

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
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MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Friday, March 20

Inside this issue

RE News	5
March Programs	6
Social Justice	8
Transgender Inclusion Workshop	9

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: WISDOM

10:00 am Family Service

10:30 am Adult Service

March 1 Making Good Mistakes

Philosopher and cognitive scientist Daniel C Dennett wrote, "Instead of turning away in denial when you make a mistake, you should become a connoisseur of your own mistakes, turning them over in your mind as if they were works of art, which they are." In our worship today we will reflect on how wisdom can come from practicing this art of making good mistakes, and being open to the grace of learning. Rev. Jolie preaching.

March 8 2020 Vision: Stewardship Campaign Kickoff

We need our church to help us have 2020 Vision: to help us see goodness clearly in a world blurred by divisiveness, scarcity, and greed. Join us in the vision of abundance, vitality, and connection that are the gifts of congregational life. Rev. Jolie preaching.

March 15 That to Which I Give My Heart

Our Unitarian Universalist Association writes, "the concept of 'credo,' usually thought of as a statement of individual belief, can be traced etymologically to the notion of 'that to which I give my heart'—a commitment that is more emotional than intellectual." What do you give your heart to? How does this community help you do that? Join us for our annual Credo Service and join in reflecting on your fellow congregants' Credo Statements.

March 22 Senior Youth Group Service on Origins

As signs of spring remind us of all that comes back, we pause to consider where things come from. Join Senior Youth Group for an enlightening exploration as we delve into origin stories.

March 29 Trans Inclusion and Radical Welcome

In today's political climate, being a Welcoming Congregation requires more than simply opening our doors to LGBTQ people. We are called to practice radical welcome. Today's guest preacher is Alex Kapitan of the Transforming Hearts Collective, which created the Trans Inclusion in Congregations class we have been engaging with in small groups over the last several months. Come dig deeper into how radical welcome and trans inclusion are spiritual practices and matters of the heart, not just the head. Rev. Jolie will help lead the service as well. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Guest speaker Zr. Alex Kapitan (pronouns: ze/per) is a lay community minister, educator, editor, consultant, and activist. A trans and queer lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Alex grounds radical social justice work in a place of faith and love, and also does interfaith ministry to help queer and trans people connect to religion and spirituality. Ze is the co-founder of the Transforming Hearts Collective and founder of Radical Copyeditor, an anti-oppressive language project. Ze lives in Greenfield, in western MA.



From the Minister



Dear Friends,

The headlines are unnerving right now, with daily reports on the spread of coronavirus, talk of pandemic, travel bans, and quarantines. As in any intense media cycle, we might ask ourselves, how do we distinguish the coverage that helps us pre-

pare and stay informed from the coverage that exacerbates panic and generates clicks and high ratings? This is a good time to stay in touch with the things that keep us grounded in the face of uncertainty. Sometimes when the news makes me feel frantic, I take a deep breath and start with just noticing how scary it can all seem, and then I make some space for that emotion and try to offer myself some compassion. This can also be a time for prayer: for health and wellbeing, that we can contain this virus, and that our efforts to contain the spread of illness don't just become another theater for repression. And for those impacted by grief, for the lives lost, for the loved ones of those who have died, let us hold them in our hearts and prayers as well.

I wonder, how do you feel about election season? Maybe you are energized by election time, or hopeful and excited about it. Or perhaps you are stressed to think of the long, potentially quite dirty slog ahead of us. The stakes are high, with climate crisis and fossil fuel usage continuing largely unchecked, humanitarian crises at our border and in our prison system, and a host of other social ills. I am concerned about the impacts of new laws that increase voter suppression and threaten voting rights. I also get frustrated by the tendency of elections to reduce democracy to what amounts to a contest, a competition, a horse race. A healthy democracy takes so much more than choosing between what so often feels like the lesser of two evils. Twentieth century Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams lived in Germany during the rise of Nazism, and his experience with the entrenchment of totalitarianism there led him to ask himself as an American, "What disciplines of democracy (except voting) have I habitually undertaken with other people which could serve in any way directly to affect public policy?" He wrote of the importance of voluntary associations for practicing shared decision making, conversing across different viewpoints and perspectives, and dispersing power. What inspires you to engage in building a just and thriving society?

