

I hope that you will set aside a little time with your family to light a candle, perhaps read a poem or a sentence that sparks hope inside you, and enjoy the togetherness. It doesn't have to be fancy. It shouldn't be long. Just a moment together in a small circle of light.

Blessings,

Louise

From the President



The Board met on October 16th and finalized its goals for this church year (2019-2020). The Board will continue to support our Mission:

"We gather as a liberal religious community, honoring our differences, to support one another

as we grow in mind and spirit and reach out to serve the world."

Our goals for this year are to:

- Ensure the continued financial and structural sustainability of the Church by:
 - Finalizing the AIMII recommendation for the Annual Meeting in June 2020.
 - Appointing a Fundraising Team by December 2019 to ensure an enhanced fundraising structure, beyond pledge income.
- Appoint a By Law Review Taskforce, by December 2019, and implement updates at the Annual Meeting in June 2020
- Ensure that the Church Safe Congregation Policy from June 2018 is updated to include protocols to secure the Church from an armed intruder and to respond if an attack occurs (awareness, prevention, preparedness and response).
- Unified by our mission, develop greater specificity and definition around the board's role as a governing body and more clearly delineate and distinguish this role from the ministry role of the minister, staff and congregation, in an open, creative and accountable atmosphere.
- Support the ministry of the church.

I want to thank Jack Armstrong and the AIMII Team for the work they will be doing, with all of you, to finalize an AIMII recommendation by June 2020. I also want to thank Lindsay Drisko for agreeing to lead a Fundraising Team, ensuring an enhanced fundraising structure beyond pledge income and helping the Church meet its revenue budget this year. Finally, I want to thank Valerie White for agreeing to lead a small taskforce to review our By Laws. If you are interested in helping with any of these initiatives, please reach out to the leader!

Brenda Wilbur, Glenn Rivard and Andrew Plumridge are beginning the discussion on updating our Church Safe

Congregation Policy. They will certainly be working with the congregation to determine our next steps.

The Board will be working through the Committee Chairs to delineate our role and the role of various committees. What is primarily governance (finance, nominating, building and grounds, stewardship, endowment) and what is primarily ministry (worship, religious education, caring, membership, social justice) and what crosses both areas (information technology, personnel, Committee on Ministry). How does it all work together?

Finally, the Board reviewed the ministerial goals for Jolie Olivetti. These will be reviewed and finalized by the new Committee on Ministry (Tom D'Avanzo, Mia Joiner-Moore, Alison Reid, Ellen Davey-Fleming, Kerstin Gallant and David Nichamoff).

I hope all of you have a wonderful November.

Susan Olson Drisko
President

Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Jolie Thursday, November 14 at Noon Vestry

If you are around town during the day and able to take a lunch break at church, come on by with your bagged lunch. We'll enjoy each other's company and conversation while we munch on our lunch. No agenda, open to any church members, friends, and visitors. **Please RSVP to minister@uusharon.org or (781) 784-3652 x2** if you are planning to come.

Oven Use Do's and Don'ts

B&G has recently repaired the double ovens in the Vestry kitchen. They have delicate electronic components that are susceptible to overheating, and we therefore need everyone who uses the kitchen to follow these simple rules:

- 1) We never use the auto-cleaning cycle for the ovens, as it generates excessive heat that is known to cause problems.
- 2) When finished with oven use, do not leave the door open to let it cool down. Ventilation fans will accomplish this automatically, and if the doors are left ajar, the rising heat may damage the electronics.

Gare Reid, B&G member

**Don't forget to change your clocks
Sunday November 3, 2019**



Religious Education News

November in RE

November's gray days are brightened as the children begin Revels preparations!

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** children will build a barn and create animals to live in it in order to experience what shelter, care, and love mean. They will explore many aspects of the story of the birth of Jesus, through storybooks, creative movement, and play.

The **Grade 1-4** students will explore two stories of the season as they prepare for Revels. Hanukkah: the story of the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil at the temple and Solstice/Yule: The story of human beings' relationship with the sun and the many different ways people celebrate the shortest day of the year.

The **Grade 5-6** students will explore the theme of "the return of the light" in the story of the Nativity. Once they've imagined their way into the story, they'll build shadow puppets to share the story with the congregation.

The **Grade 7-8** students will begin their study of Christianity. They will explore the commonalities and differences between Unitarian Universalism and the many interpretations of Christianity through the study of its symbols (i.e., the cross), the concept of "sin," the concept of sanctuary for the oppressed, and the types of communion. The children will visit our neighbor, the First Congregational Church of Sharon, on November 24th. On November 17th, the class will begin to prepare for the Santa Lucia celebration for Revels.

