

the chalice

Published by the
Unitarian Church of Sharon
**A Welcoming Congregation
of the Unitarian
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JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

January 7

10:00 AM Family Worship: A Lamp in Every Corner Today we will tell a story about lamps that lit a church in Transylvania. We will ask ourselves, are we really just talking about lamps in this story, or is it actually about something else? We will also introduce our theme for the month of January: Liberating Love.

10:30 AM Worship: Transformation: Article II Sermon Series

One of our UU Values is Transformation. What does it mean for a religion not just to acknowledge that change is a given, but to truly value the power and the possibility of change? Rev. Jolie preaching.

January 14

10:00 AM Family Worship: All the Colors We Are

In today's family service we will read a book on skin color called All The Colors We Are and discuss how skin color relates to discrimination in our country, which is called racism. As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to say NO to racism and work for a world where all are free.

10:30 AM Worship: Power Concedes Nothing Without a Demand

It's MLK Weekend. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a prophetic leader who communicated a vision of Beloved Community that we must still heed, all these years later. Of course, the Civil Rights Movement was much, much bigger than one man, and much longer than one generation. In today's service we will reflect on organizing. What is organizing and what does it have to do with the call of our UU faith? Rev. Jolie preaching.

January 21

10:00 AM Family Worship: Joseph Tuckerman's Revolution

Who was Rev. Joseph Tuckerman and what does he have to do with our theme of Liberating Love?

10:30 AM Worship: Pluralism: Article II Sermon Series

Our sermon series continues on the revised Article II of our UUA Bylaws (the part that currently contains our Seven Principles). Pluralism is another one of our UU Values which is actually quite remarkable for a religion to hold at its center. We will reflect on the creative tensions and spiritual rewards that come from being a pluralistic religious movement. Rev. Jolie preaching

January 28

10:00 AM Family Worship: Love of This Earth

Christine and our guest, Jim Scott, will reflect together about what Liberating Love has to do with this good old Earth we call home. And we will invite our families into the conversation too!

10:30 AM Worship: Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything - Worship Service with Guest, UU Musician Jim Scott

We will celebrate the earth with Jim's original songs, readings and personal reflections on Mother Earth or "Gaia" being one living organism. Our "spiritual response" is so timely now, as "the spirit of life on earth is in crisis. Jim's uplifting songs provide the balance to the wake-up call, leaving us with vision and inspiration to take the healing into our own hands. From his work with the Paul Winter Consort, where he was co-composer of their celebrated "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass" Jim has long been an activist for peace and the Earth with his music. He's visited over 700 UU churches in four decades, and his songs are in our hymnbooks.

CHURCH NEWS

First Fridays are for Fellowship!

Monthly Potluck January 5, 2023 6pm. Bring a dish to share if you can. Our meal will be followed by some sharing around our hopes/aspirations for the upcoming year. A vision board activity will be led to support this process. If you have any magazines you are looking to get rid of, bring them along with you.

Casual Music Jam Friday January 5, 2023 from 7-9pm

We'll be gathering on Friday, January 5th from 7-9pm at the Unitarian Church of Sharon (4 N. Main St in Sharon) for our monthly casual music jam. We'll be in Program A/B (head downstairs, then take a right).

Tai Chi

Tai chi classes are continuing on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 8 am to 9, with a small monetary contribution of \$5-\$7.(or \$10) The class is good for beginners as well as those more experienced. It's fun and good for your body/mind/spirit. So come!



Upcoming Performance

January 20, 2024

Steve Tapper & Shira Moss (flute and percussion duo) & Obscure Notation (jazz fusion)

An evening of World Music and jazz fusion

Doors open at 6:30 and concert starts at 7:00.

Suggested donation \$20

CHURCH NEWS

Bake Off Save the Date

We are excited to announce the Great Sharon Bake Off on February 10, 2024 (snow date Feb. 11) at the Unitarian Church of Sharon from 3:00-7:00pm. This is a fundraiser for the church and the event is open to the public. The 32 Adult Division Bakers will compete in the categories of Cakes, Pies, Pastries and Cookies/bars. (Bakers can only compete in one category and the number of entries in each are limited.) Ten Bakers, ages 12-17, will compete in the Junior Division. Judges are community leaders and professional chefs and bakers and prizes will be awarded. For details and to register, visit <https://www.uusharon.org/happenings/the-great-sharon-bake-off/>

Committee members include: Pat McDougal, Rebecca Kinraide, Lindsay Drisko, Elaine Price, Lauren Grasso and Sarah Langmead.