I have another question for you: Have you come to church at 10 am lately? It's pretty great in our sanctuary at 10; you should come! In fact, we're so proud of

what we do at 10 that our DRE, Louise Marcoux, and I will be presenting on our highly engaging multigenerational worship at General Assembly this year. (General Assembly, by the way, is another thing you should consider attending - it's in Providence this year, nice and close! More on that [here](#).) Our 10 am services include singing hymns, sharing joys and concerns, telling stories, and reflecting with people of all ages about matters of the heart and the spirit. It's good for our community to practice being truly multi-generational. It's good for us all to flex those muscles we have that allow us to try worshipping in ways that we may be unfamiliar with, to share sacred space and have sacred conversations with children and adults together. Every week when I'm collaborating with Louise on our family service, I am invited into a space of imagination, and a space of remembering, remembering the curiosity, the insecurity, the convictions, the fears, the hopes of childhood. I am so grateful to our children, youth, and families for helping me stay connected to the truth that Unitarian Universalism comes alive for people of all ages.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Jolie

From the Director of Religious Education



Two Trains

Every Sunday morning, two trains pass one another in Sharon. Both trains are filled with curious truth-seekers. For a second, they can look up and see one another and then, whoosh, they pass.

What might those people on the other train be thinking about? Where does their train take them? What truths have they found?

If you're usually on the 10:28 train that's heading up into the sanctuary on Sunday morning, you will soon have the opportunity to find out. Because the folks on the 10:28 train to religious education will be leading worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 5, at 10:15. Yes, it's a departure from the usual train schedule. But consider the opportunity to connect and learn from the folks who usually whoosh on by!

Between now and then, the folks on the RE train will be working on which truths they want to share and how they want to share them. It's going to be a busy month in RE.

Blessings,

Louise



From the Minister and the President

Our church gives us 2020 Vision!

When we look around us, we see a world splintering under the weight of bitter and divisive political rhetoric. But when we look around our congregation, we see people taking care of one another, paying attention to what matters most, and trying to make the world a better place. Our church helps us see clearly: what connects us runs deeper than what divides us.

We have a clear vision of community, and our church needs YOU to keep this vision alive.

When we look ahead, we see a thriving and sustainable community, new leadership for our congregation, and all of us giving in gratitude together. Please join us in our 2020 Vision!

Our Board of Trustees has committed to living our values by paying our staff equitably. We need to raise the money to pay our staff salaries within the ranges recommended by our Unitarian Universalist Association. Join us in this commitment to our values.

Our search begins for an Interim Director of Religious Education to guide us through a time of transition, following the retirement of our beloved and long-serving DRE, Louise Marcoux. We are committed to increasing the hours for this position to account for the additional work of an interim period. Children and youth are a vital part of our congregation, and our faith calls us into a lifelong search for truth and meaning with people of all ages. *We need an experienced RE leader to bring our excellent religious education program into its next chapter of excellence. Join us in funding this position.*

All of us together: Get Your Glasses for our 2020 Vision

Each year, we ask all our members and friends to pledge their financial support to the church for the next church year. Once you have your pledge in, we'll give you a pair of glasses to decorate and put up on the wall in the vestry, to show everyone you've got 2020 Vision. We need everyone to Get Their Glasses!

The Unitarian Church of Sharon is a vibrant, abundant community. We have a vision that this stewardship campaign will reflect the true vitality and abundance of our congregation. Join us and make this vision a reality: pledge your support today!

Rev. Jolie, Minister

Susan Olson Drisko, President



General Assembly is coming to Providence!

What is General Assembly? It's the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct UUA business, learn and worship together, and lean fully into our UU mission and principles.

From Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28, it's a 5-day immersive experience where we participate in informative workshops and inspirational worship services, meet with old and new friends, and dive into the bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend, returning home with renewed energy and ideas to share with their congregation and community.

The theme for the June 2020 General Assembly is ***Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!*** It's an opportunity to get in touch with our theological roots, get engaged in transforming our faith, and get fired up to take action in the wider world. The Ware Lecturer is Naomi Klein, and **our own Rev. Jolie and DRE Louise** are leading one of the many workshops, sharing our model of participatory family worship. If you're interested in representing our congregation as a delegate in the business meetings, please let the Board know.

