

The Chalice

Published by the
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**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**
Friday, February 21

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FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: RESILIENCE

10:00 am Family Service

10:30 am Adult Service

February 2 “Change Becomes You”

Change is not easy. And yet we are so often either in the midst of it, or we anticipate changes in our lives. Rev. Jolie will preach on this topic: how can we live into the messiness and necessity of change? And how does change call upon our resilience?

February 9 “Learning From Survivors ”

In our worship service today, we will hear the words of survivors of intimate partner abuse. We will also reflect on the insights of theologians Dr. Dolores Williams, Rev. Rebecca Parker, and Dr. Rita Nakashima-Brock. How do we make meaning in the aftermath of violence? Rev. Jolie preaching.

February 19 “Creating Justice”

How do we create justice? At UU Mass Action we center the leadership of those who are directly impacted by injustice and work within coalitions to build the power needed for systemic change in our Commonwealth. Join us to learn about what’s happening and how you can get involved.



Guest Speaker Laura Wagner, MSW, is the Executive Director of UU Mass Action which is the State Action Network for Unitarian Universalists in Massachusetts. Her role is to organize and mobilize UUs to confront injustice and to provide opportunities for us to live our values and principles.

Laura Wagner has been a Unitarian Universalist for more than 25 years. During this time, she has held many lay leader positions but her primary focus has always been social justice.

February 23 “Generations of Resilience “

Black Freedom organizer from the Civil Rights era Ella Baker said, “We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.” Rev. Jolie will lead worship today on the renewal of spirit that can come from organizing to change conditions of oppression and exploitation.

Monthly Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Jolie **Thursday, February 13 at Noon in the Vestry**



If you are around town and can take a break at church, bring your bagged lunch to enjoy some fellowship and open-ended conversation together. No agenda. Open to members, friends, and visitors of UCS. Please RSVP to minister@uusharon.org or (781) 784-3652 x2, if you are planning to come.

From the Minister



We will be considering the theme of Resilience in our worship services during the month of February. I have noticed that the word “resilient” more and more these days, a buzzword in everything from nonprofit mission statements to the blurbs on the back

of organic milk cartons. Faced with climate crisis and a bitterly divided nation, faced with the rise of fear-mongering nationalism at home and around the globe, we may feel anxious and brittle, we may be yearning for an assurance of our resilience. And just like “sustainable,” the concept of “resilience” is both crucially important to our survival, and also at risk of being over-used to the point of losing meaning. Where can true resilience be found?

Kenny Wiley, a lifelong UU and core team member of Black Lives of UU (BLUU), reflects on the relationship between joy and resilience in a [2015 UU World](#) article. The article is about personal experiences of racial profiling and the power of Black friendship to help him through. Wiley writes, “The healing kind of laughter doesn’t minimize the seriousness of what happened [in the racial profiling incident] or give up the struggle against injustice. The healing kind of laughter comes from being in community with people who truly understand.” He also writes about Maya Angelou’s friendship with James Baldwin, and how laughing with Baldwin helped her in the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s assassination. I offer this reflection-within-a-reflection for its insights into resilience and in honor of Black History Month:

Maya Angelou turned forty on April 4, 1968. She had planned a big party in Harlem, with many of the day’s black intellectual elite among the guests. History had other ideas; Dr. King’s assassination sent Angelou into a weeks-long depression. It was fellow writer James Baldwin who helped her dig out of it. Angelou recalls Baldwin’s assistance in her book A Song Flung Up to Heaven, where she writes that laughter and ancestral guidance got her through:

There was very little serious conversation. The times were so solemn and the daily news so somber that we snatched mirth from unlikely places and gave servings of it to one another with both hands... I told Jimmy I was so glad to laugh. Jimmy said, “We survived slavery. You know how we survived? We put surviving into our poems and into our songs. We put it into our folk tales. We danced surviving in Congo Square in New Orleans and put it in our pots when we cooked pinto beans... we knew, if we wanted to survive, we had better lift our own spirits. So we laughed whenever we got the chance.

Resilience is nothing new, and it’s not just a way to attract funders, it doesn’t just sound good in ad copy. People have called upon deep resilience in the context of terrible oppression for countless generations. What is it that puts you in touch with your resilience? Faced with the gravity of our times, do you feel tired, or resilient, or

both?