Leslie Cox, Administrative Assistant



Fairy house created by a child in the RE program

What is Revels?

Revels is our community's special celebration of the dark time of the year. In the weeks between Halloween and the Winter Solstice, children and their RE teachers gather to imagine their way into the many stories of the season. After getting to know these stories through crafts, play, baking, and puppet building, the children share their new understandings -- and the joy of the season -- by **leading worship for the whole congregation on December 15.**

Revels rehearsals will happen on the following dates: Sunday, December 8, 11:30-1 pm.
Sunday, December 15, 9 am-10 am.

Something New for Revels – Special Roles

If your child is interested in a speaking part in Revels, please contact Louise Marcoux. Children and youth (grades 1 thru 8) are encouraged to volunteer to recite a couplet of verse in the call to worship or to be a part of the Yule Chant choir.

The Yule Chant Choir will meet on Tuesdays, November 19 and December 3, at 5:30 in the vestry and take part in the Revels rehearsals listed above.

The Call-to-Worship team will meet from 11:45 am to 12:10 pm on November 24 and December 1 and take part in the Revels rehearsals listed above.

Questions? Interested? Please contact Louise Marcoux at dre@uusharon.org.

Coming of Age meetings in November

THE THEME: LOVE

Tuesday, Nov 5: Youth only

Tuesday, Nov 19: Youth and Mentors

Please bring your journal to every meeting!

Religious Education News, continued

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

Meets on Sundays from 5-7pm in the Observatory (aka Nursery). Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to bring friends! Activities this past month included our annual Cedar Hill youth retreat, solidifying our goals for the year, and a Samhain celebration with a fire pit. Upcoming in November are more games, movies, and continuing to engage with environmental justice work in and beyond the congregation!



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

In October, JYFG went on our annual Cedar Hill youth retreat! JYFG members made s'mores and beeswax candles, sang to creatures on the beach and played many games. In November JYFG will have a extra meeting on November 3rd to revisit our covenant and plan our bake sale and then again later in the month for a day of baking together! JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation.

Have questions about our Senior and Junior youth programs? Interested in volunteering to help with the groups or have a student who might be interested in joining? Email our Youth Coordinator Katie Byron at yc@uusharon.org.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Grades 1 and 2

In January, we will launch the 8-session Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program for Grades 1 and 2 (to be held during the Sunday morning religious education program). Parents are invited to find out more about this upcoming program at an information session on Sunday, November 3 at noon. Talking with young children about sexuality will be the focus of the video and discussion. Childcare and lunchtime snacks will be provided. The program will last one hour.

Questions? Please see Louise Marcoux

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Much has happened in our Cluster over the past month. There was a shared service in Stoughton on October 13th and a Cluster Halloween Pot-Luck Dinner in Canton on October 26th.

We also staffed the CommUnity Closet on October 12th. Valerie White, Beth McGregor, Ellen Bordman and daughter, Denise from the Foxboro Church, and I had a busy and productive three-plus hours helping over 50 people choose free clothing much of which was supplied by our Congregation. The Closet is looking for good used winter clothes at this time and always looks for children and infant clothes. We are also looking for volunteers to help sort and hang the contribution on Wednesday mornings at the Brockton UU Church between 10 and noon. The Core staff of the project have been sorting weekly for over two years now and are burning out. Extra help that comes even occasionally helps us a lot. See Jim Mullin at church or jrmullin@verizon.net for more information.

An upcoming Cluster events is the Thanksgiving Shared Service (12/1, 10 AM, Foxborough UU Church). Shared Services are services that are open to folks whose church closes for major holidays. We are generally open on those weekends but shared services are also a chance to visit other churches. The December musical service in No. Easton on December 29th (when we usually *do* close) is particularly enjoyable but more about that later.

Jim Mullin

Is it okay to serve food at my group's event?

This question came up at a recent Committee Chairs meeting. A lot of us are feeling uncertain about how to deal with food in nut-free spaces.

The church has food allergen safety policies that are intended to help members of the community share meeting spaces and look out for each others' health and safety. The goal is to make sure that we can all assume that the last user took care to ensure to leave the room free of nut crumbs or oils.

The nut-free spaces are: the Nursery, the Library, Program A, Program B, and Program C.

It is possible to serve some foods in these nut-free spaces. The general guideline is:

1. You need to know all the ingredients of the foods you bring into the room.
2. Banned ingredients: nuts and nut oils.
3. After any food is served, thorough clean up is critical. How much cleaning is enough? Guidelines are posted in each nut-free space.



