

# the chalice

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## Inside this issue

[From the Minister](#) 2

[From the President](#) 3

[RE News](#) 8

[Social Justice](#) 10

## MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

### THEME: STORY

10am Family 10:30am Adult  
(unless noted otherwise)

For Zoom information [click here](#)  
For Order of Service available Friday before the service [click here](#)

### May 2 The Story of the Peace Institute

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is a center for healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities dealing with murder, trauma, grief, and loss. What are the stories we tell about victims and perpetrators, who is good and who is bad, and who is worthy of healing? What stories do our segregated neighborhoods tell us about who we are connected to and who we aren't connected to? And what is the role of faith communities in creating a world where all people are valued and can live in peace? Today's pulpit will be shared by Rev. Jolie and Chaplain Tina Chéry, Founder, President, and CEO of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

### May 9 Free Her: A Mother's Day Service on Prisons

We will honor all kinds of mamas and mothering in today's service as we consider the visionary work of [Families for Justice as Healing](#) (FJAH). A new women's prison has been proposed at the former Bay State Correctional facility in Norfolk. The architectural drawings claim that the facility will be "trauma-informed," but FJAH organizers who are leading an effort to stop the construction insist that there is no such thing as trauma-informed prison. The original Mother's Day was conceived as a call to peace. How can we continue to answer that call? ***There will be a brief "Sermon Talk-Back" immediately following worship.***

### May 16 Our Stories, our Beliefs: Credo Service

Our annual Credo Service is a beautiful expression of our UCS mission to honor our differences and grow in mind and spirit, as we witness individual members' big questions and reflections. This year we will be blessed to hear from Jon Slavin, Elizabeth Siftar, and Gary Webber.

### May 23 Adichie's "Danger of a Single Story" Six Sources Series: Humanist Teachings

Author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie explains the pitfalls of allowing story to dominate our understanding of a person or group of people. We will consider the wisdom of her admonishment and reflect on humanist teachings which warn us against "idolatries of the mind and spirit." Today's worship will also include important rites of passage: we will have a baby dedication during Family Service and we will welcome new members to our church during the 10:30 Service.

### May 30 Stories of Remembrance

Memorial Day isn't just a time for cookouts and first trips to the Cape. It's a time to memorialize, to recall and honor those who have gone before us. This includes those who served our country in times of war, and it is traditional and right to honor them on this day. But it goes beyond that to all the Ancestors, literal and spiritual, whose influence has reached beyond their own lives to enrich and shape ours. One of the best ways to honor these Ancestors is to tell stories of them, their lives, and the gifts they have left for us. You're invited to bring your own stories of remembrance into a Chalice Circle this Memorial Day. If you'd like to share a story, please let Worship Coordinator Beth McGregor know a week or so ahead; we'll also leave time and space for spontaneous memories that arise as we reflect.

## From the Minister



I have been thinking about the power of humility lately. When I first graduated from college, I went to work at a place called the Urban Ecology Institute. I brought binoculars, bird books, and water quality test kits into

Boston Public Schools for science curriculum enrichment. I had an Environmental Studies degree, and I was putting it to work. I had read the studies about the positive health impacts of greenspace in the city and so I was very passionate about the Urban Ecology Institute's mission to promote such spaces, and to foster city dwellers' connections with the natural environment.

So I brought my passions and supposed expertise into classrooms and afterschool programs filled with kids whose lives were very different from mine. The lessons did not go very well. It didn't help that I had almost no teaching experience. But my awkwardness also didn't help. Buried beneath my good intentions was subconscious judgment. I assumed these kids, mostly working-class kids of color, did not know or care about birds and water and trees, and that I should teach them about birds and water and trees, for their own good. I silently judged their snack choices, their taste in music, their defiance. I felt wretched.

And I felt humble, because I realized how much I just don't know. I met kids who were hungry, who missed their incarcerated loved ones, who were constantly getting in trouble but didn't understand why. I don't know what it's like to not know where my next meal is going to come from. I don't know what it's like to grow up with a parent in jail. I don't know what it's like to be judged and punished for "acting out," for the way I talk or the way I look.

As an owning-class white person with an expensive education, I have been known to think, "I am the one with the answers." Humility relieved me of this misconception. It helped me question the idea that my values and my tastes were the correct ones, which then released me from being silently judgmental. Because all the kids I met whose choices I didn't understand and who were going through hard stuff were also curious, goofy, smart, and kind... you know, kids. Once I got over myself, I could recognize them as the brilliant and fully human human beings that they are.

We continue to reckon with racism in our society.

Racism is not just interpersonal bigotry. It's also about our institutions and culture. By dint of my whiteness and upper-middle-class background, which has always been applauded and affirmed by every gatekeeper of success I've ever encountered, a subconscious sense of superiority snuck into my psyche and soul. Humility has been my release, my liberation, my invitation into relationship.