In congregational news, I am happy to report that we have assembled a great team to search for our next Religious Education Director. Andrea Pannone and Christian Roulleau on behalf of the RE Committee, Marcia Tranavitch on behalf of the Personnel Committee, and I are working together on this search. We have decided to search for an Interim DRE, to help guide us through the period to follow Louise Marcoux’s 16 years of loving service to our congregation. To hire an Interim DRE accords with recommendations from our Unitarian Universalist Association: after a long-serving DRE, it is good to enter into an intentional time of transition with leadership dedicated to the process of change. Much like an Interim Minister, an Interim DRE serves for one or two years, and prepares the way for our next settled Religious Education professional. We will keep you posted on the process as updates are available, and we welcome your input and questions.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the Director of Religious Education



A visit from Marie Kondo

I imagine that some folks who are familiar with my penchant for gathering free resources and holding onto “useful things” must be wondering -- what will happen to all that stuff when Louise leaves? Will

our new DRE be stuck with figuring out what to do with it?? The good news is that Leslie Cox and I have been thinking about this too, and we’re on to it.

Over the next few months, we’ll be identifying which resources do not “spark joy” and we’ll be letting them go. Mind you, we will avoid throwing things out as much as possible. The goal will be to give stuff away to people and organizations who can use it. If you would like to help facilitate this giveaway, please contact me. Or if you or someone you know would like to be included in this giveaway, please let me know. You’ll get first dibs, followed by Share Sharon -- our local Facebook giveaway network.

There’s another dimension to this situation -- what do we do with the genuinely useful things that do spark joy (like the fabulous rising sun from Revels)? We need to find places outside of the church to store beloved items that are used for a few weeks of the year. Again we need to turn to the whole congregation: Would you have a place in your attic to store a few items for the RE program?

With luck and effort, we’ll have a beautifully organized RE storage closet -- and a navigable RE office -- by the time the candidates are being given a tour of the building.

Blessings,
Louise

Are you concerned about racial and economic justice, and want to take action locally?

SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

Sunday Feb 9
3:00-5:00pm

SHARON INTERFAITH ACTION
in partnership with
the Sharon Racial Equity Alliance
and The Road to Diversity and Understanding

location: Temple Sinai, 25 Canton St. Sharon

GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS COMING TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

General Assembly (GA), the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from around the country and beyond, is coming to Providence, RI this June 24-28. It's a great time to immerse yourself in the wider UU world on a large scale, through workshops, lectures, worship, discussion, networking, exploring the exhibit hall, and just hanging out with old and newly met friends. There's a great program for high school youth, who participate fully in GA via Youth Caucus. Visit www.uua.org/ga to learn more. The full agenda and program details will be posted there around the end of this month, but meanwhile rest assured that each day will be packed with varied opportunities to be enlightened, challenged, entertained and engaged. There's something for everyone at GA. Just ask some of our members, including graduates of our youth program, who've attended in past years about the GA experience.

You can register for the entire conference, or for one day, and if attending full-time can apply to earn free registration by serving as a GA volunteer. Our congregation is also entitled to three voting delegates for the business sessions. And everyone, registered or not, is invited to attend the three big communal worship services--the Service of the Living Tradition, the youth-young adult Synergy/Bridging Service, and Sunday Morning Worship.

After this year, General Assembly heads far westward and southward for several years, so it won't be this close again for a long time. And it's good to plan now, because the early registration rates last only through March 15. See you there?

Beyond Our Walls Committee

We had a good showing at the North Easton Unity Church Holiday Music Service in December. I think all that went will agree that it was an enjoyable service in a beautiful church. On February 16th, at 10:30, President's Day weekend, there will be a shared service in Stoughton. Our church will have a service that day but if you are interested in seeing another church's service, this is a good opportunity.

On January 11th Sharon staffed the Community Closet, our Cluster's free clothing distribution aimed towards Brockton's needy. It went so well we used up all the winter clothes in storage! Thanks to those who helped. Our next opportunity will be in April. Many thanks to whoever donated brand new winter jackets over the last two weeks. Please enclose a note when you do things like that so we can thank you in a more appropriate manner. You rock!

Elsewhere in the Chalice you will see articles on the upcoming General Assembly (the UU annual meeting) and "[We Did It For You](#)" play at the Rodman Theater in Foxboro on 2/16. Both are worth serious consideration.

Jim Mullin

Memory Tea

SAVE THE DATE: March 8, 2020 2 to 4 PM in the Vestry of the Unitarian Church of Sharon



The Caring Committee will host the annual Memory Tea. All member's and friends are invited.

This gathering is a special event where those who have lost a loved one are invited to share a story, photo or memento with others in a safe and supportive space.

Tea and light refreshments will be served.

RSVP Nina Lynch 781-436-5694 or ninalynch@comcast.net or

Joyce Bramhall 781-784-6891
Joyce.Bramhall@gmail.com

Endowment Committee

Intent Form

The endowment committee would like to know whether you have included the church in your estate plans or have the intention of doing so. We will report the number of members who respond positively at each annual meeting. We hope that as these numbers increase, the church over time will accrue a substantial endowment that will further the goals of the church in perpetuity.