To learn more, just go to <https://www.uua.org/ga>, where you can check out the schedule, the theme and some program highlights, and register full or part time.. Full-time registration is \$400 for adults, \$250 for high school youth, and \$150 for off-site (online) registrants. Register by March 15 for the lowest rate; rates will increase on March 16 and again on May 1. You can also register part-time (Wed-Thurs, Fri, or Sat-Sun) for \$200. And registered or not, anyone can attend the three grand open worship services-- the Service of the Living Tradition on Thursday evening, the youth-led Synergy/Bridging service on Friday evening, and Sunday morning worship.

Feel free to ask Beth McGregor any questions you may have. Hope to see you in Providence!

Monthly Brown Bag Lunch with Rev. Jolie Thursday, March 12 at Noon in the Vestry

If you are around town during the day and can take a lunch break at church, join us for our monthly bring-your-own luncheon! No agenda other than enjoying one another's company, open to members, friends, and visitors. ***Coming in April: a Saturday luncheon for those who've been wanting to attend but can't make it on a weekday.***



Spirituality Discussion Group

As part of the UCS commitment to foster the growth of small group ministry, a small group will be forming to discuss the meaning of spirituality in our lives. Spirituality can mean many things, but generally it relates to the connections we feel with a larger presence outside of ourselves combined with a feeling of awe and wonder at the universe. The group's discussions will be organized around a series of readings found in a Skinner House publication called "Gatherings for Reflections and Sharing", as well as other relevant sources. The group will meet monthly, starting on **Sunday April 19th** from 2 to 3 pm. If interested contact Rev. Jolie (781)784-3652x2 / minister@uusharon.org, or Tom D'Avanzo at tdavanzo@yahoo.com. Childcare will be provided if needed; RSVP by April 1.

Tom D'Avanzo



Pysanky for adults

An art-making opportunity for adults on Friday, March 20, from 7 to 9:30 pm. We'll be using a reverse-dye/wax-resist process to decorate eggs the Ukrainian way. Pysanky (puh-ZAHN-kee) offers you the opportunity to meditate on color and form and impermanence as you apply heated beeswax to the surface of an egg and dip your work in a sequence of brilliant dyes.

In the Pysanky Room, time slows down as you focus in on the surface of your egg. If you come at the beginning, you'll have just about enough time to complete one pysanka. Please wear clothing that you don't care about -- the dyes are powerful. No fee for this program. Childcare can be arranged with advance notice. Please contact Louise Marcoux by Sunday, March 15 if you need childcare in order to participate.

SPREAD THE WORD:

WE'RE HIRING!

We are actively searching for an Interim Director of Religious Education, as our long-serving DRE Louise Marcoux will be retiring at the end of June. The Search Team consists of Rev. Jolie, Andrea Pannone and Christian Rouleau as RE Committee Co-Chairs, and Marcia Tranavitch for the Personnel Committee. Here is a link to the job posting:

<https://www.uusharon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/UCS-Interim-DRE-Job-Description.pdf>

Save the Date

Celebration of the Installation of the Rev. Jolie Olivetti as our minister

Sunday afternoon October 25th at 3 PM.

Details to follow.



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

Religious Education News

March in RE

What's Happening in RE: March into Spring!

The **Preschool-Kindergarten** class will build a neighborhood together out of blocks, using their sharing and caring skills and working cooperatively. From 3/8-3/29 the children will be invited to bring their teddy bears to class to broach some potentially scary situations - being sick or lost - in a non-threatening way. The month will end with a teddy bear party! For RE Sunday on 4/5, the P-K children will light the chalice.

The **Grade 1-2** class continues with Our Whole Lives (OWL). The children will learn about conception, pregnancy, birth and the joy of welcoming a new baby in the family. The final OWL session on 3/15 will focus on celebrations and ways we recognize milestones--and ends with a class birthday party! 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. On 3/22 and 3/29, all the grade 1-2 children will be preparing for RE Sunday.