November Programs

Music and Arts

Not Just Another Coffeehouse

HungryTown

Saturday, November 16th

7pm, doors open 6:30pm



After more than fifteen years of world-wide touring and three album releases, Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson—otherwise known as the folk duo Hungrytown—have earned a reputation for the quality and authenticity of their song-writing: “It’s great to hear an act eschew sentimentality in favor of honesty and to prove that you don’t have to go raiding the memory of others to find the stuff that really good songs are made of,” writes Jedd Beaudoin of Popmatters.

Lyricist Rebecca Hall is credited with compositions “that sound as timeless as any traditional songs” (Northern Sky, UK) while producer/multi-instrumentalist/husband Ken Anderson is lauded for his “remarkable affinity for instrumental embellishment” (No Depression) and for crafting Hungrytown’s “gorgeous vocal harmonies” (Folk and Roots, UK).

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

The 2019 UU Theater Nights



The next theater night is on **Saturday, November 2 for Boeing Boeing!**

The play was listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the most performed French play throughout the world! Who knew! Our pot-luck reception will start at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$28.00pp. New members and guests are welcome. Contact Pat McDougal for more information.

There are also **two tickets available for this show through the Caring Committee** – if you’d like to try out this fun event and cost is currently an issue keeping you from attending, please reach out to the MMAS-Caring Committee Liaison, Evelynne Swagerty, or let any member of the Caring Committee know. If we have more requests than tickets, we will randomly draw a ticket recipient and notify you in-person or via email.

Here is the rest of the season:

THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES Fri. Dec 13

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Sat. Dec. 7 at the Norfolk Grange (starring Doug McDougal as Scrooge!)

DEAD MAN’S CELL PHONE Sat. Jan 25

NOISES OFF! Sat. Mar 21

SEUSSICAL Sat. Apr 25

BLITHE SPIRIT Fri. June 19

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.

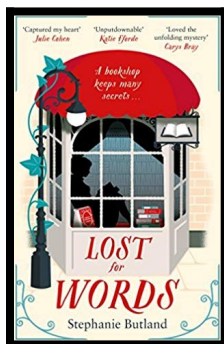
Men’s Group is a group for men who are members and friends of UCS. We gather on the first and third Monday of each month at 8 pm to talk about our lives and topics of mutual interest. We are open to new members. If you’re curious please feel free to drop in on one of our meetings. For more information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

November Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – For our November 6th meeting in the church library (at 7pmj), we will discuss **The Lost for Words Bookshop** (the British version is called *Lost for Words*), a novel by Stephanie Butland.



Loveday Cardew is a bookseller with a dark past who finds solace in books. When she finds a lost book, she doesn't expect to connect with its owner in a way that forces her to come to terms with her difficult childhood.

We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month, in the church library. You are welcome to join us whether or not you've finished the book (or even read it – the discussion will likely draw you in anyway).

Let's Laugh Today: 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 Rooms A/B from 11am to noon on **Saturday, November 9th** (and every second Saturday once a 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. You can sit or stand. There are no postures or poses.



Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail billandlinda@letslaughttoday.com. PLEASE BRING AT LEAST ONE CANNED GOOD FOR THE SHARON/STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY. New laughs are always welcomed! See more information and other opportunities to laugh at www.letslaughttoday.com. There will be not be an evening meeting on the usual 4th Wednesday in November and December because of the holidays.

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 med-

itation in the middle. This division also allows participants to join us for just 30 minutes of meditation and then leave, without any disruption, instead of (or after) the walking meditation. Please call Susan Allison or Ray Wallace with any questions.

Movie Group

Yesterday

November 8 at 7pm

After a global blackout, no one remembers the Beatles (yikes!) except for Jack.

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



Seeing White: Meets Tuesday, November 26, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Please listen beforehand to Scene on Radio Episode 37 "Chenjerai's Challenge"

<http://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-37-chenjerai-challenge-seeing-white-part-7/>

White Fragility Workshop - Why is it so hard for white people to talk about race?

The third and final White Fragility workshop concludes our exploration of Robin DiAngelo's book on Sunday, November 24, from 7:30 to 9 pm. We'll explore how to move beyond fragility and participate in thoughtful, honest conversations about race with white people and people of color. We'll touch on all of the chapters. Copies of the book are available in the church library. Participation in the workshop is open to members and friends of the congregation. Participation in earlier sessions is NOT required. Please come!

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.