To inform us about your intent, you can either fill out the online [Intent Form by clicking here](#) OR print out the newsletter, cut out the form below and leave it in the Endowment Committee's mailbox in the administrative office.

If you have any questions, please email us at endowment@uusharon.org

Submitted by David Schoenfeld

Intent Form

I/we have or intend to include the church in my/our estate plans:

Name(s):

Address:

Eastern Bank Parking on Sundays an update:

Or neighbors at Eastern Bank remain open to our use of their parking lot on Sunday mornings, but they do have 24/7 customer services available and they need to keep several parking slots open for their own use, even when we overflow into their space. **Please** check the photo below and avoid using the 4 marked spots closest to the ATM machine at the back of their building - we, along with likely other folks on other business in the center of town on Sunday mornings, have often filled the lot to the max and left bank users scrambling for a way to visit their own bank. Let's be mindful of being good neighbors.



SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

There will be a gathering at the Drisko home (105 Beach Street) on Sunday evening, Feb 2nd at 6pm, to watch the Super Bowl, socialize, and speculate on the 7th Ring that could have been. We do not wallow in misery, so come and have a good time. Food and beverages are provided. Bring a finger food to share if convenient. Squares are available for purchase in the vestry after Sunday worship service or by calling Rory McGregor (508-400-4719) to place your order. It's always an enjoyable evening. See you there. Courtesy of the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund.



A little kid needs YOU!

A call for volunteers: Would it do your heart good to hold a baby every once in a while? Our nursery providers would appreciate the help of on-call volunteers to assist in the nursery when attendance is high. We've been blessed with a solid cohort of infants and toddlers -- and when numbers rise past 6, we like to have a third adult in the room. It's hard to predict when this will happen, but we want to be prepared when the time comes. We hope to develop a pool of on-call nursery volunteers. It's a once-in-a-while commitment that supports our growing congregation. Background check required. Safety training provided. Get more information or sign up by clicking here [Sign up here](#) or on the RE Bulletin Board in the Vestry.



Religious Education News

February in RE

What's Happening in RE in February: Love is the Doctrine of this Church

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** class will learn that they are part of a wonderful variety of Unitarian Universalist families that make up the whole congregational family. They will make a special jigsaw puzzle that demonstrates all these connections. In honor of Valentine's Day, the children will share their love for others by making gifts for friends and family.

The **Grade 1-2** class continues with Our Whole Lives (OWL) and will learn about: taking care of their bodies, bodily privacy and sexual abuse prevention; family life in all of it's diversity; and the emotions and adjustments that come up when there is change in family (i.e., a new baby is born). Children in grades 1-2 who are not participating in OWL are welcome to join the P-K or Grade 3-6 class. See Louise Marcoux dre@uusharon.org for details.

The **Grade 3-6** class will focus on beloved community and how love can radiate out into the world. They will hear the story of "The Mish-Mash Heart" and learn how love becomes richer when it is given away or shared--they then will have the opportunity to make a collage representation of their own "mish-mash hearts." They will also hear the stories of four influential figures: Joseph Tuckerman, Unitarian Universalism's first community minister who worked with poor families of Boston sailors and Henry David Thoreau, Mohandas Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr., prophetic leaders in different times, who found the power of peace.

The **Grade 7-8** class has been working with the Crossing Paths curriculum studying world religions all year and thus far, have learned about Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In February, they finish up their study of of Islam, by reflecting on their recent visit to the Islamic Center of New England. For the remainder of the month, they will shift their focus to the study of Hinduism. They will learn about Samsara (the perpetual cycle of birth and death), Bhakti (the path of devotion) meditation and explore the similarities and differences between Unitarian Universalism and Hinduism.

Leslie Cox, Administrative Assistant

Coming of Age meetings in February

THE THEME: **Our UU Heritage**

Tuesday, Feb 4: Youth only
Tuesday, Feb 25: Youth and Mentors

Please bring your journal to every meeting!

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! This past month we went out for dinner at Stone L'oven Pizza and began planning our Pancake/Waffle Breakfast. Upcoming in February is our the PanWaff and planning for our Youth Led Service in March!



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

In December, JYFG went questing at Boda Borg! We'll meet next in February for a murder mystery dinner! 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.