Save the Date

Calling All Bakers

to the

Great Sharon Bake Off

A fundraiser for

The Unitarian Church of Sharon
4 North Main Street Sharon MA 02067

Saturday
February 10th, 2024
3:00 - 6:00 PM
(Snow date Feb 11)

For information and registration
visit [uusharon.org/happenings](https://www.uusharon.org/happenings)

SHARON
BAKE OFF

CHURCH NEWS



Stewardship Corner

The Social Justice Committee and Money: What's It All About?

Are you aware of how and why the Social Justice work of the church gets tangled up in financial matters? Curious to know where the funds for social justice come from, and where they get spent? Here is a primer on how it all works, and an invitation to come to a Stewardship Workshop in January where you can ask questions and learn more. It helps to follow the money....

While the portion of our annual church budget that is allocated to the Social Justice Committee is very modest (not much more than a rounding error within the total budget), the money that we have is vital to the sj work of the church. Funds are designated for hosting guest speakers for events and Sunday services, for supplies to make posters and postage for mailings, and support for our annual Pride Celebration. In addition, there are line items to maintain our ongoing commitment to our Partner Church in Romania, as well as our annual dues for membership in the UU Urban Ministry program in Roxbury. That's our very lean budget footprint.

But the additional role of money in our collective work comes via several ongoing fundraising programs that generate resources for putting our social justice commitments into action. They include:

- 1) The monthly Brown Envelope Donation program: In conjunction with our weekly Offertory during services, we choose non-profit programs or causes related to social justice and ask for the congregation to consider making donations in addition to our ongoing pledges to support the church. Recipients range across the entire spectrum of sj causes, including environmental work, hunger and homelessness programs, youth empowerment, racial justice, prison reform and many more. We try to support efforts that encompass local, regional, national and international concerns, and are always balancing the need to find new causes while also maintaining long-standing relationships with known partners. Monthly totals (tabulated in the Annual Reports to the Church) typically raise \$1000 or more, sometimes a lot more.
- 2) Fair Trade sales during Coffee Hour: each week we offer quality items for sale that support economically sustainable, ethically based farmers and producers working for a better planet. The profits are held by the SJC as an additional resource to provide flexible funds on short notice whenever projects, needs or causes come to our attention that require action faster than a multi-month campaign can be launched – we can turn on a dime to spend a dime or more when circumstances call for quick action. The more you spend, the more quality goods you bring home, and the more that we raise!
- 3) Shopping for Justice Grocery Card program: for over a dozen years we have offered gift cards to local grocery stores as a means of fundraising for our hunger and homelessness programs. The stores give us a 5% discount when we buy cards in bulk, which we then resell to members who get a dollar's worth of groceries for every dollar on their cards. The 5% profit then gets used to feed and support our neighbors in need. To date, over \$950,000 in card sales has generated more than \$47,500 to make the world a better place. Again, the more folks who choose to shop for their groceries this way, the more of a collective impact we can have in the world.

Questions, thoughts, or suggestions? Please join us for an open forum for discussion and brainstorming on the Financial Aspects of Social Justice at UCS following the service on Sunday, January 28th. We are always looking for new and better ways to do the work of social justice, and your role in these efforts is vital. Let's see what we can accomplish when we pull together!

CHURCH NEWS

Art Wall

Currently on display are paintings by Jean Fox. Jean is nurtured by her love of nature; her paintings manifest this and are a conduit for us to share in her inspiration. They are exquisite; they are small; so step up close and have a good look.

There is room on this wall and future walls for more art; if you have some art work to share, please do speak with Dinah.

If you've done any renderings of our church, we're thinking of that for a theme going into January, but I'd be glad to hear about any art you've done and could hang.

Art is a way for us, as artists and viewers, to nurture our interconnectedness.