What is your take on our national conversation about race, class, and oppression? What has helped you form relationships across difference? Let's keep the conversation going, friends.

With love,

*Rev. Jolie*

### Parental Leave Minister:

### Tricia Brennan

The UCS Board of Trustees and I are pleased to announce that plans are in place for who will cover my upcoming parental leave. (For anyone who didn't yet hear the news - I am expecting another child, due at the very end of July.) Rev. Tricia Brennan, a local UU minister with 20 years of experience in parish ministry, including having served as the UCS Interim Minister from 2008-2010, will be our part-time minister during the time that I am off, from August through the end of November 2021. I will return from parental leave on December 1, 2021.



We will offer a more detailed introduction to Rev. Tricia in an upcoming monthly newsletter, most likely in the summer edition of the Chalice.

Our BOT and I are thrilled to know that our community will be in such good hands during my four months with the newborn. Rev. Tricia is a very good listener and her active spiritual life profoundly informs her warm and caring ministry. She will be a wonderful support to the congregation and church staff during the time that I'm away.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Jolie and the UCS Board of Trustees



## From the President



### Some Things to Celebrate

Mel Springer and I are licking our chops while our erstwhile protégé, Nolan Howard, is hiding New York size tears. The surprising Red Sox find themselves in first place while the impotent Bronx Bombers are dropping duds as they tumbled into last place. Performance relative to last year is upside down for both teams. Who could have thought...?

More than 400 volunteers cleaned up 16 different sites along the Neponset River last weekend to celebrate Earth Day. Members from our church worked along Commander Shea Blvd in Quincy, filling sixty 12-gallon bags full of debris. This part of the Neponset constitutes the estuary which is subject to daily tidal action and therefore receives new trash from ocean waters two times a day. The daily deposits are an ever-present reminder of the damage to our environment by a consumer society that neglects to dispose of trash properly.

Many of us have received our Covid vaccinations and there is potential for all adults who so choose to be vaccinated by end of June. My personal reaction is a sense of relief and a feeling that I can start doing things that have been on hold since March 2020. Our family viewed magnificent groves of stately trees at the Arnold Arboretum during school vacation week. Now we want to take the train into Boston to enjoy a walk through the flowering Public Garden and a visit to the festive Isabella Gardner Museum. Best of all will be get-togethers with people we haven't seen face-to-face in over a year!

Speaking of people that we haven't seen, our interim minister Rev Tricia Brennan, who served UCS while we were in search for Rev Jim Robinson, will join us come August. Our lucky star watches over us as we prepare for Rev Jolie's parental leave this Fall. Jolie and Tricia both live in Jamaica Plain. It was preordained that Jolie should discover Tricia as she put feelers out to identify a minister who could serve us from August thru November. Tricia served us during a period of tremendous change (2008 – 2010) as we built the new two-story addition to the church and held RE classes in the town Library across the street. She will undoubtedly revel in the new minister's office and experience first-hand the progress that we have achieved as a UUA Breakthrough Congregation!

*Rory McGregor*

## Buildings & Grounds

### B & G Roof and Gutters Aerial Survey

Keeping a handle on the condition of our roof and gutters has always been a challenge. No more. Thanks to the skill and equipment of Jonathan Parker-O'Toole we were able to get a bird's eye view. Jonathan piloted his drone over all sections and was able to get some detailed photos giving us a very clear picture of maintenance needs. The pictures were not only very, very helpful but it was also fun to see the church and grounds from that perspective. Below are two of the many that Jonathan provided us.

A big thanks to Jonathan for taking the time to put this together for us!!!





## “Safer” Re-Opening”

### Events allowed on the church grounds

As the conditions related to the coronavirus pandemic change, we are continuously evaluating how we can move closer to a 'new normal' while maintaining our values of safety and inclusiveness. In addition to paying close attention to the CDC and MA State guidelines, we are also referencing UUA recommendations. We strive to align with the values expressed by the UUA, such as the abiding care and concern for the most vulnerable, inside and outside of our congregation. We are all anxious to gather in person again; and yet as congregations we are urged to “move slowly, with caution and our deepest values at the center. We encourage you to move with care and humility, and a willingness to reverse course if things aren’t working, or if the virus resurges.” We would encourage you to take a look at some of the UUA thoughts and guidance available here: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>

The Safe Re-Opening Task Force appointed a year ago and chaired by Linda Godfrey-Bailey has kept abreast of the public health recommendations and is serving as an advisory resource to the Board of Trustees.

The Board has recently formed an additional Re-Opening Implementation Team, chaired by Brenda Wilbur (current V.P.), to draft policy, seek input, and work out the detailed plans and logistics as we consider and plan for our options with respect to gathering in person. Ultimately, the Board is responsible for supporting our mission, setting policy and approving any changes to the use of our building and grounds.

For most of the past year, the building was closed but small gatherings were allowed on the church grounds.