RE Volunteer Enrichment Workshop: Games for Group Development

Want to learn more about how fun and games can strengthen the bonds between group members or shift group dynamics? Twinks Hastings, game leader extraordinaire, will lead a work/playshop for YOU on Saturday, February 29, at 2 pm. RSVP on the RE Bulletin Board in the Vestry or by clicking on this link: [RSVP for Games with Twinks!](#) Please save the date for this fun and highly informative program.



Twinks Hastings is the Director of Religious Education at First Parish Brewster.

February Programs

Music and Arts

Not Just Another Coffeehouse

Tema Brasil

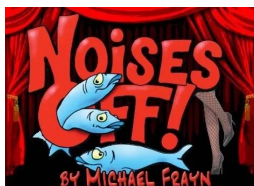
Saturday February 15th 7PM, Tickets:\$15

Steve Tapper, Robert Tarchara, Richie Medeiros and Shira Moss, will give us a night of Brazilian music from the 1930's to now, (choro, samba, bossa nova, tropicalia), by Pixinguina, Ary Barroso, Dorival Caymmi, Luiz Bonfá, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Baden Powell, Carlos Lyra, Caetano Veloso, Djavan, and many others – for the second set, they will perform Antonio Carlos Jobim's 1965 album "The Composer Plays" in its entirety in order. Steve Tapper (flute) and Robert Tarchara (guitar) have been playing Brazilian music together since 2001 and have delighted audiences around this area. This will be the premier performance of the band at the coffee house and we expect something special.



www.notjustanothercoffeehouse.org

The 2019 UU Theater Nights



Join us for **NOISES OFF!** at Mass Music and Arts Society (MMAS) **Sat. Mar 14 at 8pm** (note date change due to UU calendar conflict) Called "the funniest farce ever written," **Noises Off** presents a

manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called Nothing's On. Doors slamming, on and offstage intrigue, and an errant herring all figure in the plot of this hilarious and classically comic play. Don't wait to get your tickets. This one WILL sell out!

BLITHE SPIRIT Fri. June 19. A comic play by Noël Coward.

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.

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.

A theatrical opportunity for all ages and genders-- **"We Did It For You! Women's Journey Through History"**

"Run, don't walk to see this magnificent performance!" Women's Information Network

*"So outstanding, I got goose bumps and cried. Much better than reading about the women in a book."
Lilly Ledbetter, Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*

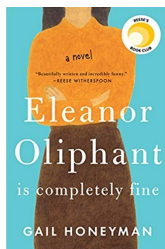
Join fellow UUs from the Five Points Cluster (and bring a friend) to be entertained and inspired by UU playwright Thea Ibarra's musical *We Did it For You*, chronicling the long uphill journey for women's rights. We'll meet for a performance on Sunday, **February 16 at 1:00 PM** at the Marilyn Rodman Performing Arts Center (Orpheum Theater) in Foxboro center. Gather after the play at a reception in the theater lounge, sponsored by the Cluster, to chat and share your responses over refreshments. You're invited to visit the website www.wediditforyou.org for more information about this remarkable play and its performances.

Advance tickets are \$15 (\$13.50 seniors/students), or you can pay \$20 (\$18.50 s/s) at the door. Book tickets at mrpac.boottix.com or by calling the box office at 508 543-2787.

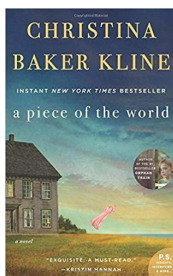
February Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – The Book Group will meet in the church library at 7pm on Wednesday, February 5th, to discuss Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*. The novel won the 2017 Costa Debut Novel Award. Eleanor Oliphant is an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit take the reader on an interesting journey.



For March 5th, we will read the Sharon One Book, One Town selection, *A Piece of the World*, by Christina Baker Kline, a novel of friendship, passion, and art, inspired by Andrew Wyeth's mysterious and iconic painting *Christina's World*.



Remember, you don't need to have finished the book to come join the conversation.

Let's Laugh You can learn how to add more laughter to your life in 2020 by attending Let's Laugh Today on Saturday, February 8th at 11am (and every second Saturday) and/or Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00pm (and every fourth Wednesday) in Program Rooms A/B. You can attend one or both of these FREE one hour sessions! 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. People of all ages and all levels of physical abilities can participate. No prior experience is necessary. You can sit or stand. There are no poses. New laughers are always welcomed! Please bring your water bottle because laughing can be dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Master Trainers, Bill and Linda Hamaker. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or



[e-mail billandlinda@letslaughtertoday.com](mailto:billandlinda@letslaughtertoday.com). See www.letslaughtertoday.com. THERE WILL BE FREE CHOCOLATE TO CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY!