The Fall Blue Jean Saturday

Come One, Come All to the Fall Blue-Jean Saturday! November 16 anytime from 9-12 for putting the garden to bed. Many hands can accomplish so much! If anyone can help with weeding before hand, we can accommodate your schedule! See Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks.

Hope to see you in the garden.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Here is the latest news on what's happening in the area of social justice here at the UCS. We like to say that everyone in the church community is a participant in this work, one way or another. Here are some of the current projects that you might want

to keep an eye on this month:

Brown Envelope donations



Every month the SJC selects a program, cause or organization working towards social justice, and we offer congregants a chance to support their work via our Brown Envelope donations when we pass the plate during

services. We attempt to reach out to a range of recipients, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, on a wide range of topics.

Our Brown Envelope collections in September for our **Partner Church in Gyulakuta**, Transylvania raised \$1211. That amount, combined with an additional \$500 line-item in our annual church budget earmarked for Partner Church support, has been sent to pay for a musician during their worship service and for a copy of the monthly Romanian Unitarian magazine for each family, as well as other urgent local projects. They are enormously grateful for this gift.

In October, we have been collecting to support the **Environmental Relief Fund** of the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** (www.uusc.org). By partnering with the UUSC, we know that critical needs will be responsibly met, thanks to their commitment to "help rebuild, provide resources, support families, and establish relationships with local groups that serve the communities that are often overlooked by mainstream relief efforts." Their current primary focus is on the devastation brought to the Bahamas by this season's hurricanes.

For November, the SJC has chosen **BIJAN**, the **Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network**, (www.beyondbondboston.org) as our Brown Envelope recipient. "We are a network of faith communities, individuals and other activist groups working to reduce the escalating harm of our immigration system in the current political context. We are volunteer-powered, and receive professional support from organizations including the Jewish Community Relations Council and Episcopal City Mission, and we work closely with immigrant communities and immigrant-led organizations to support those impacted by our racist immigra-

tion system. We provide accompaniment, which can include support in court or at ICE check-ins, legal referrals, fundraising for bond or legal fees, letters of support from the community, rides for families to visit loved ones in detention, and logistical assistance with paperwork or bond payments. We also help with housing, transportation, and other immediate needs of people released on bond who have no other resources in the community.

- We honor people's dignity and choices in a system that denies dignity and choice.
- We expect messiness, confusion, and discomfort, and we also choose courage and trust.
- We judge the system, not people.
- We fight for one another as family, because we are."

Your support throughout November for their important work is greatly appreciated.

Community Organizing Training Offered in Sharon

Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA) has launched the first trainings for a local community organizing campaign around the issue of racial and economic justice in the Sharon area. In the trainings at UCS on Oct 27 and Nov 3, participants will:

- *Reflect on the world as it is versus the world as it should be;
- *Learn a powerful model for understanding Empire ("the house");
- *Practice engaging in intentional, meaningful conversations about self-interest and justice work;
- *Join a community of like-minded people with a shared vocabulary for understanding the work;
- *Explore what it might mean to be a prophet in your community;
- *Reflect on the relationship between your faith and your actions.

Whether you participate or not, you are invited to join us at the end of January for an **Issues Convention** where we will select a specific issue to address in the Sharon area (time, date and location t.b.d.) – questions? See Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks or Janet Schmidt.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Youth Led Climate Justice

Right Here at UCS – the new **SUNRISE Movement - Blue Hills Chapter** - hosted by the UCS Social Justice Committee - meets every third Wednesday of the month.

Learn more about the SUNRISE Movement at our November 17 service, including remarks by Co-Facilitator Grace Miller-Trabold, Sharon High School student and youth member of UCS, who will share her story about facing the climate crisis as a young person, and why she is now working with the SUNRISE Movement.

Who we are: (from sunrisemovement.org)



Sunrise is a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. We're building an army of young people 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 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 can turn this into political power and reclaim our democracy.

SUNRISE PRINCIPLES

1. We are a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good-paying jobs in the process.
2. We grow our power through talking to our communities.
3. We are Americans from all walks of life.
4. We are nonviolent in word and deed.
5. We tell our stories and we honor each other's stories.
6. We ask for help and we give what we can.
7. We take initiative.
8. We embrace experimentation and we learn together.
9. We take care of ourselves, each other, and our shared home.
10. We stand with other movements for change.
11. We shine bright.