The **Grade 3-6 class** will explore peacemaking and how each of us can find creative solutions to solve conflict, work cooperatively, and cultivate inner peace. They will hear the true story of "The Christmas Truce," during WW I, where soldiers on both sides, abandoned their weapons for a day of peace. They will also hear the story "Serenity, Courage, and Wisdom," in which a girl learns how the "Serenity Prayer" can shed light on a conflict with a friend. They will experience both a walking and a guided meditation and make their own strands of knotted meditation beads. On 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29, they will prep for RE Sunday.

The **Grade 7-8** class will take a leadership role in RE Sunday on 4/5. On 3/1 and 3/8 they will be developing their plan for RE Sunday. On 3/15 they will attend the Credo Sunday Service with parents and on 3/22 they are encouraged to attend the service led by the Senior Youth Group. 3/29 will be devoted to rehearsing for RE Sunday.

Leslie Cox, Administrative Assistant

Coming of Age meetings in March

THE THEME: **Social Justice**

Tuesday, March 3: Youth only
Tuesday, March 17: 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 raised money for Rosie's Place from our PanWaff breakfast and began planning our Youth Led Service. Please join us for worship on March 22nd!



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

In February, JYFG put on our investigation hats for our murder mystery dinner! We'll meet next in March for a tie-dye extravaganza! 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.

Religious Education Volunteers: SAVE THE DATE

Teachers! Mentors! Youth Advisors! Please reserve Sunday, April 5, for the RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The RE Committee invites you and your family to a celebration of your commitment to RE. You make this program great!

UU Family Camps

Please check out family camp offerings at two nearby UU camp and conference centers:

[Ferry Beach: Saco, Maine](#)

[Star Island: Isle of Shoals, New Hampshire](#)

Both places offer a number of weeklong programs that offer engaging activities for all ages. If you have any questions about Ferry Beach family camps, please speak to Alison Reid or Louise Marcoux.

March Programs

Music and Arts



Not Just Another Coffeehouse

Atwater~Donnelly Trio

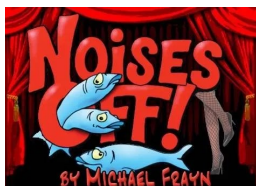
Saturday March 21st 7PM, Tickets:\$15

Back by popular demand Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly add to there previous performances the talents of Cathy Clasper-Torch on violin, cello and Chinese erhu.

The highly acclaimed husband-wife duo, Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly, present delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs, a capella pieces, old-time gospel songs, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood and Aubrey blend gorgeous and unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons, limberjacks, and other surprises including Appalachian clog dancing, French Canadian footwork, and Tap. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood explain song origins to create a deeper understanding of the music and its cultural history. Aubrey and Elwood are joined by Cathy Clasper-Torch, who adds a deeply rich third dimension with fiddle, cello, Chinese erhu and vocals. Since 2003, the Atwater~Donnelly Trio has become a driving force on the regional folk circuit.

Find out more at: 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!

Upcoming show:

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 once a month. The choir does not meet when the school is out. Questions? Contact Forbesy at forbesyrussell@hotmail.com or 781-201-9533.



Becoming Dr. Ruth By Mark St. Germain

MMAS present the moving story of Dr. Ruth Westheimer

Directed by Ken Butler

With Alice Springer as Dr. Ruth

Everyone knows Dr. Ruth Westheimer from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist. Few, however, know the incredible journey that preceded it. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport and joining the Haganah in Jerusalem as a scout and sniper, to her struggles to succeed as a single mother coming to America, Becoming Dr. Ruth is filled with the humor, honesty and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became "Dr. Ruth", America's most famous sex therapist.

April 3 & 4 at 7:30 PM

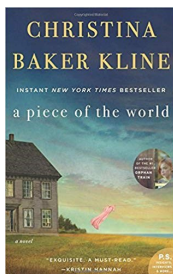
Matinee performances April 4 & 5 at 2 PM

Please note: Held at MMAS' 888 South Main Street

March Programs, continued

Interest and Discussion Groups

Book Group – For March 4th, 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 Today - You are invited to attend Let's Laugh Today on Saturday, March 14th at 11am (and every second Saturday) and/or Wednesday, March 25th 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! Laughter Yoga is a body/mind practice for well-being that involves deep breathing and a few stretches, playful laughter exercises (no jokes or comedy), clapping and deep relaxation. It has many benefits besides the joy of laughter. It can strengthen the immune system, combat the negative effects of stress, and is a powerful antidote to depression and anxiety. 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@letslaughtoday.com. See www.letslaughtoday.com. Special guests will be at the Saturday session and birthday celebration for Bill and Linda will be at the Wednesday session this month.



