

the chalice

Published by the
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of the Unitarian
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JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: COMPASSION

Services are online on Zoom
10 Family Service and 10:30pm Adult Service
(Unless noted otherwise)

June 7 Trans Inclusion and Radical Welcome

In today's political climate, being a Welcoming Congregation requires more than simply opening our doors - be they virtual or physical - 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 as a congregation this year. Join us for this very special Rainbow Sunday service to dig deeper into how radical welcome and trans inclusion are spiritual practices and matters of the heart, not just the head. Following the service, Alex will lead us in a workshop on Transgender Inclusion in Congregations from 1 pm - 3 pm. [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link. More info on [page 8](#)

**Rescheduled
from March!**

Wear a solid color shirt to virtual church today, to help us create a rainbow, an annual tradition at UCS! Multiple family members appearing on the same device? Please wear the same color, if possible.

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.



June 14 Record Kindness

Imagine we could keep track of all the compassionate acts, all the loving thoughts and prayers we have given and received in our lifetimes. How lengthy our lists would be! Our capacity for empathy and compassion is infinite, and only grows with practice. This morning we will reflect on how kindness multiplies even in difficult times. Our worship service today will also include time to mark RE transitions, including recognizing our graduating high school seniors. Rev. Jolie preaching.

June 21 Endings and Beginnings

Today is our last worship service of the church year, and our last worship service with our DRE, Louise Marcoux, who is retiring after 16 years of dedicated and loving service to our congregation. Endings bring new beginnings, in the life of our congregation and in all our lives. How do we make space for the synchronous hellos and goodbyes that change brings? Rev. Jolie preaching.

(Continued on page 2)

June Worship Services *(Continued from page 1)***June 28 Sunday Morning Worship at General Assembly**

10 am Service

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship at General Assembly, our annual conference of Unitarian Universalists. This powerful, communal worship experience will stream on uua.org/ga Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. EDT and again at 10:00 a.m. PDT. Members of the public are welcome to view the service; no GA registration required. Rev. Joan Javier-Duval and Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack will lead the service, with Rev. Joan Javier-Duval preaching. For more information about GA go to [page 6](#).

From the Minister

Thank you for your support of my two-week leave in May. I appreciated the messages of love and care that I received from so many of you, and I feel held in love by the entire congregation. It is wonderful to be back in service to you all and the mission of the Unitari-

an Church of Sharon.

I hope you will join me in saying a heartfelt goodbye and congratulations to Louise Marcoux, our Director of Religious Education for more than 16 years, and who will be retiring at the end of June. Louise's professionalism, creativity, and commitment to UU values have nurtured the faith formation of a generation of youth and children here at UCS. I will be forever grateful for the collaboration and consultation that Louise offered me during our time serving UCS together. I have especially grown from witnessing Louise's determination to ask the right questions, the questions that can help children and - indeed - all of us on our religious education journeys. Though our time working together was short, Louise, I want you to know that you have made an indelible imprint upon my ministry. Thank you for sharing your passion and dedication with me and with us all.

Many of you may be wondering whether UCS will follow any of the reopening phases put forth by Governor Baker on May 18, which give permission for houses of worship to re-open with limited capacity and various restrictions. Our Board of Trustees voted on April 26 to mirror the schools' closure in our state, and to remain virtual, with the physical building closed until at least June 29. That decision remains in place at this time, regardless of the new guidelines regarding houses of worship. Our Board appointed a Safe Re-Open Task Force, which at this time consists of public health and health care professionals from our congregation: Elizabeth Maranzano, Amy Taylor, Madison Rivard, Janet Limke, Erin Cassidy-Lunman, Linda Godfrey-Bailey, with participation from Susan Olson

Drisko and me. This group is tasked with making recommendations to the BOT regarding when and how we may advisably begin gathering in person once again. The Safe Re-Open Task Force met and discussed the May 18 guidelines from the state and agreed that our previous decision to remain virtual should stand for now. Please stay tuned for more information from our BOT and the Task Force as updates become available. I would like to offer a huge thank-you to our Task Force and Board for continuing to take on these difficult questions that ask us to consider the very difficult balance between our deep and abiding need to be with one another and the risks of gathering during pandemic.