A Climate Lobby Day

October 23: UCS member David Schoenfeld shares his experience at UMass Action Climate Lobby Day

"I had never been to the statehouse before, and after this experience I have much more respect for our hard working legislators. We first meet with the leaders of our delegation; there were 16 volunteers and we broke up into 8 teams of two. We were given complete instructions and information about the process. Did you know that there are 6000 bills before the legislature? We then were given a list of representatives to canvas and packets for them which had children art work as a cover. Our legislators aren't housed in luxury. Most of the offices had 3 or 4 representatives and their staff members working there.

"The first office we went to was that of Nika Eugardo; she is a woman of color. I was somewhat embarrassed that she felt the need to tell us that she was the representative. I pray that I will live to see the day (I am 74), there will be so many women of color in important powerful positions that no one will assume that they are the assistant rather than the person in power. We take briefly with her and then spoke to her legislative assistant.

"We spoke to the staff of quite a few representatives, and were finished in about an hour. Everyone was super friendly and supportive. A few know about the legislation and supported it. We finished in about an hour and I decided to check in on my representatives, Lou Kafka and Senator Paul Feeney. Lou was in and I talked to him in his office. He said that he would study the bills. Lou had a bigger office because he is the chair of an important committee. I then spoke to Hannah, Senator Paul Feeney's legislative aid. Paul is a 100% behind social and environmental justice, so it was largely a social call. Thanks again for inviting me to do this."

And thank you David for representing the UCS for this important legislative effort on behalf of the future of planet Earth!

The 5C Group

Responding to the Climate Crisis through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection

On Sunday October 27th the 5C group met to honor the grief many have expressed concerning the climate catastrophe and environmental degradation. Barbara Rose led a group of seven participants who shared the nature of their grief with one another as well as feelings of anger and guilt. We learned that grief-work requires courage, commitment, and companionship, but facing it head on is the key to unlocking hope and inspired action. We hope others will join us for future 5C meetings as we build a community of resiliency through various spiritual rituals and practices.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Peace Institute Workshops

Mothers' Day Walk for Peace

On May 12, 2019, 30 members of Unitarian Church of Sharon - adults, youth, children - participated in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace in Dorchester, MA. We joined hundreds of others, survivors of homicide, their families, friend, allies, to walk in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which is a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss.

The Institute's work is founded on:

Vision: We work to create and sustain an environment where all families can live in peace and all people are valued.

Belief: All families impacted by murder deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion, regardless of the circumstances.

Our Model: Our programs and services are grounded in the Center for Disease Control's social-ecological framework that interventions are needed at multiple levels in order to interrupt cycles of violence. The heart of our work is with families impacted by murder on both sides. Our impact extends to community and society through tools, training, and technical assistance.

Principles: Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice, and Forgiveness.

For those of us from UCS who participated, it was a profound honor and privilege to walk beside those members of the community who are survivors, who celebrate the lives of loved ones lost to homicide, but who also celebrate Life by witnessing the power of community and unity. We now have an opportunity before next year's Mother's Day Walk for Peace to learn more about the community, the causes of violence, roots of racism and poverty - Please consider joining us at the Peace-ing It Together workshop series:

Peace-ing It Together: This program is designed for white allies living in Boston and the suburbs who are dedicated to seeking peace through ending racism in their own families and communities. The workshop series will present a framework to understand violence as an outcome of structural racism, and racism as inherently violent. We will address the pattern of "fixing and saving" others and shift toward the internal and collective work we need to do to confront racist and create a culture of peace. The material is best suited for ages 16 and up. Contact Elizabeth Siftar with questions and to coordinate sign-ups.

November 13, 2019 - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

November 15, 2019 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

November 16, 2019 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Community Closet

The CommUnity Closet is a project of our Five Point Cluster of UU churches in the area. We collect donated clothing and other items and offer items for free to the community on the 2nd Saturday on most months, operating out of the UU Church of Brockton (325 West Elm Street). Donations of gently used and new clothing can be left at the Do It Now Table in the Vestry. The focus now is on fall and winter items, as well as the ever-present need for new socks, underwear, diapers and sanitary items. Donations are greatly appreciated. See Jim Mullin or Gare Reid with questions or comments.