Meditation Group, weekly on Mondays, beginning January 8, 7-8 PM

Join Carol Abrams, local meditation teacher, for a simple weekly mindfulness practice in our Vestry. All welcome.

Worship Committee Update

Kudos to the many youth volunteers and children who put on a wonderful Revels service on December 17th! We have so much appreciation for our Faith Development Director, Christine Bulman, who helped blend it all together under the theme of generosity. Coming up in the New Year, we will have a special guest, Jim Scott, on January 28th who will share a musically focused service called Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything.

A reminder...With winter upon us, it becomes especially important that we leave parking spaces near the church for those with mobility issues.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions about our worship services, please reach out to one of us: Ellen Bordman, Tom D'Avanzo, Gary Webber, Peter Raskin, Valerie Vigoda, Hema Sarang- Sieminski, Ashley Tsongas.

From the Minister



Dear Ones,

Happy New Year to you and yours. The turning of the calendar page presents us the opportunity to reflect on the year that has just passed and, perhaps, make some resolutions for the coming year. I prefer to think of my resolutions as intentions, because life goes on as it does, regardless of what number is there on the front of the calendar.

As many of you know by now, Sharon has welcomed in many new asylum-seeking families, the majority from Haiti, but some from other places as well. Our congregation has been part of the effort to support them in several ways, especially through generous donations of toiletries, clothes, and more. We are no longer accepting general clothing donations. But it's time for something new - a Virtual Baby Shower! Several babies are on the way, so let's shower our new neighbors with the items they need to care for their bundles of joy. All you need to do is click on this gift registry and place your order. Items will be automatically shipped to Rabbi Julie Zupan, who will then distribute the gifts to the families. [Click Here](#) to be part of the Virtual Baby Shower!

One more thing. I received a thank you note from Brad Larson's family, which included several messages to all who helped host Brad's memorial service. I will share the note here:

How can we begin to adequately thank you? No wonder Brad chose you to be his church! Your unbelievable kindness and empathy has made a difference in our lives!

Parking attendants - as we arrived you were right on duty. Knowing what to do, caring. Thank you. You made a difference!

Ushers - your thoughtfulness was felt. Thank you. You made a difference!

Mel Springer - you are a legend to us. Brad often talked of the wonderful pianist at church. Your music was inspiring. Thank you. You made a difference!

To those who shared about Brad's life - how we appreciate your words. Thank you. You made a difference!

To those who furnished the bags of 3 stones with the meditation. How meaningful, and how kind of you, and what a lot of work you did. Thank you. You made a difference!

To those who prepared the fellowship time - as I walked into the hall, the beauty took my breath away. White table cloths, beautiful flowers and decorations, and such delicious food!! You went above and beyond! Thank you. You made a difference!

And dear congregation - for all you were for Brad, our hearts and our eyes overflow. Brad loved you! Thank you. What a difference you made!

With gratitude and love, Merle and Virginia Larson, Julie Mudry, Jill Larson.

And with that I also sign off, in gratitude and love.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Jolie