Meditation Group meets weekly. It is an open group, available to anyone who cares to give it a try. We meet Tuesdays at 7pm for one hour of silent meditation. The one-hour period is divided into two sitting periods with an optional period of walking meditation in the middle. This division also allows participants to join us for just 30 minutes of meditation and then leave, without any disruption, instead of (or after) the walking meditation. Please call Susan Allison or Ray Wallace with any questions.

Seeing White: 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 March meeting happens on Sunday, March

22 at 7:30 pm. Participants are asked to listen to the Scene On Radio podcast Episode 41 (Seeing White, S2 E11): "Danger" 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.

Movie Group will watch **JoJo Rabbit**

In this WWII satire, a lonely German boy, JoJo, has his world turned upside down when he discovers his mother is hiding a young Jewish girl in their attic. In spite of his idiotic imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler, JoJo confronts his blind nationalism.



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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Here is the latest Social Justice news about what's happening here at the UCS. We all participate one way or another in these efforts, and working as a community, our impact is felt both within and beyond our walls. Learn more about some of the 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.

In January 2020, the Brown E collection raised \$1,242.64 to support the work of the **Equal Justice Initiative** (www.eji.org), an Alabama human rights 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 has supported the work of **UUMass Action** (uumassaction.org), the organization that unites UUs from across the state for social justice causes:

"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."

For the first 4 Sundays in March, the primary collection will be for **GLSEN** (glsen.org), the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. GLSEN is an organization of educators creating safe and affirming environments in schools for LGBTQ students, through training for faculty and the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances.

On the final Sunday of March, the Brown Envelope collection will be sent to **UUtheVote**. Massachusetts is a Super Tuesday Presidential primary state, so Massachusetts voters who registered by February 12 are eligible to vote on March 3. UUtheVote.org is the UUA's organizing effort for congregations. Have questions about what's OK for congregations to do and not to do in an election season? It's there. Want to form a team to phone bank, canvass, and partner with others who support platforms consistent with UU values? Ideas

abound. Forget to register, but you want to vote in the future? No problem. <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020> is the portal for this very rich resource. Questions? Contact Linda Fingerson, slypper@gmail.com

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute Preparing for the 2020 Mother's Day Walk for Peace



A fundraiser to benefit the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. Every year, families from across the state and region walk together toward peace. Join us on Mother's Day to demand dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder. This year, we have a new team name! **Sharon Walks for Peace**

This year's **Mother's Day Walk for Peace** will be on Sunday, May 10. In addition, UCS will be co-sponsoring the recruitment and participation in Sharon with Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA). March will be kickoff and outreach month for recruiting sponsors, signing up walkers, recruiting churches, synagogues, mosques in Sharon. The goal is to broaden the participation in the event. On March 4, the Walk breakfast and kickoff will be held at UU Roxbury: 8:30AM - 10:30AM. We invite UCS members, as well as SIA members, to join us. This will be an informational event and there will be changes in the Walk this year. In addition, there will be alternate ways to participate in the Walk, and fund-raising besides actually completing the Walk. Please contact Elizabeth Siftar, UCS coordinator, if you can join us at the kickoff: esiftar@gmail.com

Save the Dates:

March 4 - Peace Walk Breakfast and Kickoff - UU Roxbury: 8:30 - 10:30

April 19 - Louis D. Brown Peace Institute speaker - UCS Sunday service and Coffee Hour.

May 10 - Mother's Day Walk for Peace - Dorchester to City Hall: all morning in lieu of service in Sharon

Submitted by Elizabeth Siftar

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Transgender Inclusion Workshops



The excitement around the Transforming Hearts Collective online course - Transgender Inclusion in Congregations - continues

to build as we delve deeper into the series and as we prepare for Sunday, March 29th when Zr. Alex Kapitan, one of the founders of the Transforming Hearts Collective and one of the course lecturers, will be joining us for the day. Alex will be participating in both morning worship services and then offering a workshop in the afternoon. The workshop, which will start immediately after Coffee Hour, will focus more deeply on the theme introduced during the 10:30 service – “Radical Welcome” and how to truly include trans folk in our congregation. It will also be an opportunity to bring your questions to Alex in what we hope to be a safe and nurturing space.