On 04/14/2021 the Board approved access to the church building for controlled use of the bathroom facilities during outdoor congregational gatherings and church events held outside on the church grounds. The policy was further revised by the Board on 4/21/2021 to clarify food policy indoors and outdoors. There are a number of procedures, protocols and precautions which should be adhered to as described below. This policy and all details are subject to change as conditions change; for questions about current policy you can contact Brenda Wilbur ([bkwilbur@comcast.net](mailto:bkwilbur@comcast.net)) or any Board member.

The details of the policy can be found [here](#).

*Submitted by Brenda Wilbur*





## May Programs

### Chat on the Grounds with Rev. Jolie

*Every Thursday at 10AM, weather dependent*

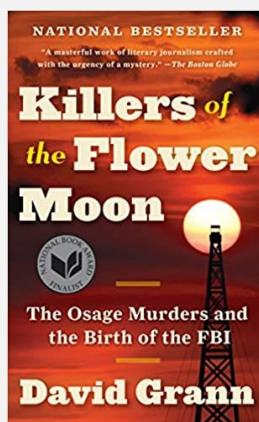
Join Rev. Jolie with your masks on, to catch up and share whatever is on your hearts and minds. Bring your own chair and maintain social distance.

### The Not Boring Book Group

The Not Boring Book Group meets (via Zoom for now) at 7pm on the first Wednesday of most months.

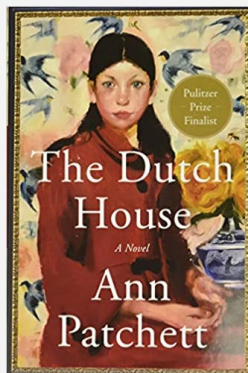
Our choice for May 5th is **Killers of the Flower Moon:**

**The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I.** by David Grann. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita were the members of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, due to the discovery of oil on their land. Although it is nonfiction, the book, which addresses a series of murders of Osage tribe members (sometimes by white men who married and then killed their wives and other family members to get their tribal land rights), reads like a novel.



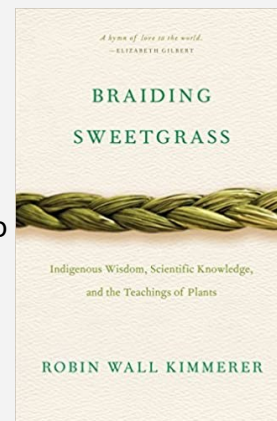
On June 2nd at 7pm, we will discuss Pulitzer Prize

finalist **The Dutch House: A Novel** by Anne Patchett. The novel follows a brother and sister who enjoy a fairy tale life despite their mother's having fled the pressures of managing the household when they were young. When their father dies and leaves his fortune to their stepmother, the kids are left to fend for themselves, going on to live a drastically different life than they had imagined. The house of their youth haunts them through adulthood, and they want revenge – in an unexpected way.



While the discussion date is TBD at this writing, we've decided to read **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** as our summer selection. Botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer was trained to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. A member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that

plants and animals are our oldest teachers. Bringing these lenses of knowledge together, she shows that a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. (Think of the Unitarian Universalist 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.)



Everyone is welcome. Our discussions are lively and may spark a response even if you haven't finished – or even started – the book.

### Let's Laugh Today

is EVERY Wednesday at 7:30pm on ZOOM!

Let's Laugh Today Laughter Club is on ZOOM for 45 minutes every Wednesday at 7:30pm! 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 up-lifting and immunity-boosting! See [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com) for link to this free ZOOM meeting and others. This is the perfect time to try something new in 2021!



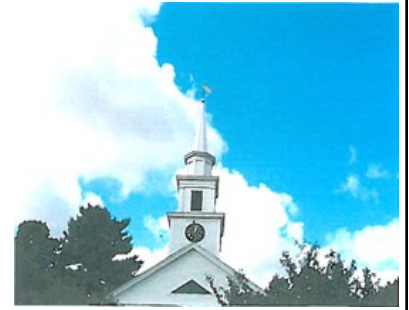
### Update on the Memory Tea

Since we aren't able to gather together and share food and tea at this time, we are going to postpone this year's Memory Tea event until it is safe to share a meal and memories together. The Caring Committee will be in touch with more details as we plan the next event.

### Calendar Link

Check out our Calendar for online events happening this month: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendars/2021-05/>

Conversations  
At the Meetinghouse



## The Hollywood Blacklist of the 1950s

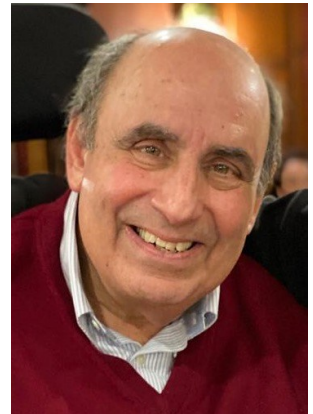
**STEVE ZRIKE**

**FRIDAY, MAY 7, 7 PM**

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6525468701?pwd=b2JuMlI5TVJzWTNHZ2ZyUzVYcFh1dz09>

Meeting ID: 652 546 8701      Password: 3652



The post World War II years in America saw the rise of the “Red Scare”, a perception that communists were infiltrating United States society and the government. No segment of life was spared but Hollywood writers and actors were especially affected by the fear of communism. Mr. Zrike will explore the Hollywood blacklist and he encourages the viewing of the 2015 movie, “Trumbo” with Bryan Cranston.