My noticing muscles have helped me lately. Lest physical distance from those I love, and daily headlines of unspeakable loss - losses that follow the deadly patterns of racism and classism in our society - become rote, I have to take time to keep noticing: this is not normal. This is hard. Through the uncertainty, exhaustion, and grief of pandemic, we all may find it useful to notice. Paying attention to what we pay attention to can help us stay present to hope, adaptability, and compassion. So whether we're noticing signs around our neighborhood soliciting food pantry donations and responding in generosity, or noticing we're feeling grumpy and taking some time to meditate or listen to a favorite song, I hope we can all notice what we need and what our communities need. Noticing can also help us come back to our sources, because it reminds us of that which animates our sacred interconnectedness: God, our communities, nature - whatever it may be for each of us. So my dear ones, I ask: How are you staying in touch with those you love and those who love you? How are you finding moments of fun and play these days? How are you dealing with Zoom fatigue? Let's keep noticing that we need to make time for the things that give us life, for these practices are not luxuries but rather food for our souls in hard times.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Jolie

ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH, 7:30PM

Please plan to attend and help us elect members to a variety of positions and to approve our annual budget. A quorum of at least 20% of members of record is required to approve all articles. The Warrant and the Annual Report will be sent to you in an email at least one week prior to the meeting.

The annual report, proposed budget as well as the warrant will be emailed to you no later than Friday June 5th. If you do not receive this information, feel free to contact Linda Cveckova at admin@uusharon.org

Interim DRE Hiring Update

We are in the final stages, finalizing the hiring of our top candidate for the position of Interim Director of Religious Education! The Search Team will be pleased and proud to announce who will help guide us through the next two years of religious education at UCS as soon as we can.

Communicating with Louise after her Retirement

June 30 is Louise's official last day. She has agreed to orient the Interim Director of Religious Education in August (just in case you see her driving up to the church then).

Once she has retired, Louise is required by professional practices to step away from all aspects of congregational life for a minimum of two years (and given the length of her service, guidelines recommend an even longer separation). This separation is intended to create the space for everyone in the congregation to develop a strong working relationship with their Interim Director of Religious Education. It is also intended to create space within the former DRE -- to step out of her familiar ways of being within her role and explore other ways of being her full, authentic self in UU contexts.

If you bump into her at the store or on a hiking trail (and recognize her behind her mask), it is perfectly fine to say hello. She cannot be part of any conversations about what is happening at church.

If you wish to use Louise as a job/scholarship reference, please submit your request through this [link](#).

Zoom Chats with Rev. Jolie in June

Join Rev. Jolie and your fellow congregants to connect with one another at 10 AM on three Thursdays in June: June 4, June 11, and June 18. Zoom links and conversation prompts will come to your email each week.

Summer Worship:

Looking for Lay Speakers

Due to the Board's decision to extend the closure of our Church building through the end of June and the uncertainty about when we will be opening our doors again, the status of summer worship services remains unknown. It is our hope that we will be able to provide some summer services, whether in person or virtually. Based on this hope, the Worship Committee invites lay speakers to participate during the summer services as we share our reflections of themes throughout this past church year. We would love to hear from you! Typically, there are two speakers each Sunday, sharing for ten minutes each. Our first service will be July 5th. Please contact a member of the Worship Committee for sign-ups or worship@uusharon.org

(Deadline: June 22nd).

What has resonated with you?

Expectation, Belonging, Attention, Awe, Integrity, Resilience, Wisdom, Liberation, Thresholds, Compassion

Worship Committee



Bandido Band: Music in the Time of Pandemic



"Fun"draiser Update

The Auction Will Go On!!!

We just don't know when....

But we do want to keep up the chatter with everyone and remind you that the success of the auction depends on having really cool, nice, useful, interesting and helpful things for people to bid on. See below for a few ideas:

- Does the company you work for have cool things they give to customers say, sports tickets? Would the coordinator of those tickets like to make a contribution to a worthy organization?
- Specialty Gift Baskets - perhaps of your family's favorite things.
 - Do you play golf? Host a foursome!
- Do you have or know someone who has a pontoon boat on the lake? Sunset cruises are beautiful!