Meditation Group meets weekly. It is an open group, available to anyone who cares to give it a try. We meet Tuesdays at 7pm for one hour of silent

meditation. The one-hour period is divided into two sitting periods with an optional period of walking meditation in the middle. This division also allows participants to join us for just 30 minutes of meditation and then leave, without any disruption, instead of (or after) the walking meditation. Please call Susan Allison or Ray Wallace with any questions.

Movie Group will watch “*Le Quattro Volte*” on February 14 at 7:15PM **new time** This visual poem brings to life Pythagora's theory that the soul moves from human to animal to vegetable to mineral in its evolutionary journey. Wordlessly, the film follows an elderly Italian goat herder as he makes the remarkable transition.



Seeing White: Seeing White - is a discussion space in which white people are able to explore what whiteness is and how whiteness operates in our society. Our February meeting happens on Sunday, February 23 at 7:30 pm. Participants are asked to listen to the *Scene On Radio* podcast *Episode 40 (Seeing White, part 10): "Citizen Thind"* prior to our meeting. [click here](#)

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.

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.



2020 *One Book One Town* SHARON READS TOGETHER

A Piece of the World BY CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE

ART CHALLENGE – DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 16

Create a work of art showing *A Piece of MY World*. Mediums accepted: paint, pastel, pencil, ink or charcoal. Maximum size: 18 x 24. Prizes awarded. Winners announced and the finalists' art displayed at *An Evening with Author Christina Baker Kline*. Email digital photo of artwork as a jpeg attachment to obotsharon@gmail.com. Guidelines at onebookonetown.org.

WRITING CONTEST – DEADLINE TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Write about *A Piece of MY World*. All genres accepted: memoir, fiction, poetry, essay. All ages: child to adult. 500 word maximum. Prizes awarded. **Special High School Senior \$250 Award Category sponsored by Whitney Place.** Email submissions in the body of the email (attachments will not be opened) to obotsharon@gmail.com. Guidelines at onebookonetown.org.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

An Unlikely Story Bookstore and Café, 111 South Street, Plainville
Brooke Gideon - Children's Event Coordinator
Wednesday, April 1 at 11:00 AM - Noon

Sharon Public Library, 11 North Main Street

Miki Wolfe - Assistant Library Director
Monday, April 6 at 1:00 – 2:15 PM

Hilary Umbreit - Information Services Librarian
Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 – 7:45 PM

An Evening with Author Christina Baker Kline

Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 – 9:30 PM.

Sharon Middle School, 75 Mountain Street

- Talk and book signing. \$10 Adult; \$8 Seniors and Students. Purchase tickets online at <https://sharonobot.brownpapertickets.com> or call 1-800-838-3006.
- Display of the Art Challenge finalists in the Sharon Middle School lobby.
- Art Challenge winners will be announced.
- Books by Christina Baker Kline will be available for on-site purchase from *An Unlikely Story Bookstore and Café*.



Photo credit: Karin Dione

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL PLAY by David Harrell:

A Little Potato and Hard to Peel.

Partnered with the Sharon Commission on Disabilities

Saturday, April 11 at 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

Everwood Day Camp, 125 Lakeview Street, Sharon

David Harrell is an award-winning actor who was born without his right hand. He speaks with humor and humility and delivers a hilarious and insightful look at living with a disability. Appropriate for ages 10-100.

Design by Carol Abrams, www.abramdesign.com

PAINT WITH ARTIST CAROL ABRAM

Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Whitney Place, 675 South Main Street

Advance registration required at obotsharon@gmail.com.

\$15 per person payable at the door. Appropriate for ages 12-100. Event limited to 40 participants.

ANDREW WYETH: LIFE, ART AND THE OLSON FARM

Presented by Judith Lipsky

Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Sharon Adult Center, 219 Massapoag Avenue

Judith Lipsky talks about *A Piece of the World* from Andrew Wyeth's perspective through a presentation of pictures, artwork and anecdotes.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS TOUR

A SHARON COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENT

Saturday, April 25 at 9:20 AM – 3:00 PM

Customized one-hour tour of the museum's Art of the Americas focusing on Realist artists, New England and Maine artists and related subject matter, followed by free time for museum browsing and lunch on your own before boarding the bus to Sharon at 1:50 PM.



- Advance registration required with Sharon Community Education at www.sharoncommunityeducation.com or in person or by mail at 77 Pond Street.
- \$19 per person includes the bus, museum entry and docent tour.
- Meet at the Sharon High School (181 Pond Street) at 9:20 AM for the bus to Boston. Return bus to Sharon departs the museum at 1:50 PM.

One Book is grateful to the Museum of Fine Arts for providing a specifically curated-tour celebrating *A Piece of the World*.