Steve Zrike is a retired Marketing Executive who has had a love of films and all things related to the Cinema for as long as he can remember. He has been coordinating film courses for the Lifelong Learning Collaborative (LLC) since 2011. He has coordinated classes on topics such as the The History of Film, Films Based on History, The Greatest Films of All Times, The Great Directors, Film Noir and Films Based on Short Stories .

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

## Committee Updates and Events

### From Church Archivist

#### A YEAR FOR THE ARCHIVES--HOW OUR CONGREGATION MADE IT THROUGH A PANDEMIC

The Sharon Historical Society is gathering an archive of how people of all ages and institutions of all kinds in Sharon coped with a difficult and eventful pandemic year. We're all invited to submit your words, images and artifacts to the Pandemic Memories Project, a unique display and archive at the Historical Society. Check out [www.sharonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sharonhistoricalsociety.org) for information and ideas.

That town-wide effort inspired me, as our Church Archivist, to create our own display and archive, documenting all the creative ways we managed the challenge of being apart and closed out of our beloved building. Wouldn't it be nice to be greeted on our return to worshipping together by a display of photographs and memory snippets of the things we did together even while apart--outdoor gatherings like the Animal Blessing and Solstice Labyrinth, vigils, and drive-through Social Justice Marketplaces; at-home and small-group activities like making Mainspring House lunches; and all the ways we reached out to help each other. And it would be great to have longer reflections about the experience that we could share and then put in our church archives for those in the future to read.

If you're interested in contributing to this or helping to gather materials, please let Beth McGregor know. There are so many good stories and images to share while the memories are still fresh.

Let's make history together!

*Beth McGregor*

*Church Archivist (Did you even know there was such a position/)*

### Worship Committee

**Have you always wanted to join a committee, but unsure which one?** The Worship Committee is seeking new members. We will welcome three new members, and one senior youth. New members will be meeting in July to discuss and plan our new church year as well as in August to meet with the Parental Leave Minister. Associates or Alums are also welcomed to act as Worship Coordinators, however, are not required to attend monthly meetings (third Sunday of each month).

Please contact Worship Chair, Jean Fox, for further details. [jmfoxden@verizon.net](mailto:jmfoxden@verizon.net)

### Stewardship Committee

Our thanks to all the UCS members and friends who pledged during the All in, All Together Stewardship Campaign. Your generosity is so appreciated and your commitment to this community is so vital. We hope you enjoyed your treat! If you haven't made your pledge, it is not too late to do so. Please use the online pledge [form](#) or contact the Stewardship Committee at [Stewardship@UUSharon.org](mailto:Stewardship@UUSharon.org) for assistance.



Stewardship Monthly Conversation: Sunday, June 13th at Noon

The Stewardship Committee hosts monthly meetings to discuss all things Stewardship. We hope this year's Pledge Campaign (All In, All Together) inspired and made you feel good about your financial support of the Unitarian Church of Sharon. We are pleased with the outcome and thankful for your generosity during a time that has been difficult for many. The Stewardship Committee has taken a different approach compared to recent past years and we are hoping for your input. What has worked for you this year? What hasn't? What might you like to see next year? Are there Stewardship topics you would like discussed? Are there questions we've left unanswered? We'll also review results from this year's Canvass. Please join us for a 30-minute conversation on June 13th at Noon. You can find the Zoom meeting link in the calendar on the Church website ([www.uusharon.org/calendar](http://www.uusharon.org/calendar)). Thanks for joining us!

*Peter Raskin, Stewardship Committee Chair*

### Fellowship Committee

#### Church Cheer Secret Pal Gift Exchange

Church Cheer SummerTime Themed Gift Exchange is coming! Join us to give and receive some SummerTime cheer! [Follow this link to fill out the sign-up form](#). Sign-ups close at midnight THIS Monday, May 3rd, so don't miss out, go sign-up right now!

Need a little more specifics on what this is and how it works? [Details and frequently asked questions can be found here](#). If you need help with the sign-up form or have questions not covered in the FAQ please contact gift exchange coordinator Chelsea Gould at [chelsea.c.gould@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.c.gould@gmail.com) or by phone at 203-240-5570.



## Religious Education News

### *From the Interim Director of Religious Education*



#### Easing In

What struck me most from a recent UUA seminar on re-opening was the notion that when people don't begin to process trauma until they are actually safe. So as we find safety coming into our midst, and we begin to gather meaningfully with people in person, we are simultaneously beginning to process what just happened, and frankly, is still happening. Each person will have their own timeline, their own way of rebuilding daily life and their own response to the demands of a changing landscape.