Mothers' Day Walk for Peace 2019 - Some of the dozens of UCS Peace Walkers who gathered to protest the injustice of violence in our communities.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Guests at Our Table

Our yearlong support for the Salmeron Family

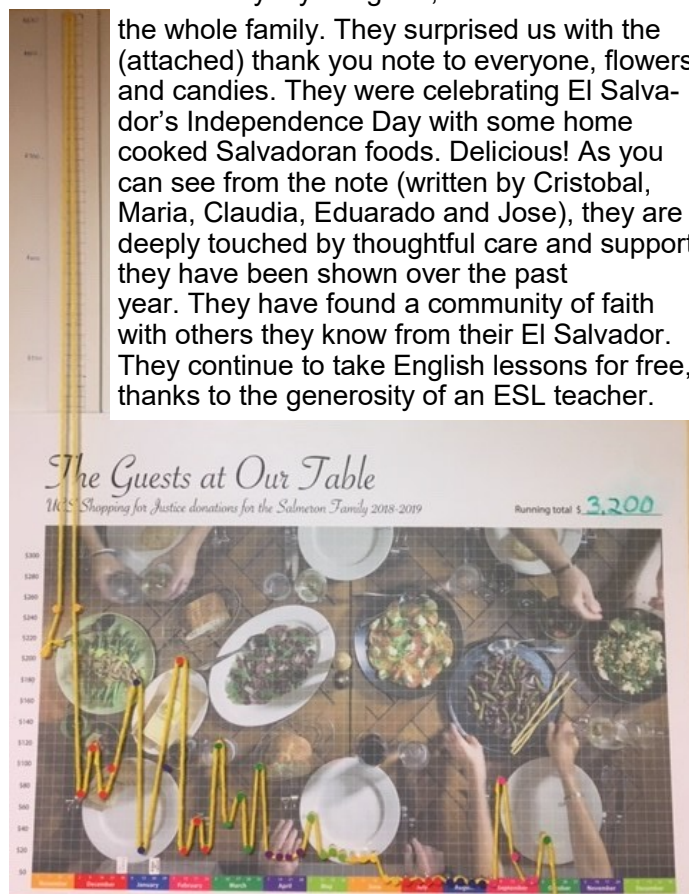
Here are 2 updates from our colleagues who have coordinated the local support for the refugee family from El Salvador who have been seeking asylum locally for over a year, along with their handwritten note of thanks. The UCS effort to help resulted in donations of \$3,200 in grocery gift cards to support them while they got settled in our community. We have invited the family to come to visit with us someday and share their story.

"A little over a year ago a call went out through Sharon Interfaith Action to help a family in need. Our communities responded in so many ways - furniture, supplies, food, funding, ESL tutoring, prayers. As we determined what we could do, we made a commitment to provide financial assistance for a period of one year with the hope and faith that this would provide a base from which they could pursue their new life.

Thank you to everyone who reached out and in to make a difference for this family. See the attached note from the family and the update from Paddy Favazza."

Claire Ramsbottom, OLOS, Sharon Interfaith Action

"Last Sunday my daughter, Isabella and I saw the whole family. They surprised us with the (attached) thank you note to everyone, flowers and candies. They were celebrating El Salvador's Independence Day with some home cooked Salvadoran foods. Delicious! As you can see from the note (written by Cristobal, Maria, Claudia, Eduarado and Jose), they are deeply touched by thoughtful care and support they have been shown over the past year. They have found a community of faith with others they know from their El Salvador. They continue to take English lessons for free, thanks to the generosity of an ESL teacher.



Cristobal is a senior this year and wants to pursue studies at a community college to become a nurses' assistant. He works a lot (in a restaurant) and still manages to be on the Dean's list every semester. Maria is in 10th grade and doing well also and like many her age, she is unsure what she wants to do after high school. Claudia is now on the day shift in her job and is happy to be home in the evening with everyone else. Eduardo and Jose are doing fine in their work. They all traveled to West Virginia to see their mother's sister and their cousins. You may recall both of their parents are deceased. Their grandfather came from El Salvador while they were there as well. So, it was a wonderful reunion for all. Their big news was that Cristobal finally got his interview for citizenship and was fingerprinted this past week. That took over 2 years from when they started the process for him. There is no word on the other family members at this time. They are receiving their final food cards this weekend and the last monthly support (\$200+/month), donated anonymously all year. If more donations come in for the family to OLOS, Lynn will let us know and we will make sure they receive them.

"I want to extend my personal thank you to all of you. I have such deep appreciation for the members of OLOS and all of the houses of worship and individuals who are members of the Sharon Interfaith Action Association. As with many initiatives in the past, people stepped forward and made a pathway possible for this family of 6. They and I were astounded by the outpouring of support for all the furnishings for their apartment, gift cards for winter clothes, school supplies (backpacks, laptops, printer, etc.), gifts for all as they celebrated Christmas and Easter, food cards and monthly financial support for a year. Across the year, they received \$13,900.19 in monetary and food card donations from individuals, and the faith communities of Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary's in Walpole, and the Unitarian Church in Sharon

They and all of you continue to be in my prayers of gratitude."