WRITING CONTEST CELEBRATORY READING & AWARDS

Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Whitney Place, 675 South Main Street

Winners will read their *A Piece of MY World* entries. As time allows, others may share their stories.

All events are open to the public and not limited to residents of Sharon. For more information and snow closings, go to www.onebookonetown.org or visit the Facebook page for One Book, One Town: Sharon Reads Together



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ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE



Thank you to our sponsors
Whitney Place and
Connie & Dan Mayo.



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Here is the latest SJC news about what's happening related to social justice here at the UCS. We all participant in these efforts, one way or another, and working as a community, our impact is felt within and beyond our walls. Learn more about 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.

During December, we are once again supported the **5 local food pantries** in our surrounding communities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton and Stoughton/ Sharon through the Brown Envelope program. We raised \$1243.88, which was rounded up to \$1500 when the committee voted to use our discretionary funds, thus allowing us to send \$300 to each pantry. Additionally, as has been our tradition for many years, the entire collection from our Christmas Eve services was donated to the **Father Bill's & MainSpring House** program for the homeless in our area. Your gifts of \$721.00 was again rounded up with SJ funds, resulting in a donation worth \$1200 to our partners in Brockton. As it happens, this gift is eligible for a 1:1 match from a patron of the shelter, so our funds will have twice the impact this year.

In January 2020, the Brown E collection will go to support the work of the **Equal Justice Initiative** (www.eji.org), an Alabama based organization led by Bryan Stephenson. The EJI is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting the basic human rights of the most vulnerable people in America. The work of the EJI is the basis for both the book (2014) and movie *Just Mercy* (in theaters now).

The February Brown Envelope collection will support the work of **UUMass Action** (uumassaction.org), the organization that unifies UUs from across the state for social justice causes:

VISION: A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE HONORED AND VALUED

"Our mission is to organize and mobilize UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression. We provide pathways towards justice and identify opportunities in which we

can live our values. and feature local landmarks."



UUs from across the state gather to raise their voices for social justice.

The 5C GROUP

Responding to Climate Change through Curiosity, Compassion and Connection

The 5C Group grew out of a much needed space where we could come together and share our emotions and thoughts about the devastation our planet is facing, born from the disconnect that has occurred between humans and nature. While each meeting focuses on a different topic, each one is designed to create a safe space to share authentically our own relationship to nature as well as what we are experiencing as a result of climate change. In this sharing, we lean on the support of each other and by processing various emotions, such as grief, anger, guilt and powerlessness, we set an intention to leave feeling more hopeful, resilient and empowered to move forward and take the action that is needed to save our planet, each in our own way.

Many of us are feeling an increasing urgency in dealing with the devastating effects we humans have had on our environment and the natural world and in light of this, I have decided to revert back to the original use of the word 'Crisis' (versus 'Change') in the nomenclature for the group. In fact, one aspect of our next group meeting will be to allow expression for this sense of urgency and how we may choose to move forward. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 16th after coffee hour and we hope you will join us. (Note that this is a change from the tentative date of February 23rd listed in last month's Chalice). Currently, childcare is not provided, however if we know in advance that it is needed, we will try to arrange for such care. If you would like more information about the 5C group or would like to be added to our group email list, please contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Transgender Inclusion Workshops



Last month we successfully launched the Transforming Hearts Collective 6 session online course -

Transgender Inclusion in Congregations. We were so pleased that a number of you signed up to participate in engaging in the course either by attending group meetings here at church or viewing the videos individually. Members of the Transforming Hearts Collective Working Group hosted each of the meetings here at church, and as of this writing, the response from the participants was very positive, with almost all expressing interest in attending a group meeting in February to watch Session 2- Gender and Our Faith Community.

The dates which have been set in February for viewing Session 2 (subject to change) are in the table below:

DATE	TIME	HOST
Sat Feb 8	1:00 - 3:00pm	Christian Roulleau
Wed Feb 12	10:30 - 12:30pm	Barbara Nelkin-Rose
Thu Feb. 13	7:00 - 9:00pm	Christian Roulleau
Mon Feb 17 (President's Day)	11:00 - 1:00pm	Linda Fingerson
Wed Feb 26	7:15 - 9:15pm	Barbara Nelkin-Rose
Thu Feb 27	7:30 - 8:30pm (Discussion only)	Mia Joiner-Moore

The groups for each of these dates are open to all who have watched Session 1, and you are free to attend a different session time than you did in January. Walk Ins are also welcome - we just ask that you arrive on time and that you check with the Host listed to insure that the meeting is still scheduled. If you did not have a chance to attend any of the group meetings for Session 1 in January and would like an opportunity to do so in February, please let one of us know and if we have enough interest, perhaps we can schedule some additional dates in February for the review/discussion of Session 1. You are also welcome to view Session 1 at home and join us for a group meeting for Session 2 in February.