It's easy to make a donation on our [online form](#)

Let's Laugh Today

is EVERY Wednesday at 7:30pm on ZOOM!

Let's Laugh Today Laughter Club is on ZOOM! In these challenging times, there is nothing like a good belly laugh to help release stress and anxiety. These laughter exercises and deep breathing help to bring more fresh oxygen into the body and brain helping you feel more energetic and healthy. It's a great way to connect with other people through eye contact while remaining socially distant and it is thoroughly uplifting and immunity-boosting! See www.letslaughtoday.com for link to the free ZOOM Meeting EVERY Wednesday at 730pm. This is the perfect time to try something new! Please check their website for updates.



Spring has rolled out slowly. If you have not stopped by the church grounds, here are a few photos from our own Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks



Religious Education News

From the Director of Religious Education



Goodbye

I keep finding the words of Adrienne Rich's [Stepping Backward](#) running through my mind as I read an email or prepare a family worship service. Rich's poem explores the challenges of appreciating a significant ongoing relationship. She uses the

metaphor of stepping back to say goodbye to explore our need to step out of ordinary time and see things whole, entire.

There is one image that keeps returning: "Because we know each other, crack and flaw, like two irregular stones that fit together." Well before I had developed a formal philosophy of religious education, I intuited that what I had to offer would serve this congregation well. There was a goodness of fit between your purposes and my vision -- a fit that allowed me to grow and change while the congregation grew and changed. What a blessing that has been for me! You have made it possible for me to dig deep and give you my best stuff, year after year.

Soon it will be time for us to step backward for real -- for keeps. My hope is to make June a time to appreciate the journeys that we have been on together and to see each other whole, entire.

With so much love,

Louise

June in RE

There is no RE for **Preschool-Grade 2** for the rest of this church season.

Zoom RE classes for **grades 3-8** will continue on Sunday, June 7th and 14th, 12:00-1:00 pm.

On June 7th, the class will explore what it means to be inclusive and welcoming with a visit from special guest (and worship leader of the day) Alex Kapitan from [Transforming Hearts Collective](#). On June 14th, the last class of the year (and during Louise Marcoux's final days as our DRE) the focus will be on good-byes, change, and transitions: salient subjects in these socially distanced times. Art materials for the lessons are available for pick up on Louise's front porch if you do not have them at home. See the weekly newsblast on Fridays for the Zoom links and other details.

Please note: my last day of work before the summer break will be on June 19th. I will return in late August to help set up RE for the fall. Have a safe and happy summer!

Leslie Cox, Administrative Assistant

About the June 14 Worship service:

During this special worship service, we'll acknowledge many important transitions: we'll recognize our 6th graders, 8th graders, first year teachers, AND our graduating seniors.

Register for next year's Religious Education Program

The Religious Education Committee asks all families to register their children (ages 1 month-18 years) for next year's RE program.

Next year's program plans include: Children's Religious Education Classes, Junior Youth Fellowship Group, Senior Youth Group.

What will RE look like next year?

- The RE Committee is looking to the Safe Return to Church Taskforce for guidance on an appropriate timeline for resumption of in-church programs for children and youth.
- The RE Committee and the incoming Interim Director of Religious Education will be reaching out to you over the next few months to explore when and how RE will meet (e.g. what time works best for virtual meetings?).

Fee is \$40 for one child; \$60 max per family. Families who register prior to June 30 receive a \$10 discount. Scholarships are available by speaking with Louise Marcoux (dre@uusharon.org), Christian Roulleau (christian.roulleau@gmail.com), Andrea Pannone (andreampannone@gmail.com) or Rev. Jolie Olivetti (minister@uusharon.org).

[Register here!](#) Thanks! Your prompt response helps.

Our Whole Lives on Hiatus

The comprehensive sexuality education curriculum *Our Whole Lives* requires in-person meetings that each last an hour and a half. Safe practices during the pandemic: virtual meetings, in-person gatherings of 10 or fewer, limiting indoor meeting time, 6-foot spacing -- are all incompatible with the methodologies of OWL 7-8 and OWL 5-6. So *Our Whole Lives* will go on hiatus for the 2020-21 church year.