From the President



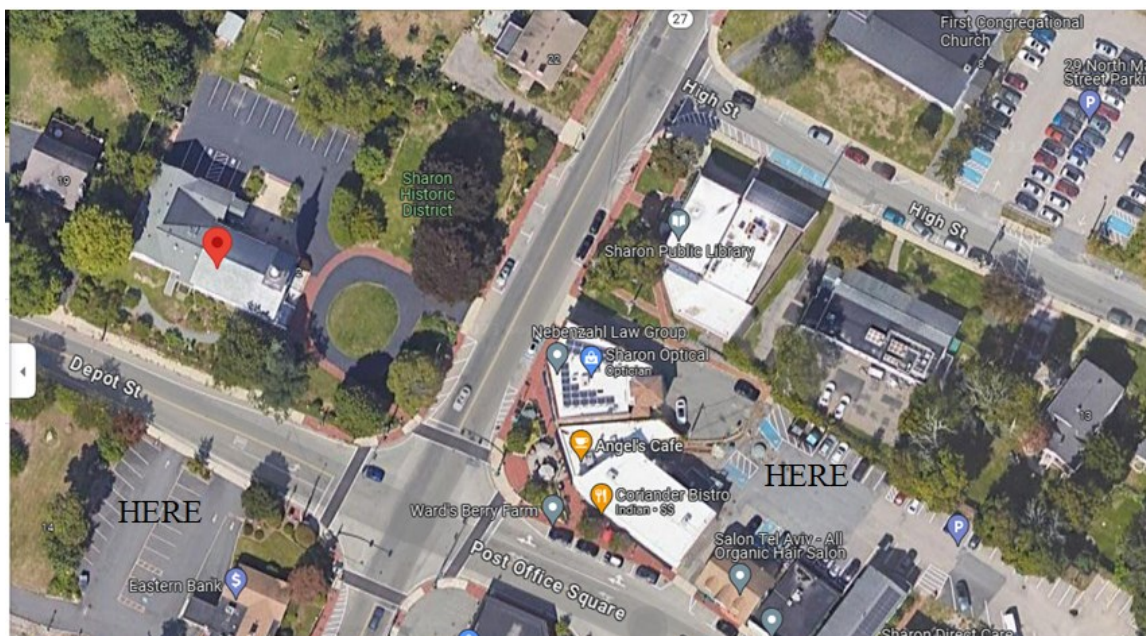
By the time you read this, all my holiday “stuff” will be done. I will have sung in the choir at the Solstice and Christmas Eve Services, played carols for a friend’s party, and flown to North Carolina to visit my grandchildren. We will be embarking on a new year, which we all hope will be the beginning of a better time COVID-wise and Middle East-wise.

One thing I hope we can do better in the months to come is . . . **PARKING.**

As you can see by the picture below, there are 15 regular parking spaces and two handicapped spots in the meetinghouse lot. Because recently a guest minister had to be directed to off-site parking, at the request of the Worship Committee the board recently voted to designate two of the 15 spots for the minister and director of faith development. That leaves 13 spots. If the average attendance at worship is 80, that probably means something like 40 cars will be looking to park. The Eastern Bank has generously offered us the use of some of their lot on Depot St. and there’s town parking behind Coriander, both labeled “here” in the picture. (I expect the lot behind the UCC church will be busy on Sundays.) If you are able, please park off site, so that folks who have trouble walking or who have things to carry can use the closer-in spots. Choir, this means you too!

Thanks, everyone, and Happy New Year!

Valerie White



FAITH DEVELOPMENT



To see more photos check out the [Revels 2023 Photo Album](#). If you have some to add, let Christine know.

January Faith Development Themes

Topics begin during the family service with further exploration and related activities downstairs.

January 7: Love at the center. If love is the foundation from which Unitarian Universalism grows, what kind of love is it? What does it look like when we love in a way that heals and transforms?

FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

January 14: All The Colors We Are Skin color and how it relates to discrimination in our country. Can we love in a way that liberates racism?

January 21: Love in Action Exploring our Love in action right here in Sharon.

January 28: Loving Earth with Guest Jim Scott, UU Composer, Poet, Performer, and Activist followed by Earth justice activities.

Volunteer Facilitators and Assistants Needed

Orientation and detailed session plans are provided. There are two ways to sign up: 1) Use [Sign-up Genius](#). 2) Look for a member of the Faith Development Team at coffee hour with the new sign-up book. You can browse the session plans and enter your information. Thank you!

Faith Development Committee Meeting - January 3, @ 7:00 pm

Curious? These meetings are open to all. Please check the calendar on the UCS website for Zoom details.

New to the Faith Development Program?

We must have up-to-date information on who is attending our Sunday morning children's program. When you register your child, not only are you providing relevant emergency information, but also that which helps us support your child in receiving the most they can from Sunday mornings!

[Register here](#) for 2023-2024 Children and Youth Faith Development Program

January Youth Meetings:

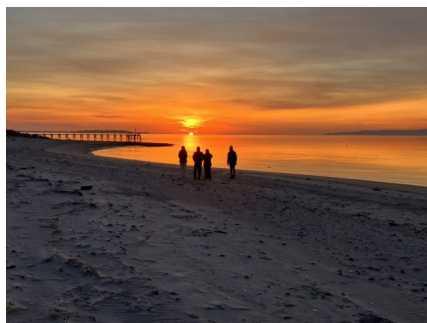
January 14: Revels debrief and Cedar Hill planning at noon

January 21: Cedar Hill planning at noon

Youth Overnight at Cedar Hill, Duxbury

January 27 - January 28

A wonderful overnight filled with



food, fun, worship, and laughter!