We are in a time when both what we must do and what we choose to do remain complex. Returning to pre-pandemic activities will be a process. Programs in the church community will reflect that process. Religious education programming happens when members of the church community give of themselves to teach. Yet, these are the same people who need time, patience and flexibility with their return.

The question remains as to exactly when we return to in-person worship. Will we be ready to resume RE at the same time? That depends somewhat on how many folks will consider it part of their healing to be with children and youth on Sundays. The Religious Education Committee aims for programming that offers self-determination, play, and gentle ways for children, youth and families to re-enter beloved community. And we'd like to offer OWL. More on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

For now, I look forward to seeing children, families, and others on the grounds and in the healing space of nature this Spring! Please see the offerings for the month of May in the calendar and program descriptions.

In Faith,

*Christine Bulman*

**Father Bill's & Mainspring House Bagged Lunch program continues!** If you would like to make or deliver bagged lunches this month or next, [sign up here!](#) Father Bill's recently reached out to thank us for your efforts - they are much appreciated!



#### RE CALENDAR

##### May 2

- 12:15 Playground meeting (in person at the playground)
- 1:00 - 2:15 pm Peace, Pots and Permaculture: we'll join in the Stackable Garden project today, helping to assemble, fill and plant one of the stacks.
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Senior Youth Group

##### May 9

- 12:30 pm Father Bills & Mainspring Bagged Lunch-making
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Senior Youth Group

##### May 16

- 1:00 pm Peace, Pots and Permaculture

##### May 23

- 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Faith Among the Trees
- 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Middle School Anti-Racism Learning and Discussion group
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Junior Youth Tye Dye on the grounds
- 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm Senior Youth Group on the grounds

##### May 30

- 1:00 pm Peace, Pots and Permaculture
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Senior Youth Group



We had a successful Easter Can Hunt with 12 children and youth in attendance who pulled together over 100 cans to be delivered to the food pantry!



## RE News, Youth Ministry

**Thank you to Jon Slavin and Chris Raskin** for hosting a four-part installment of the "Being a Parent" Series: Parents & Caregivers as Sexuality Educators. Topics included communicating with children and youth about sexuality, relationships, consent, and social media. There are many important topics left to discuss and we hope to offer another parent series on sexuality next year. *r*

### New & Upcoming:

#### Peace, Pots and Permaculture:

May 2, 16, 30, June 13 1:00pm - 2:15pm

What's permaculture? It's a set of principles used in gardening based on the ethics of "earth care, people care and fair share". Each session we'll get our hands dirty with a permaculture principle and squeeze in a game or story too.

#### Faith Among the Trees:

May 23 June 6, 20

Intergenerational nature program in area nature preserves. Open to all ages, all folk in the congregation. 90-minutes of mindfulness, exploration, play and connection in nature. Drop-in with advance registration.

#### Re-imagining the Playground:

As the time has come to remove the aging playground equipment, vision is emerging from the perspectives of child development, community, religious education, and nature-based activity for all ages for a new play area that is multi-use and features natural materials. It's idea time! Please lend your ideas to this process! We are collecting [images here](#). In the early stages of planning, we will meet on May 2 at 12:15 to start to hone in on elements to include in the design and to establish parameters for the project.

### When will OWL return?

That depends in large part on the availability of facilitators. Churches all over the country face the same predicament, no OWL training and currently trained facilitators trying to get their feet under them. If you are trained, and you think you might be willing to teach OWL next year, please let Christine or someone on the RE Committee know as soon as possible!

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

Do you know anyone who might be interested in this exciting new position? Our youth programs are poised to thrive! Check out the position [here](#).

## YOUTH GROUPS

### Senior Youth Group

SYG meets weekly on Sundays from 5-6:30pm over Zoom and is open to any and all individuals in grades 9 - 12! This month we'll continue checking-in with one another, playing games, and continuing to support each other through these changing times. We'll also be having an in person meeting on May 23rd from 5:00pm - 6:15pm.



### Junior Youth Fellowship Group

JYFG meets once a month and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in our congregation. Last month, we joined in fellowship to play online games together! Our next meeting is May 23rd 3:30pm - 4:30pm ON THE GROUNDS and we'll be doing tie-dye together!

### Anti-Racism Learning and Discussion Group for people in grades 6-8

What is all this anti-racism talk and what does it mean to me? What's the difference between not being racist and being anti-racist? Why have people within Unitarian Universalism been calling on UUs specifically to engage in anti-racist work?

This group meets once a month and is a place for middle schoolers to talk, learn, and ask questions about race and racism in our UU faith and in the world and how we can build skills for anti-racist work. We'll talk and do activities together to learn about our various identities, the ways racism shows up in our communities and resistance against it, and how we can use our anti-racist lens and voice to make change.