The current plan for the 2021-22 church year is to provide this program for those who would have participated this year: OWL 8-9 and OWL 5-6-7.

Religious Education News, contd

Volunteer: Teach RE

The RE Program needs you to be "all in for RE" -- even as the RE Committee is determining what the next year of RE will look like during a pandemic.

What we do know: Volunteers teach with a partner. Volunteers choose which 7 or 8 times they teach (between September and June). Orientation and training are provided.

What we don't know: How much of the year will be virtual RE and how much of it will be on site. (Currently being researched by the Task Force on Safe Return to Church). When virtual RE will happen (Saturday morning? Sunday morning before church? Noon on Sunday?)

It is okay to ask for what you need in this situation. If you open to teaching virtual RE only. If you are available only on Saturdays. If you are available only on Sundays. If you are available anytime so long as you get to attend worship. **Sign up and ask for what you need.**

Please say yes to teaching next year. [Click here!](#)

YOUTH GROUPS

Senior Youth Group

Meets on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom. Senior Youth Group is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12 and folks are encouraged to invite friends! SYG Zoom meetings have involved watching videos, sharing the joys and struggles of online life, and playing a lot of games together! SYG will continue meeting weekly through June.



Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation. Our May check-in consisted of sharing our favorite forms of quarantine entertainment and playing games together. We will be having another virtual meeting later this month.

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

WELCOME TO VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020!

The UUA Board, GA Planning Committee and Staff held off a decision on a 'live' General Assembly in Providence as long as they could, but finally concluded that it just isn't responsible or feasible to bring thousands of UUs from all around the country together in crowded spaces in Providence on June 24-28.



But there will be a General Assembly, with extensive program offerings and interactive participation. UUA staff and committee members are busily scaling up the already robust technology for offsite participation that has worked effectively for several years now. While we will miss the fun and excitement of being together physically, there are actually some advantages to taking it all online:

- It will cost only \$150 to register, not \$400. And there's no travel, saving both money and carbon footprint.
- Registrants will have access to a rich and wide variety of programs. And unlike at a live GA, you won't have to choose among multiple offerings occurring in one time slot. One will be livestreamed and the others available to you later on demand.
- Many of the sessions will be interactive, with opportunity to offer questions and comments, and there will chat rooms set up to continue discussion in smaller groups.
- Delegates will be able to join fully in debating and voting on UUA initiatives and policies.

While most of the programming is open only to registrants, the big worship services will be broadcast to all, and we can enjoy and be inspired by them together in whatever size groups we feel comfortable gathering in by late June.

I encourage you to go to www.uua.org/ga to read about the theme and some of the program highlights, and to register for this June's General Assembly. I'll be there (virtually), and I hope many of you will be also. Need to know more? I'm happy to answer any questions I can..

Beth McGregor

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



Our response to Covid-19 rolls on, but so does our work for Social Justice. While we find ways to live safe, productive lives under these new constraints, let's also keep an eye to what we can accomplish when we work together for social justice. Here

are some of the things that the church has been working on with your guidance, financial support and just plain hard work. We can't do it all, but we can be involved in making things better - thanks to your willing and enthusiastic engagement.

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. This month, while we continue to gather together electronically from our homes, we ask that you consider making a Brown Envelope donation by other means, either with a check mailed to the church with "Brown E donation & Date" in the memo line, via PayPal, or directly online with our chosen recipient. Thank you for keeping others in mind while we all adjust to these uncertain times.

April was, and still is, a bit different for B.E. donations: Our recipient is the **Louise D. Brown Peace Institute** (ldbpeaceinstitute.org). We had hoped to be a presence at their Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace on May 10th, and our Brown E donations in April are given in support of their programs. The Walk was recrafted as a virtual event (to see the Walk-a-Thon for Peace, [click here](#)), but our goal remains unchanged: to continue to ask for donations during May, via online donations through a special fundraising sponsorship page at the Institute, or by PayPal, <https://www.uusharon.org/ucs-donations/> or by checks mailed directly to the church (memo Brown E & DATE). Please visit the **Sharon Walks for Peace** site for details and updates, and to donate: (<https://ldbpeace.z2systems.com/Sharon2020>). Our goal was \$1400, and to date we have raised over \$3121 (including a 1:1 match of \$563), which is well beyond our giving from last year. We look forward to the work of building our relationship with the Peace Institute for many years to come.