In order to provide an opportunity for as many people to attend as possible, a light lunch will be served and childcare will be available. We hope you will take the opportunity to attend this important and informative workshop and that, if you haven't already done so, you will consider viewing at least a few of the videos of the online course. Session 1 discusses the value of a practice of beloved community - being truly welcoming and fully affirming of the full spectrum of gender identities and experiences. Session 2 discusses how our faith communities are affected by culture-wide, assigned gender roles which are in fact rules that prop up an unjust patriarchal system. As Alex noted, in so many words: if you doubt that the roles are rules, well, try doing or being differently and see how that plays out.

We have already had a number of congregants view the first 2 sessions and we are now offering March dates (see below) for the viewing and discussion of Session 3, “Unpacking the Gender Binary.” Philosophers coined “the binary” as a way to explain how any salt-and-pepper view of the world serves to stigmatize the spice cabinet that is in fact a whole and healthy part of every human being and society. Put another way, from the title of one of the course resources: science doesn't support the existence of the sex binary and so, what now? Session 3 seeks to explore gender as diverse, distributed, dimensional and experiential.

Each of the videos, which range from 46-53 minutes, are easily accessed online, by using an Access Code provided to our congregation. If you are interested in obtaining this access code OR if you are interested in obtaining more information, please contact a member of the Transgender Inclusion Working Group. (Barbara Nelkin-Rose, Linda Fingerson, Christian Roulleau, Mia Joiner-Moore).

DATE	TIME	SESSION
Wed Mar 11	10:30 - 12:30pm	Tentative – Session 1 or 2
Sat Mar 14	1:00 - 3:00pm	Confirmed – Session 3
Thu Mar 19	7:15 - 9:15pm	Tentative – Session 1 or 2
Wed Mar 25	10:30 - 12:30pm	Confirmed – Session 3
Thu Mar 26	7:30 - 8:30pm (Discussion only)	Confirmed – Session 3

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 FROM 12:00-2:00PM

WORKSHOP WITH ZR. ALEX KAPITAN

TRANSGENDER INCLUSION IN CONGREGATIONS

Zr. Alex Kapitan, one of the founders of the Transforming Hearts Collective, and a lecturer on the video series, Transgender Inclusion in Congregations, will be offering a workshop focusing more deeply on the theme introduced during the 10:30 service – “Radical Welcome” and how to truly include trans folk in our congregation. It will also be an opportunity to bring your questions to Alex in what we hope to be a safe and nurturing space.

In order to provide an opportunity for as many people to attend as possible, a light lunch will be served and childcare will be available. While you are welcome to attend without an RSVP, if you know ahead of time of your intention to join us, please click on this link: [RSVP FORM - MARCH 29th WORKSHOP WITH ALEX KAPITAN](#)

We are very excited to have Alex lead this workshop and ALL are welcome to join us, whether or not you have watched any of the videos!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues



Making quilts in the new Kino Border Initiative aid center and shelter in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

A Return to the Border: One Year Later

I visited the Arizona-Mexico border in January 2019 and decided to return a year later to see if and how things had changed there. The MPP (Migrant Protection Protocol), also known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy, was recently established at the Nogales Port of Entry (official immigration checkpoint where people can request asylum), creating an even more precarious and uncertain situation there for migrants and those who provide legal and humanitarian aid. I was able to see the new migrant shelter and aid center established by the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, which will begin providing expanded services soon, including 140 beds for people who need them, more meals than in the smaller dining room (el comedor) across the street, classes, and more. I even helped finish work on some of the handmade quilts that will cover each of the beds, fulfilling the vision of a leader and the many people who contributed time and materials. I also had the opportunity to go on a desert search with the Green Valley/ Sahuarita Samaritans, and we left some food and water on the vehicle barriers at one end of a section of the wall near Sasabe, Arizona. Stay tuned for a date for an informal conversation about the border!