4th Sundays 1-2:30pm: May 23, Jun 27

### Call for Youth Advisors

Looking for something to do Sunday evenings? Want to bring some play into your week? Senior Youth Group depends on adult volunteers to serve as youth advisors. You do not need any special skills, just a willingness to come hang out with us on zoom one Sunday a month and play some games. If you might be interested in serving in this way, please email Katie at [yc@uusharon.org](mailto:yc@uusharon.org).

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](mailto:yc@uusharon.org).

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the [UCS website](#) for all the latest news and updates on what's happening at church. The Social Justice pages are a great source for the most up to date information on events, opportunities to engage, resources, and for links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.

### Brown Envelope donations in May: Mothers' Day Walk for Peace 2021



25th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace - Supporting the Work of the Louis D. Brown Institute for Peace. This year, we walk virtually all through the month of May. We [donate online](#) and we give generously through our Brown Envelope collection.

#### **Why We Walk - 1st UU Principle - The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person**

"Thanks to your support, financially and emotionally, all of our services, training and advocacy work has continued and we were also able to grow as an organization. We believe that inner healing allows us to do the work of transferring knowledge, equipping others to influence advocacy and engage in activism that builds the foundation to transform the way society responds to homicide."

#### **The work of the Louis D. Brown Institute of Peace is founded upon these principles.**

**Mission** - To serve as a center of Healing, Teaching and Learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

**Belief** - Families impacted by murder deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion, regardless of the circumstances.

**Vision** - To create and sustain an environment where all families can lie in peace and all people are valued.

**Principles** - Love, Unity, Faith Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness

**Model for Peace** - grounded in the Center for Disease Control's social-ecological framework that interventions are needed at multiple levels in order to interrupt cycles of violence. The LDBP's framework starts with families and radiates out to communities and society.

#### **Transforming Society's Response to Homicide through:**

**Services:** That are consistent and compassionate for families of murdered loved ones and families of incarcerated loved ones to prevent cycles of retaliatory violence.

**Training:** That instills the value of peace and equips Institutional stakeholders to respond equitably and effectively to families dealing with murder, trauma, grief and loss.

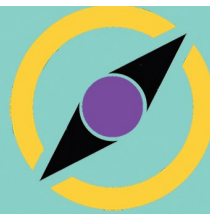
**Advocacy:** That promotes dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder.



Our Advocates met with **71** families in the immediate aftermath of a murder.



We held **35** Peace Play in Urban Settings sessions, with over **100** survivors participating, as a healing technique for those impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.



Our Reentry Services Director guided **9** men through post incarceration processes to support a healthy transition back into communities.



We educated **2,653** individuals on our best practices and tools for servicing survivors through **9** training sessions.



We provided **6** grants totalling **\$29,550** to survivor-led organizations.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

### Brown Envelope Collections



In March, the Brown E collection focused on two organizations working in support of migrant justice, with donations of \$1200 being split evenly between the **Kino Border Initiative - Nogales, AZ & Nogales, Mexico** ([kinoborderinitiative.org](http://kinoborderinitiative.org)) and

**No More Deaths** – a Ministry of the UU Church of Tucson ([nomoredeaths.org](http://nomoredeaths.org)).

For April, the SJC again selected two organizations, both working in support of environmental justice and resource preservation, with donations being split between them:

**Neponset River Watershed Association** ([neponset.org](http://neponset.org)), a grassroots, member-supported conservation group working since 1967 to clean up and protect the Neponset River, its tributaries and surrounding watershed landscapes. Their goal is a clean, healthy, accessible river and watershed, from the smallest headwater stream to the wide-open brackish water of the estuary.

April support will also go to **GreenRoots** ([greenrootschelsea.org](http://greenrootschelsea.org)), working to achieve environmental justice and greater quality of life through collective action, unity, education and youth leadership across neighborhoods and communities. They work through deep community engagement and empowerment, youth leadership, and implementation of innovative projects and campaigns.

Brown Envelope donations in May will go towards the work of the **Louis D. Brown Institute for Peace**.

[More information here](#)

Donations to local food pantries over the past 13 months during the Covid crisis have now totaled over \$37,000, a remarkable effort that has supported countless families in need throughout our neighborhoods. Sadly, the need continues, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

**Hold the date:  
Social Justice Fair Trade Marketplace  
19 May 2021; 4-6pm**

Plan on picking up your pre-ordered Fair Trade chocolates and coffees, Shopping for Justice grocery cards, and dropping off Food Pantry donations and Stackable Garden contributions at our monthly Fair Trade Marketplace in front of the church, 4-6pm on May 19th.