Mother's Day Walk-a-Thon for Peace - Congratulations

Unitarian Church of Sharon and Sharon Walks for Peace! We met our donation goal plus much extra. Your generosity is inspiring and the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute which depends on the work of fundraising that we all do. This year, their overall financial goal is \$400,000, and we are close to that. At present, the total fundraising is \$359,000. All the teams are still working to keep fundraising to get the Peace Institute to the needed goal of \$400K. So, if you are able, go to the Sharon Walks for Peace team page (<https://ldbpeace.z2systems.com/Sharon2020>) and make a donation. Together, we can all make it to \$400,000. Thank you!



The May Brown Envelope recipient is **ACE: the Alternatives for Community and Environment** (ace-ej.org). "ACE builds the power of communities of color and lower income communities in New England to eradicate environmental racism and classism and achieve environmental justice. We believe that everyone has the right to a healthy environment and to be decision-makers in issues affecting our communities." Donations by check, PayPal or online are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

For June, the SCJ selected the Boston chapter of **Black & Pink** (www.blackandpink.org/chapters/boston/), an organization dedicated to prison reform and basic human rights for all, especially oppressed communities. Black & Pink was founded in 2005 on the principles of abolition to dismantle the criminal punishment system and to liberate LGBTQIA2S+ people/people living with HIV/AIDS who are affected by that system, through advocacy, support, and organizing. "We fight to abolish prisons. We fight for basic human rights."

(*LGBTQIA2S+ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify.)



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

SAVE THE DATE

TRANSGENDER INCLUSION IN CONGREGATIONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

1:00-3:00PM

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WITH
ZR. ALEX KAPITAN

We are delighted to have Zr. Alex Kapitan, one of the founders of the Transforming Hearts Collective, and a lecturer on the video series, *Transgender Inclusion in Congregations*, joining us virtually on JUNE 7TH both for our morning worship services and for an afternoon workshop. The Workshop will allow for a deep dive into the concept of "Radical Welcome" and how we as a congregation can practice Beloved Community and create a truly inclusive environment for folks who identify as trans or non-binary. The workshop will also be an opportunity to bring your questions to Alex in what we hope to be a safe and nurturing space. Please use the *Transgender Inclusion Workshop Sign-Up Form* [[link here](#)] to register for the workshop and let us know the questions and/or topics you would like Alex to address. Although registration for the workshop will be open through the morning of the 7th, we encourage you to register as early as possible so we can anticipate the number of participants to expect. And note that you **MUST** have registered in order to receive a zoom link to access the virtual workshop. We are very excited to have Alex join us and we welcome and encourage **ALL** of you to attend the afternoon workshop, whether or not you have watched any of the videos.



Additional funding efforts & opportunities:

Fundraising and support while we are largely home-bound requires new ways of giving and sharing of our resources, talents and influence. Recent SJC actions, along with your support, have included these efforts on behalf of the UCS community (many are ongoing, and we look for your continued involvement as the weeks roll by....).

- Boosting our recent monthly Brown Envelope donations from SJ reserves (also knowing that some of you are giving directly to many various organizations, beyond our recordkeeping knowledge)
- \$400 to the BIC Covid-19 Emergency Fund from SJ reserves
- \$200 to our local SUNRISE Movement chapter from SJ reserves
- \$500 to the Brockton Hospital ER for critical supplies from SJ reserves
- \$400 (plus \$300 extra donation) to the *Partnership with Native Americans* from SJ reserves
- \$500 (plus \$100 extra donation) to MSH for Covid-19 relief, from Shopping for Justice reserve funds
- MSH sack lunch program (100 lunches/month) from Shopping for Justice reserve funds
- And the amazing outpouring of donations for our 5 local food pantries, well over \$13,500 so far and still growing, see below (given in the form of Shopping for Justice cards, resulting in an additional \$675 of funds from that program for ongoing needs related to hunger and homelessness)
- April & May drive-by, pre-ordered Fair Trade and Shopping for Justice sales, all profits making the above donations possible: 13+ cases of chocolate bars, 77 bags of coffee, over \$7000 in personal S4J grocery cards, plus over \$5200 in cash donations. With such success, we will do this again in June, and beyond as necessary to fill your cravings, and thereby fill our coffers for future social justice projects.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity during this time of uncertainty.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues

Ongoing Projects of Note

Special Food Pantry donations via Shopping for Justice grocery cards

During this prolonged health crisis, the SJC is asking for help to support our 5 local food pantries by means other than staples and canned goods: we are accepting monetary donations, either mailed to the church or via PayPal, so that we can send Shopping for Justice grocery cards to support the pantry programs in our neighborhoods. Called "A bucket brigade on a 5-alarm fire" by TIME, the demands on food pantries have soared. Your donations will be converted into grocery cards that will be delivered to the pantries in Norwood, Walpole, Canton, Foxboro, as well as the Sharon/Stoughton pantry. We have already raised over \$13,500 to support this critical need. Thank you for your generosity, both now and in the weeks and months ahead.

BIC Emergency COVID/19 Fund

Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA) and Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) announce the **BIC Emergency COVID-19 Fund** which is seeking donations to be earmarked specifically to support Brockton residents in need of emergency assistance. If you are able, please donate to this fund and spread the word to other potential donors in your communities. All donations are greatly appreciated: checks, PayPal, or use this link to donate: The need is great, the Mutual Aid Brockton team is small (but mighty!).

Please donate if you are able: ALL MONEY DONATED is going directly to people in need.

Please share this message.

To donate to the Brockton Interfaith Community's Emergency COVID-19 Fund:

Venmo: @BrocktonInterfaithCommunity

Cashapp: \$Bic1990

Online: <https://mcan.salsalabs.org/biccovid19emergencyfund>

Brockton Hospital ER doctors and nurses need your help.

Urgent need for surgical caps, gowns and masks at Brockton ER—We have heard distressing news directly from the medical staff in Brockton: "We are running out of masks, including homemade masks

for patients to minimize spread of the virus. Also, we need gowns and surgical caps, some with buttons for hold straps of masks and some with tie for holding buns. WE HAVE NO MORE AT ALL. These things can be made. Please ask your networks for help!" If you are able to help with this effort, consider these steps:



1) donate elastic material from you sewing closet, or purchase if you are able;

2) donate fabrics for masks, caps and gowns (100% cotton);

3) break out your sewing machine and join the effort.

<https://www.simplemost.com/face-masks-more-comfortable-this-easy-hack/>

<https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-SurgicalScrub-Hat/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-HOSXIZUcw>

Elizabeth Siftar is coordinating this work, call or write: esiftar@gmail.com (302) 354-1809

MainSpring House Lunch Making update: While we are unable to join together during Coffee Hour after services, please know that our monthly project to assemble 100 bag lunches for the guests of MSH continues without missing a beat. SJC members are assembling the meals at home and delivering them in Brockton where they are desperately needed and appreciated. In addition, through an ongoing effort to expand our Shopping for Justice program with the UUs in Foxboro, their members are also assembling and sending 100 bag lunches to MSH each month.

CommUnity Closet

During the Covid-19 period of reduced interactions, the 5 Point Cluster of UU churches has determined to keep closed our collective project to offer clothing for free to the greater Brockton community. While the CommUnity Closet remains shuttered, we are working on alternative ideas to support families in need, and hope to return to a form of new 'normal' operation of the CC at some point. Until then, please continue to stockpile your donations at home, or find alternative donation sites if storage becomes an issue. Thank you for your patience while we work to resolve this puzzle.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continues



Green Team update:

The Green Team continues to meet via Zoom, to explore ideas to improve our environmental practices and to find ways that embody our UU Principles. We are currently exploring the concept

of 'gleaning' for otherwise wasted food resources, in hopes of improving our collective use of agricultural resources in our area. (Gleaning is defined as the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested, or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. It is a practice described in the Hebrew Bible that became a legally enforced entitlement of the poor in a number of Christian kingdoms.) If you are interested in learning more, or if you have ideas ready to be shared, contact Gare Reid (agreid@rcn.com) to get on the Green Team email list for upcoming meetings and events. Working together, we can accomplish amazing things!