The Do It Now Table: We will continue to have Sign Up Sheets available at the Do It Now Table for the February dates or if you just want to sign up to receive the Access Code for the course. If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask one of the Hosts listed above.

Mark Your Calendar: We are excited to have Zr. Alex Kapitan, one of the founders of The Transforming Hearts Collective, and one of the lecturers for the Transgender Inclusion course, join us on Sunday, March 29th. Alex will be sharing the pulpit with Jolie during the 10:30 service, and will lead a Workshop after coffee hour. More information to come in next month's Chalice.

We are so appreciative to those who have already participated in this project and we look forward to continuing this journey with you and welcoming more of you to join us on this journey. We encourage everyone to lean into this wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of gender and transgender identities and gain additional skills in practicing Beloved Community.

Voices for Action Social Justice Forum

Sunday, February 9th, 3-5PM
 Temple Sinai, 25 Canton St., Sharon.
 Light Refreshments Served
 Organized by Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA)

If you are concerned about racial and economic justice and you are looking for a way to connect with others who also care and want to make a difference, than we invite you to make your voice heard by attending the Voices for Action Social Justice Forum. This Forum is the first step for people from Sharon and nearby towns to come together in a community

action campaign organized by Sharon Interfaith Action for the purpose of identifying and taking action on a local or statewide racial or economic justice issue that is of deep concern to those attending. Every participant will have an opportunity to voice the issue(s) that most concerns them and an action plan will then be developed at a future meeting to address the specific issue which receives the highest number of votes. We hope you will join us.

If you would like to attend or would like further information, please contact Beth Hoke, Barbara Nelkin-Rose or Janet Schmidt.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Green Team update:

The Green Team continues to explore ways for the UCS to live our values in a complex world. We work with other groups and programs at church to find ways to reduce our environmental impact, and to educate ourselves on the choices that we make as individuals and as a faith community. All are welcome to attend monthly meetings where a wide range of topics are examined (next meeting is Thursday, 20 February, 7pm). A recent success was our finding an environmentally sound juice cup for youth snacks at Coffee Hour, which is fully compostable via our use of Sharon's Black Earth Compost program. Perfect answers are often elusive, but we are working together to find better ways to live lightly on this planet. Read below for a recap of our weekly Green Tip offering found in the Order of Service each Sunday.

Green Tips from the last month:

January 26th

Did you know that wastewater treatment plants are responsible for an estimated 3 percent of greenhouse gas emissions globally? Reducing waste water is another means to reduce your carbon footprint. Save water and money by installing low-flow toilets, shower heads and faucets.



For a household of four people, this means over 100,000 liters of water saved per year. <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/low-flow-fixtures-types-benefits-and-costs-844731>

January 19th

Did you know that recycled toilet paper is more sustainable than hemp or bamboo alternatives? Check out this link to see how sustainable your current brand is, to learn more about how to discern your best purchasing options, or to consider the most sustainable option, a bidet! <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/hemp-bidets-bamboo-tissue-faq-fs.pdf>

January 12th

Did you know that using dryer balls can reduce your energy bill? They assist in separating your wet clothing and allow for the hot air from the dryer to dry your clothes more efficiently. Additionally, they are a great substitute for chemically-saturated dryer sheets. <https://www.greenandgrowing.org/best-dryer-balls-eco-friendly-laundry/>

January 5th

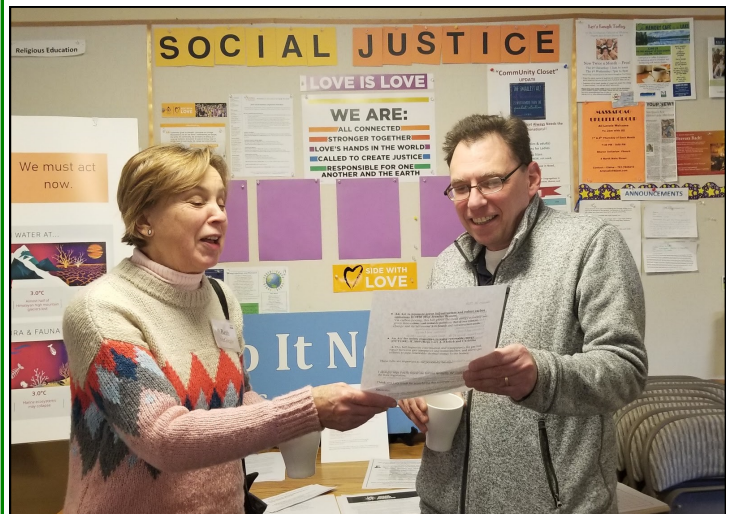
Is reducing what you consume on your resolution list? Wherever possible, replace disposable products with reusable ones (i.e., razor, food storage, batteries, ink cartridges (buy refill ink), coffee filters, furnace or air conditioner filters, etc.). <http://www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm>