Youth (8th grade and older) and chaperones depart from UCS at 3:00 pm on Saturday, January 27 and return at 3:00 pm Sunday, January 28.

Register for the retreat here: [2024 Cedar Hill Retreat Sign-Up](#)

Article II Update from Committee on Ministry

What is Article 2 and Why Should I Care?

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments. So Article 2 is a living document that can and should be changed when needed to reflect our evolving faith.

There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies that have come from the Board, Commission on Appraisal and grassroots groups which encourage us to take a look at our principles, purposes, bylaws and rules. In response to those discussions, the UUA Board established the Article II Study Commission to complete this study and offer a revised Article II.

The Commission completed its assignment and offered up a revised Article 2 which was debated during the 2023 GA. After discussion, the assembly voted to move ahead with the proposed Article 2 changes. A vote on final approval of these changes will take place during the 2024 GA.

The Commission's report is 24 pages long, but the heart of its recommendations is the following: "Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love." This is graphically displayed in the flower image of a chalice with an overlay of the word love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six-petal flower shape. (See the flower image including the six values in the vestry.)

Throughout the year, Rev. Jolie will continue preaching about the values listed. Currently, she plans to address two values in January: "Transformation" on January 7th and "Pluralism" on January 21st. Following the January 21st Worship Service, the Committee on Ministry plans to host a discussion group about the proposed changes to Article II and specifically about the value of "Pluralism." This will be an opportunity to share your thoughts, raise concerns and inquire into the question: "What's going to change if these values are adopted?" We hope you will mark your calendars and join us.

Some topics to consider when reflecting on Article 2:

- What is essential to you about being a Unitarian Universalist?
- What language helps you describe the heart of Unitarian Universalism to other people?
- What is missing from our current covenant or faith language?

The UCS is committed to hearing from our congregation about these and other thoughts related to Article 2. These conversations will not only inform one another about Article 2 but also help inform our delegates to the 2024 GA when they vote on final approval of proposed Article 2 changes.

Signed,

UCS Committee on Ministry

Tom D'Avanzo, Chair

Barbara Nelkin-Rose

David Slater

Alison Reid

Mia Joiner-Moore

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website (uusharon.org) for information about the social justice programs at church. The Social Justice pages are a great source for

information about opportunities to engage, resources, and links to partner organizations and groups that we collaborate with in our work.



Brown Envelope Collections

The Brown E donations of \$800 in November went to

support **City School Inc**

(thecityschool.org), a non-profit which works with a diverse group of youth, ages 14-19, and whose mission is to help them to become effective leaders in addressing social justice issues, incorporating a strong focus on racial justice. Their work intentionally crosses lines of race, class, gender and neighborhoods



The December Brown E donations during regular services were directed to the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Emergency Response Fund** (uusc.org). The Fund provides vital assistance to people impacted by natural or human-made disasters yet whose access to aid is most limited. **Currently, UUSC is using resources from our Emergency Response Fund to support people facing**

extreme violence and threats to their safety in Haiti and Ukraine, following intense political and humanitarian crises happening in those countries.

[Note: a generous one-to-one match for donations to UUSC in December means that our support has been doubled.]

Donations during the Christmas Eve service at UCS this year will once again be given to **Father Bill's & MainSpring** (helpfbms.org) in Brockton, whose guests are experiencing homelessness. (We continue to provide bag lunches each month to help feed individuals and families facing housing crises.)