Janet Schmidt

Food Drop, The Wall: Vehicle barriers can hold cans of food and jugs of water at the Arizona-Mexico border near Sasabe.



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, 2 April, 7pm). We want to send out a "Thank You!" to Elaine Price for her recent purchase of an expanded set of glassware for the kitchen: now, in place of using our compostable single-use cups, you can use real glasses instead (when appropriate) and make our environmental footprint just a bit smaller. See below for a recap of our weekly Green Tip offering found in the Order of Service each Sunday.

Green Tips from the last month:

February 23

Did you know that washing two loads of laundry weekly in cold water instead of hot or warm water can save up to 500 pounds of carbon dioxide each year? Use a cold water detergent that includes enzymes designed to clean better in cold water.



<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2018/12/27/35-ways-reduce-carbon-footprint/>

February 16

Did you know that clothing that is discarded in the land-fill produces methane (a greenhouse gas) as it decomposes? Donate gently used items to the clothing bank, discard non-donatable fabric items through the textile recycling program (bins located at most Sharon schools), and avoid purchasing fast fashion or items that quickly go out of style.

February 9

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, 30% of food is wasted globally across the supply chain, contributing 8% of total global greenhouse gas emissions. Plan menus prior to grocery shopping so you only purchase what you need. When you find you have unused food, consider ways you can freeze leftovers, or create vegetable broth or soups out of your wilting veggies.

February 2

Did you know that you can reduce your water consumption by boiling pasta in the sauce instead of water? Visit this site for instructions. <https://www.treehugger.com/green-food/simple-cooking-trick-saves-100-gallons-water-makes-dinner-taste-better.html>

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues



UUF members using UCS supplies purchased with Shopping for Justice profits from cards sold to Foxboro congregants (got that?) assemble 100 bag lunches for the guests of MainSpring House in Brockton. Teamwork!

UU Foxboro & Shopping for Justice

Our multi-year experiment in fundraising to fight hunger and homelessness via the sale of grocery gift cards has begun a new spin-off via our friends at UU Foxboro. Thanks to the efforts of Leslie Cox, a UUF member and our own Administrative Assistant, we have been selling our Shopping for Justice cards to their congregation once a month since December. Their sales have been sufficient to bankroll their own 100-bag lunch making effort for MainSpring House in Brockton, which we facilitated in February, and we are exploring ways to expand on their interest in the concept. In the meantime, we will continue to offer our program to UUF as they sort out a path that works for their community. Stop by the Shopping for Justice table at Coffee Hour to learn more about how you too can be a part of this social justice program. Working together, we can and do make a difference! (And we hear that your own groceries, when purchased with our grocery cards, somehow do taste better...!)



100 healthy meals headed to Brockton's homeless community thanks to a new collaboration through Shopping for Justice!

Celebrating Our Success!



This was a big week for legislative advocacy - here's the updated status of our priority bills: The deadline for almost all of our priority bills to be reported out of committee has been extended! A few of our bills were reported out of committee with a favorable vote!

- Work & Family Mobility Act (Driver's License bill) S.2061/H.3012
- Protect Injured Workers S.2401/H.4174
- **Environmental Justice S.453 & S.464 / H.761, H.826 & H.3922**
- Change the State Flag & Seal S.1877/H.2776
- Prohibit Native American Mascots in Public Schools S.247/H.443
- Protect Native American Heritage S.1811/H.2948
- LGBTQI Data Bill S.905/H.1341

Passing statewide legislation that reflects our values creates positive, systemic change. The progress we've made this session reflects an amazingly huge amount of hard work in our coalitions. Thank you to everyone who joined UU power and took action!

Submitted by Elizabeth Siftar



Community Closet update

Located at the UU Church of Brockton, the CommUnit 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. It will be our turn to staff the Closet on **Saturday, 11 April** - see Jim Mullin if you can help with a shift. 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, cont.

Follow Up to the SIA SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

The Forum on 9 February was a wonderful event with approximately 50 people in attendance. It was a powerful example of democracy in action, with each attendee able to express their opinion and vote on the issue that was the most important to them. Overwhelmingly, the issue voted on was one related to EDUCATION, with a focus on eliminating discrimination and creating a more culturally competent and diverse environment within the school system. The results of the Forum and future steps to take will be announced in March after planning meetings occur. Stay tuned for details about how you can be involved.