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

Legislative update:

Thank you, David Slater. David is our new Social Justice Climate Legislation lead. Currently, he is working on the Climate Legislation in our Massachusetts legislative committees. His goal is to get the legislation out of committee with a favorable vote. Then, he will guide us in continuing to work to get the legislation passed into law. Going forward, David will clarify the legislation, lead actions, make the legislation easier to understand, help us contact legislators and coordinate our congregation with actions at the State House. David will also be our liaison to UU Mass Action, Mass Power Forward and other climate advocacy organizations. He can be found on Sunday mornings in the Vestry at the Do It Now table to keep us up to date on what our congregation can do to pass climate justice laws and policies. A win for everyone!

Again, Thank You, David (submitted by Elizabeth Siftar, Social Justice Co-chair)



David Slater and Beth McGregor review climate legislation and action plans.

Community Closet update:

Located at the UU Church of Brockton, the Community Closet is a project of our Five Point Cluster of UU Churches. Donated clothing is offered free to the community on the 2nd Saturday of most months - your donations are greatly appreciated. And please mark your calendars for a **Benefit Concert** by the Sharon High School Musical Department here at the church on the evening of Tuesday, 28 April. A clothing drive and donations at the door that evening will be used to support the Closet - more details next month.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

Preparing for the 2020 Mother's Day Walk for Peace



Peace-ing It Together: Examine Racism, Stereotypes, & the Root Causes of Violence

The Peace Institute is offering a **three-day workshop** for allies who want to deepen their understanding of racism as a root cause of violence and do more to support our peace

building work. This course confronts the stigma and stereotypes about urban communities of color. We will focus on ways that allies can engage in meaningful service and challenge racism in their own communities. Held at the Peace Institute:

March 18, 2020, 5:30pm - 8:00pm

March 20, 2020 9:00am - 4:00pm

March 21, 2020, 9:00am - 1:00pm

(Facilitated by Peace Institute and Visions Inc. staff; participants must be able to attend all three sessions. Meals and materials provided. **March 18** dinner served, **March 20** lunch, and **March 21** light breakfast.)

Ongoing Social Justice opportunities:

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!

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 2 February - SJC monthly meeting, Library, noon

Saturday, 8 February - Transgender Workshop #2, A/B, 1-3pm

Sunday, 9 February - MSH lunch making, Vestry, 11:30am

Wednesday, 12 February - Transgender Workshop #2, A/B, 10:30am-12:30pm

Thursday, 13 February - Transgender Workshop #2, A/B, 7-9pm

Sunday, 16 February - 5C Group meeting, A/B, noon

Monday, 17 February (Presidents' Day) - Transgender Workshop #2, A/B, 11am-1pm

Thursday, 20 February - Green Team meeting, A/B, 7pm

Wednesday, 26 February - Transgender Workshop #2, A/B, 7:15-9:15pm

Thursday, 27 February - Transgender Workshop #2, A/B, 7:30-8:30pm (discussion only)

Sunday, 29 March - Service & Workshop w/ Zr. Alex Kapitan, Transforming Hearts Collective



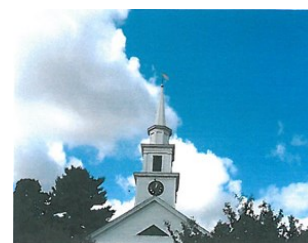
Sept. 20, 2019: Climate Strike - UCS members supporting Sharon High School students

UCS FEBRUARY CALENDAR

To view up to date calendar and to reserve a meeting space please go to

<https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2020-02/>

Conversations
At the Meetinghouse



MILITARY AND POLITICAL REALIGN- MENTS IN SYRIA TODAY

STUART SEARS, PH.D.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020, 7 PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

The past year has seen the destruction of the caliphate of the Islamic State, the further marginalization of the Free Syrian Army, and the near withdrawal of the United States. This has opened opportunities for nation states in the region, as well as the Russians, to assert their influence over Syrian territory. Syria's future, however, continues to be in doubt. The new configuration of forces does little to resolve the grievances underlying the Syrian civil war. This raises the possibility for insurgencies and new conflict between the states operating in Syria.

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

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



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