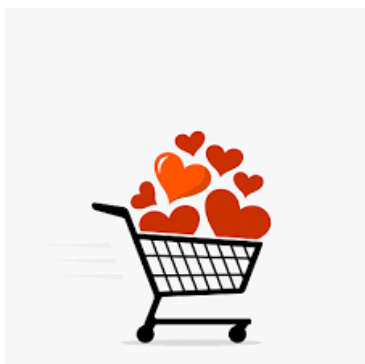


Food
Pantry

The January Brown Envelope collections will once again support the 6 local food pantries in our surrounding communities of Foxboro, Walpole, Norwood, Canton, Stoughton/Sharon and the First Congregational Church of Sharon's local pantry. Our gifts, delivered after the holiday season, are especially appreciated as pantry staffs report that the post-holiday season is often a particularly lean donation period for them, and requests for help remain at overwhelming levels. Donations will be converted into Shopping for Justice grocery story cards, which allows for an additional 5% boost to our gifts. Thank you for your support.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

MainSpring House lunch making: once again our UCS Youth will take the lead as we assemble 75 brown bag lunches for the guests of the shelter in Brockton. On Sunday, 14 January, during the second service upstairs, the team will assemble the meals on our behalf. If there is still work needed to finish the project, give a hand during Coffee Hour. Thanks!



Do you and your household members eat food? If so, you can help make the MSH lunch program a success when you shop for your own groceries. We fund-raise to purchase supplies for this effort with our **Shopping for Justice** program (S4J), where we ask you to purchase grocery cards from local chain stores for you personal shopping needs. We buy the cards in bulk, and get a 5% discount, which funds the lunch program (your grocery purchases are one-to-one, dollar for dollar, since the 5% donation comes from the stores). Stop by the Social Justice Table in the Vestry during Coffee Hour to learn more about this user-friendly program. The more of us who make this commitment to 'Shopping for Justice', the more hunger and homelessness programs we can engage with during these troubled times. Need a **New Year's Resolution**? Consider committing to buying your groceries through the S4J program and see if it doesn't get 2024 off on a

good footing – food for you and yours, healthy meals for our neighbors who are struggling. Win-win!

SJC Meeting for January: the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, January 7th, starting at approximately noon. We will continue to offer hybrid-zoom participation, with some gathering in the physical Library for face-to-face conversation, and others on the small screen. Look for the zoom link in the UCS Calendar. All are welcome; please join us as we look for opportunities and challenges to work together as we make a difference in the world.



Thank you to everyone who supported the 2023 Gifts for Kids Program. Either through direct gift shopping for a specific child, or by donations which allowed for gifts and gift cards to be purchased on their behalf, over 1100 children and youth in our region had happier holidays thanks in part to your efforts. The GFK Program was founded over 30 years ago by our own Pat McDougal to provide gifts for children in need during the holidays, as identified by social service agencies in the 14 surrounding towns, including Sharon.

ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP (ARWG) formerly 8th Principle**Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) REPORT**

In case you're wondering if the ARWG is still around, we wanted to let you know that we most definitely are. Unfortunately, the challenging and devastating events of the last couple of months of 2023, including the tragic death of our beloved Brad Larson, along with the devastating events and war in the Middle East, affected some of our work, including our scheduled October, 2023 annual Black Lives Matter Banner Re-commitment Ceremony. As 2024 begins, however, we hope to be able to provide a number of events that will invite the congregation into continuing our 8th Principle work and our commitment to becoming, and being, an intentionally and proactively anti-racist and anti-oppressive faith community.

Although no specific events have yet been scheduled, one of our primary goals is to facilitate at least one book discussion group, including the UUA 2023-2024 Common Read: *On Repentance and Repair* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (*Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*). For more information about the book [Click Here](#). And stay tuned for specifics about when we will be scheduling the book discussion(s).

We also wanted to let you know that a number of ARWG members attended a pilot program, entitled "WEAV: A Path to Sacred Change for Congregations" this past November and December. This 10-session program, offered by the Starr King School for the Ministry, a UU seminary located in California, was intended to focus on ways to counter oppression and become agents of sacred change. While the program was not exactly what we had expected and hoped for, we will be considering ways in which we might be able to bring some of what we learned to the congregation.

As always, we want to hear from you! Please feel free to contact Barbara Nelkin-Rose with any questions, concerns or ideas regarding the work of the ARWG. And, be sure to check the weekly chalice for information about any upcoming events, including when our Alcove Conversations corner is open.

Submitted by Barbara Nelkin-Rose, ARWG Chair