### Update on Indigenous Peoples' Day proposal for Sharon

There was strong community support for Indigenous Peoples Day in Sharon at a recent Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC) meeting (<https://www.townofsharon.net/diversity-equity-inclusion-committee>). Given that it is too late to change the holiday name through a vote at town meeting in May, the DEIC had to decide whether they wanted to advise the Select Board on changing Columbus Day to Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day this year. The DEIC unanimously decided against advising the Select Board to do this for 2021 given the inherent harm involved in celebrating both holidays. The DEIC then unanimously decided to advise the Select Board to (1) issue a resolution for October 11, 2021 that would solely recognize Indigenous Peoples Day and (2) to advise the Select Board to sponsor an article for the next town meeting (in either November of 2021 for a Special Town Meeting if one is held or in May of 2022 at the next Annual Town Meeting) to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Please find a few resources below if you would like more information about Indigenous Peoples Day and organizing efforts across the state.

<http://www.indigenouspeoplesdayma.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/346079613179128>  
<https://italiansforipd.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ItalianAmericansforIndigenousPeoplesDay/>

Thank you all for your energy and commitment to honoring Indigenous Peoples Day in Sharon.



A few drops of rain failed to halt our **April Marketplace** distribution, and it likewise failed to dampen the spirits of Vigil witnesses who gathered in support of Black Lives Matter following the jury decision in the Derek Chauvin trial – we UUs can multi-task.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued



Green Team members prepare the site of the new vertical planters for the coming growing season. The vertical, modular design of our multiple stacking planters will allow for a small footprint and efficient watering.

### “How does your Garden grow?”

#### Stackable Planters take root at UCS

Want to learn how to grow healthy local food and reduce your carbon footprint? Adopt a stackable garden tower as a part of a collaborative church-wide growing activity.

We are looking for families, groups of friends, or individuals to fill, plant, and maintain one in a system of stackable planters to be located on the church grounds. Members of the Green Team will be on hand to help your group set up, plant, and hook your tower to the drip irrigation system. Ongoing maintenance will include checking on your plants from time to time and making certain the water reservoir is filled. We hope to celebrate our harvest together in the fall.

Not sure you have a green thumb but want to help out? We will happily accept donations for the upfront costs of the planters, soil, seeds and starts, as well as the irrigation system. Send a check to the church (memo: ‘Stackable Gardens’), or go to the [PayPal donation page](#) for the ‘Gardens’ option. For more information, look for updates in the weekly Order of Service or reach out to a Green Team member.



### Green Energy at UCS and Climate Justice: How Green is Our Kitchen?

Building off of the Earth Day Service on 18 April where questions of environmental justice and management of our collective carbon footprint were examined (thank you Tom Yeransian for your powerful message and life’s work), the Green Team has arranged to explore ways to reshape our Kitchen electrical consumption. By unplugging our commercial refrigerator and chest freezer for now, we have seen a significant reduction in our utility bill. Moving forward, using a mini fridge/freezer for daily staff use and future Coffee Hour needs, and only firing up the large units when needed for major events (think Bean Suppers and New Member Dinners – remember those?), we can adjust to new habits and shrink our electrical demands. Look for an online survey this month to explore support for the option of paying a bit extra on our bill to demand 100% Green Power from the Ever-source, which we hope to put include in the budget for the new church year. How might this decision influence similar choices by other houses of worship, businesses, and residents of Sharon and other towns? Keep the con-



New Kitchen refrigerator/freezer = a smaller carbon foot-



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR SHARON'S UPCOMING VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SPEAK-OUT

**MAY 23, 2021 FROM 3-6PM**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Sharon Pluralism Network  
*Partners in a diverse community*



We hope you will join us at our upcoming Community Speak-Out sponsored by SPN (Sharon Pluralism Network), with funding and support from SSPARC (Sharon Substance Prevention and Resource Coalition). The event is open to all who live, work, study or worship in Sharon.

Given these very challenging times, with many people expressing feelings of isolation and disharmony, we are offering the community an opportunity to come together and foster a sense of shared experience and belonging. The Speak-Out will be led by Tabitha May-Tolub, a professional facilitator with extensive experience in community building. This will be a chance for us to meet other members of our diverse community, learn about one another, and develop creative, compassionate and respectful ways to strengthen and celebrate our community.



The Speak-Out will consist of large group activities and sharing along with small group discussions to allow for deeper reflection and discussion.

TO REGISTER please use this [eventbrite link](#). No current eventbrite account? No worries. Simply sign in with an email address, create a password and you're good to go. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Beth Hoke or Barbara Nelkin-Rose.

We hope you will join us!!!!

### Sharon Interfaith Action (SIA) Update

Thanks to the 50 people from our church community (out of 300+ total) who signed SIA's petition calling for the School Committee to act to promote cultural competence and anti-racism in the Sharon schools. At the [School Committee Candidates' Forum](#) on April 11, which SIA co-hosted with SREA (Sharon Racial Equity Alliance), all nine candidates answered "yes" to our question: If you are elected to the School Committee, will you act to support the points in this petition? We will follow up with those candidates who are elected, along with the remaining two members of the SC, to hold them accountable to their commitment. In the meantime, if you signed the [SIA Petition](#), please share the link and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to sign. You don't need to live in the town to sign it; being part of the UCS community is enough. We want to demonstrate to the School Committee that there is widespread support for dismantling systemic racism. If you are a Sharon voter, be sure to [vote in the town election](#).