Sincerely,

*Paddy
Cronin
Favazza*

I want to thank you guys for all the support that my siblings and I received. We greatly appreciate it so much. Thank you for helping us this whole year, for the backpacks and the school supplies we love you very much god bless you always.

I thank God for allowing you to help us, thank you for your support and love, have helped us in such an enormous way, God bless you and help you in everything you need thanks for your help and your gifts in our hearts will be how good you are for us, thank you, we love you very much.

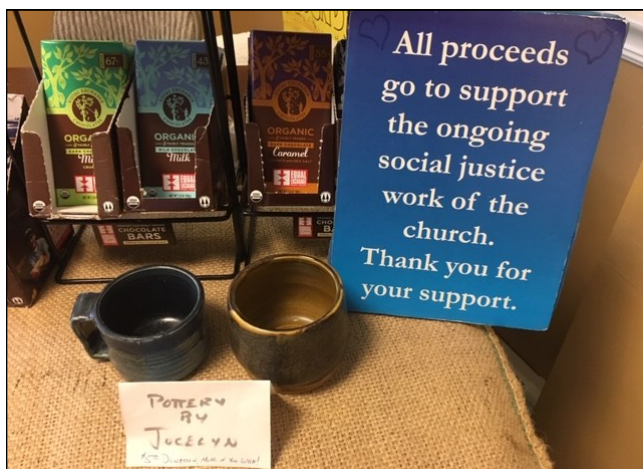
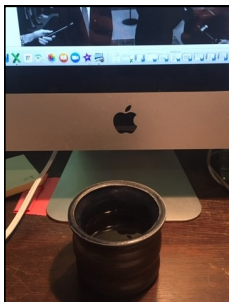
GRACIAS GRANDEMENTE A USTEDES POR AYUDARNOS CUANDO NECESITAMOS, GRACIAS POR SER ESAS PERSONAS TAN BUENAS DE CORAZON. LES DESEO LO MEJOR DEL MUNDO SON UNOS ANGELES ENVIADOS POR DIOS. ESTAREMOS GRANDEMENTE AGRADESIDOS.

Salmeron Family—handwritten Thank You note

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Pottery donation from Jocelyn Olum

Last month the SJC received a generous gift for resale of some two dozen beautiful hand-made pottery bowls, mugs and pots, created by our own Jocelyn Olum. Her thoughtful gesture generated over \$300 in sales on the first day, and as of this writing, only two items remain for sale – stop by the Fair Trade Table at Coffee Hour, pick out a glazed treasure, and help us complete this fundraising effort! (Thank you Jocelyn – I know that my fair trade coffee tastes even better in my new mug...! [SJC newsletter Editor with a passion for coffee])



Pottery of Jocelyn Olum: Two remaining mugs for sale

Ongoing Social Justice opportunities: you can support social justice causes in other ways as well: 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 Shopping for Justice supermarket gift cards in various denominations for Shaws, Stop & Shop, and Big Y (+/-5% of the 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. Together, we can make real changes in this ailing world of ours!

Green Tips from the last month:



October 27th: Unplug your devices. "You might be surprised to learn that all electronics suck energy when they're plugged in, EVEN IF they're powered down. In the U.S. alone, "vampire power" is responsible for draining up to \$19 billion in energy every year. Anytime a cord is plugged into a socket, it's drawing energy – so although your device isn't charging, you're still contributing to your carbon footprint. Simple solution? Leave your electronics unplugged at all times, unless you're actually using them." https://www.huffpost.com/entry/7-instant-ways-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint_b_59321992e4b00573ab57a383

October 20th: Rather than buying plastic garbage bags, consider reusing bags you get from the store, including shopping bags and other plastic wrapping (such as around toilet paper and paper towel rolls).

October 13th: Do you drink plant-based milk? Did you know that you can make your own almond, oat, coconut, cashew, and other plant-based milk alternatives that do not have preservatives or come in a carton that is not recyclable? Check out the Almond Cow, a new appliance. <https://almondcow.co>

October 6th: Did you know that you can get a free energy assessment for your home through Mass Save? <https://www.masssave.com> You'll receive a custom report that makes it easy for you to improve your home's energy efficiency. Plus, energy-saving products will be installed at no cost as needed, such as:

- ENERGY STAR® LED light bulbs
- Advanced power strips
- Low-flow showerheads
- Faucet aerators
- Programmable thermostats or discounted wireless thermostats (installed at a second appointment)