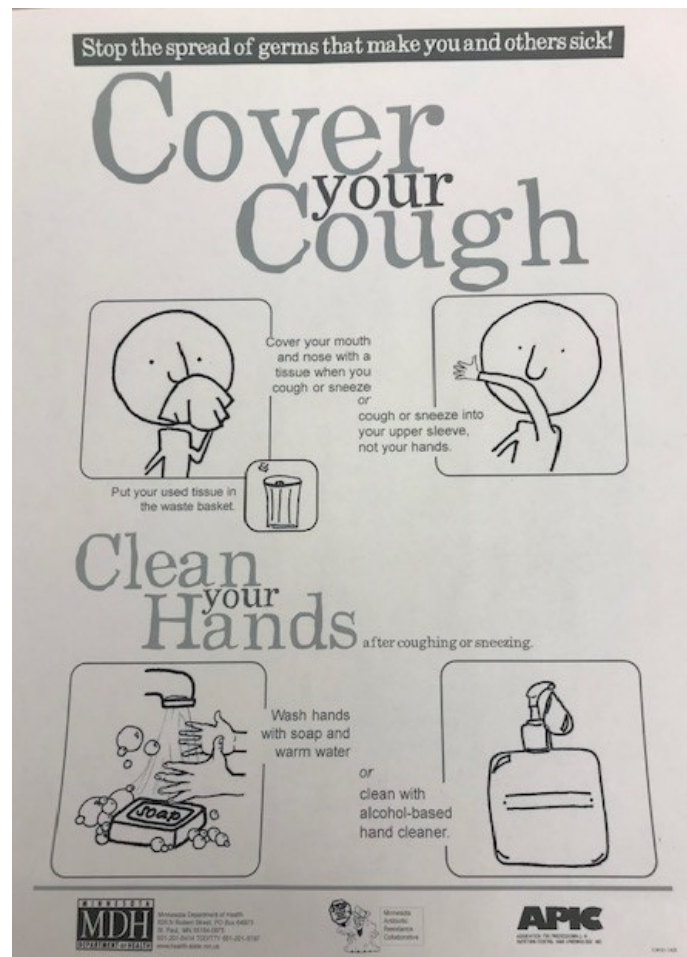
Ongoing Social Justice opportunities: you can support social justice causes in other ways as well: visit the Social Justice Corner in the Vestry, following Sunday worship services, where you can buy Fair Trade coffees, chocolates and other items, as well Shopping for Justice supermarket gift cards in 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!



Bean Supper 2019

Neponset Choral Society's Spring Concert

How do two composers of different eras and traditions respond when inspired by the same text? Find out at the Neponset Choral Society's spring concert, "Juxtaposition," on Saturday evening, March 28th (7:30 PM) or Sunday afternoon March 29th (2:30 PM). You'll find some intriguing pairs! Both concerts are at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Foxboro, and you can buy advance tickets at a discount from singers Forbesy Russell, Gary Webber, or Rory and Beth McGregor.



UCS MARCH CALENDAR

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

<https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2020-03/>

Conversations
At the Meetinghouse



AN INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE JUSTICE & DECREASING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

SUSAN MOONEY, PH.D.
PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES & STUDIES, STONEHILL
COLLEGE



FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020, 7 PM
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

Sue will begin with a brief consideration of climate justice, as marginalized peoples are already suffering from the impacts of climate disruption. We'll swiftly move to the good news – there is SO much each of us can do to make a real difference! Ethics, economics and ecology can and do align, allowing each of us to decrease our carbon footprints. She will share the particulars of her journey, including an electric car, geothermal heating, solar panels, diet changes and energy/materials conservation. Participants will leave the workshop with questions for reflection as well as practical steps and strategies they can implement in their own lives/homes.

Sue brings grounded hope to her audiences/students, emphasizing all that can (and is being) be done to improve our environmental future. With dual expertise in science and philosophy, Sue's work addresses both the technical details and the big-picture considerations.

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
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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