If you want to get involved with Sharon Interfaith Action, please contact Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks or Janet Schmidt.

### MainSpring House Lunch Making rolls on

Thanks to teams of dedicated chefs (well, actually sandwich assemblers...), our monthly commitment to provide bag lunches for MainSpring House remains strong, despite Covid limitations. Want to get in on the action? Contact [DRE Christine Bulman](#) to sign up for duty: shopping, assembly & delivery options abound.



Here's what it takes to prepare a lunch for 120 of our neighbors.

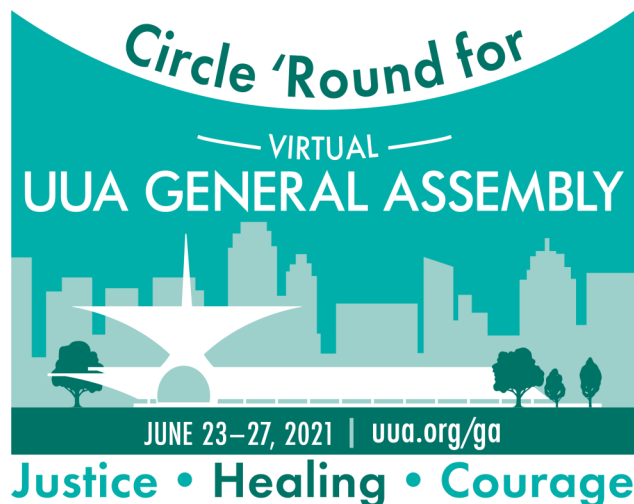
## Social Justice News, continued

### Building Up People Not Prisons Update:

Interest remains strong for the reevaluation of the proposed \$50 million women's prison in Norfolk County. Numerous groups are working to organize for racial justice, including working with 2 organizations led by incarcerated women, formerly incarcerated women, and women with incarcerated loved ones - The Building Up People Not Prisons (BUPNP) coalition and Families for Justice as Healing. There are complications and differing views on the best outcome of these efforts, and the SJC and the Anti-Racism Working Group will remain connected to the work in the months ahead as groups look to demonstrate how the funding for the prison could be put to much better and long-lasting results if the money went directly into creating safe and productive communities. The Justice for Healing website identifies their approach as #Reimagining Communities and states: "We don't need or want any new jails or prisons. Formerly incarcerated women have the solutions and expertise to address the root causes of incarceration. We are leading work to shift resources away from the criminal punishment system and into Black and Brown communities so we can have housing, healthcare, education, economic development, and community-led organizations."

Should you wish to learn more and/or get involved in supporting this movement to stop the building of prisons and, even more broadly, see a major transformation of the Criminal Legal system, here are some links that will be helpful:

- SURJBoston: [www.surjboston.org/](http://www.surjboston.org/)
- Families for Justice as Healing: [www.justiceashealing.org/](http://www.justiceashealing.org/)
- The Building Up People Not Prisons coalition: [www.proplenotprisons.org/about](http://www.proplenotprisons.org/about)



**UUA GA 2021 WILL BE VIRTUAL.**

**Register today at [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga)!**

General Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, simulive, and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, chat features, support, and a (new!) GA mobile app. Hear Ware Lecturers Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade, join in moving and creative daily worship services, and enjoy a wide range of webinars, workshops, and other programs, both by live participation and by on-demand recorded video. Learn what's happening in the UUA around the country, and expand your congregational vision into a broader community of UU's. Adult registration is \$200, and you can log on to multiple benefits as soon as you register.

**NOTE FROM REV. JOLIE:** We are seeking delegates to represent our congregation at General Assembly. If you'd like to serve as a delegate, please let me or our Board of Trustees know! Rev. Jolie

### April 2022 EF

### Spring Vacation Trip to Paris & Barcelona

Come along to Paris, Provence and Barcelona for a special 10 days of fun, history and exploring other cultures in France and Spain. Let's see the highlights of Paris, landscape of Provence, and sights of Barcelona! EF (Education First) has put together a fantastic itinerary for us.

Geared to: youth ages 11-18, but friends and family members are also welcome.

UCS Contact: Kerstin Gallant 857 453-9172, email: [kerstin.gallant@gmail.com](mailto:kerstin.gallant@gmail.com) or visit [www.ourinstagrampage.com/Paris\\_Barcelona2022](https://www.ourinstagrampage.com/Paris_Barcelona2022) for more information and to register.

EF Contact: Maggie Lenahan 617 203-7529, email: [Maggie.Lenahan@EF.com](mailto:Maggie.Lenahan@EF.com)