Green Tips/ Project Drawdown recap

Green Tips has now become Project Drawdown Solutions which is featuring larger more systemic climate mitigations as outlined by Project Drawdown, a non-profit group that is researching solutions that can potentially reduce or "draw down" the carbon from the atmosphere. Each week, we will include a short description of various solutions in the OOS. To get started, we direct you to the main webpage where you can learn more about the organization. <https://www.drawdown.org>

May 31 Project Drawdown Solution #5

Tropical Forests (Land Use Sector)

Tropical forests once covered 12% of the world's landmasses, but they now cover just 5% because of extensive clearing, fragmentation, degradation, and depletion of flora and fauna. Agricultural expansion (for the grazing and feeding of livestock, which is another reason a plant based diet is important) is the cause of such clear-cutting. 435 million acres of degraded land in the tropics could be restored to intact forest which could sequester 1.4 tons of carbon dioxide per acre annually.

<https://drawdowniitkqp.wordpress.com/2017/12/07/tropical-forest-reserves-help-reduce-carbon-emissions/>

May 24 Project Drawdown Solution #4

Plant Rich Diet (Food Sector)

The Western diet comes with a steep climate price tag because raising livestock accounts for 15% of global greenhouse gases emitted each year (or 50% if both direct and indirect emissions are included). "Reductionarianism" is an important strategy to reframe

meat as a delicacy, rather than a staple in the diet, so that cultural rituals around eating might be preserved while simultaneously bringing emissions into the sustainable range.

<https://drawdowniitkqp.wordpress.com/2017/12/07/plant-rich-diet-or-low-carbon-diet/>

May 17 Project Drawdown Solution #3

Reduced Food Waste (Food Sector)

Producing uneaten food squanders a whole host of resources (seeds, water, energy, land, fertilizer, hours of labor, financial capital) and generates greenhouse gases at every stage including methane when organic matter lands in the global rubbish or compost bin. Data show that up to 35% food in high-income economies is thrown out by consumers, so much can be done to prevent these emissions by implementing better food planning and purchasing practices, food preservation techniques, and the sharing of surplus.

<https://drawdowniitkqp.wordpress.com/2017/12/04/beat-the-tac-team-of-food-wastage-and-climate-change/>

May 10 Project Drawdown Solution #2

Wind Turbines-Onshore (Energy Sector)

Did you know that in the US, the wind energy potential of just three states- Kansas, North Dakota, and Texas- would be sufficient to meet electricity demand from coast to coast? An increase in onshore wind from 3 to 4% of world electricity use to 21.6 % by 2050 could reduce emissions by 84.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide.

<https://drawdowniitkqp.wordpress.com/2017/12/05/wind-turbines-onshore/>

May 3 Project Drawdown Solution #1-

Refrigeration (Materials Sector)

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) still in circulation and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) used as refrigerants in air conditioners, supermarket cases, and refrigerators have the capacity to warm the atmosphere by 1000-9000 times more than carbon dioxide making the release of these chemicals into the atmosphere a serious threat. By proper management and destruction of these chemicals as well as the prevention and repair of refrigerant leaks can therefore result in the greatest emission reduction.

<https://drawdowniitkqp.wordpress.com/2017/12/03/refrigerant-management-the-1-solution/>

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



Conversations at the Meetinghouse

A MUSICAL COMVERSATION WITH MEL SPRINGER

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020

7 PM

ZOOM MEETING

HOSTED BY:

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON



CONTACT ADMIN@UUSHARON.ORG FOR LINK

Please join us for the final Conversation at the Meetinghouse of the church year. On Friday, June 5 at 7PM, through the magic of Zoom, our own Maestro, Mel Springer (assisted by the renowned technical doyenne Alice Springer), will provide a 'musical conversation' with selections of his choosing. Mel is working up his Play List even now, and, along with his commentary and musical asides, it is bound to be an event not to be missed. Crank up the volume, sit back on the couch and enjoy an evening of music and song that is sure to please all generations. The best seats are selling out fast, so mark you calendars for the musical event of the summer! (And since Tanglewood has been canceled for this year, here's your best alternative, and the price can't be beat!)

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*

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WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES
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