If you have comments or suggestions please contact Tawnya Smith at createforpeace@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 3 Nov – SJC monthly meeting, noon, in the Library

Sunday, 3 Nov– SIA SOPA Training #2, 5-8pm, Room A/B

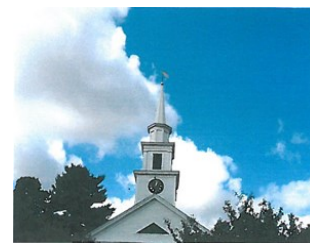
Sunday, 10 Nov– MainSpring House lunch making, Vestry, following the service

Wednesday, 13 Nov – Peace-ing It Together workshop #1, 5:30-8pm, Dorchester

Friday, 15 Nov– Peace-ing It Together workshop #2, 9am-4pm, Dorchester

Saturday, 16 Nov– Peace-ing It Together workshop #3, 9am-4pm, Dorchester

Conversations At the Meetinghouse



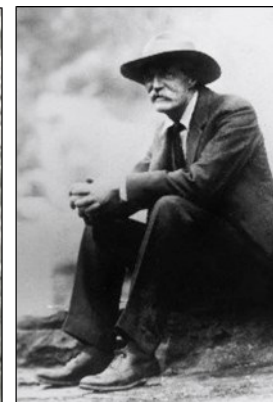
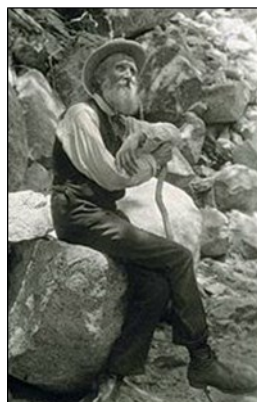
John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and the Use of Nature

TOM D'AVANZO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019, 7 PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

John Muir and Gifford Pinchot were two of the most influential figures in early 20th century environmental protection. Muir is best known as a preservationist and defender of Yosemite National Park. Pinchot, a conservationist, was the founder of the U.S. Forest Service at a time when forests were being decimated throughout the country. At times they supported one another's goals but they eventually became antagonists, particularly regarding plans to dam the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite. Their opposing



philosophies illustrate a tension that runs through environmental management planning to this day. This talk will discuss both of these men's lives, their impact, and the way in which our view of nature and wilderness has evolved since the 19th century and continues to evolve today.

Tom D'Avanzo joyfully retired 3 years ago after 37 years working at the Boston office of the Environmental Protection Agency. He currently teaches Environmental Science part time at Stonehill College.

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.

November 2019 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> CALENDAR To view up to date calendar and to reserve a meeting space please go to http://www.uusharon.org/calendars/month/ </div>					1	2
					Potluck Dinner 6pm (VES) Conversations 7pm (AB)	Committee Chairs 9am (VES) RE Committee 11am (LIB) UU Theater Night 8pm (OFF)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Our Whole Lives 1-2: Parent Meeting 12pm (AB, NUR) JYFG Meeting 12:30pm (VES) Sharon Interfaith Action 4-7pm (AB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Women's Group I. (At Capacity) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Coming of Age Youth 7:30pm (AB) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Book Group 7pm (LIB) Safe Congregation 7pm (VES) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Personnel Committee 7pm (MIN) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Movie Night 7pm (A/B)	Let's Laugh Today 11am – noon (A/B) Circle Supper (OFF)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Writer's Group 12pm (LIB) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB)		Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB) Membership Committee 7pm (MIN) Transforming Hearts 7:30pm (B)	Board of Trustees 7:15pm (LIB) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (LIB)		Coffeehouse 7pm (VES)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB) Covenant Group I. 7:15pm (VES)	Women's Group I. (At Capacity) 7pm (LIB) Men's Group 8pm (A)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Coming of Age Youth and Mentors 7:30pm (multi) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Caring Committee (Closed) 7pm (MIN) Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Ukulele Group 7:30pm (VES)	Chalice DEADLINE	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Religious Education 10:30am (multi) Family Service 10:00am (SAN) Adult Service 10:30am (SAN) Senior Youth Group 5pm (NUR) Seeing White I. 7:30pm (NUR) Covenant Group II. 7pm (VES) AI-Anon 7:15pm (LIB)	Religious Education Committee 7pm (B)	Children's Choir 5:30pm (VES) Seeing White II. 7pm (NUR) Meditation Group 7pm (LIB)	Adult Choir 7:30pm (VES)	ESL 6pm (LIB) Women's Group II. 7:30pm (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