

# The Chalice

Published by the  
Unitarian Church of Sharon  
**A Welcoming Congregation  
of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association**  
4 North Main Street  
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### APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00am Family Service

10:30am Worship Service

For Zoom information [click here](#)

For Order of Service [click here](#)

### April 7

#### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Hannah and the Ramadan Gift

Ramadan ends with Eid-al-Fitr this week on April 10th. This morning we will hear a story about a girl named Hannah who is too young to fast for Ramadan but wants to celebrate, and her grandfather shows her how. This story full of warmth and heart will illustrate the observance of Ramadan and the power of good deeds.

#### 10:30 AM Worship: Peace Is Possible

In preparation for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, which is coming up in a month, we will learn about the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and how it relates to our faith as Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Jolie will share how working with the Peace Institute changed her life, and we may have a guest speaker to share the pulpit as well.

### April 14

#### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Lessons from the Great Story Part I: Where does Creativity Come from?

Last month we introduced the Great Story of the Universe through the lens of a creation story. Creation stories can offer us a sense of identity and provide us with life lessons. So what can we glean from it? This week is part I of Lessons from the Great Story

#### 10:30 AM Worship: Creating Fairness in the Land of Plenty

##### Article II Sermon Series: Equity

Today we continue our sermon series on our UU values as described in our newly proposed Article II of our UUA Bylaws, by exploring the value of Equity. The bylaw revision declares: "every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness." What does equity have to do with inherent worth and dignity? Rev. Jolie preaching.

Continued on next page.....

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## April 21

### 10:00 AM Family Worship: Lessons from the Great Story Part II: The Circle of Life.

If there was one thing that stood out during the Great Story, it was the number of extinctions! As difficult as it can be, death is in fact natural and creative. And no less sacred than life.

### 10:30 AM Worship: I Tried Not Trying, Rev. Ken Reeves, Guest Minister

“Try not to try,” Zen Buddhism advises its practitioners. When that does not work, Zen suggests: “Quit trying not to try.” When all else fails: “Quit quitting.” But what about being in control of one's life -- “the master of my fate; the captain of my soul”? This service will explore the tension between quitting and controlling and describe the spiritual experience.

**Rev. Ken Reeves bio:** The Rev. Ken Reeves is a graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry, and has served congregations in Ohio and Delaware. He has also earned a Masters in Pastoral Counseling and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He is currently a clinical psychologist with a therapy practice and a consulting psychologist with the Center for Career Development and Ministry. He is also the author of: *The Whole Church, Congregational Leadership Guided by Systems Theory*.

## April 28 INTERGENERATIONAL

### 10:30 AM Worship: Animal Blessing

Bring your animals to church today for a blessing! Yes, real live pets are invited, as well as cherished stuffies or photos. Together we will delight in all the beings we share this Earth with. Rev. Jolie leading the service.



## CHURCH NEWS

**Book Study! *A History of Religion in 5 ½ Objects* by S. Brent Plate (Beacon Press, 2014).**

**3rd sessions, Thursday April 4. Hybrid. 7 - 8:30 PM.**

Rev. Jolie will lead this adult discussion group beginning in March on religions of our world based on a close reading of the above book. From the book jacket copy: "Arguing that religion must be understood in the first instance as deriving from rudimentary human experiences and from lived, embodied practices, Religious Studies professor S. Brent Plate asks us to put aside, for the moment, questions of belief and abstract ideas." Instead we are invited to focus on five ordinary types of objects - stones, incense, drums, crosses, and bread - with which we connect in our pursuit of religious meaning and fulfillment. We will reflect on how the religious experiences described in the book relate to our own lives, and to our experience as Unitarian Universalists.

### **First Fridays are for Fellowship!**

Monthly Potluck April 5, 2024 6pm. Bring a dish to share if you can and enjoy connecting with your fellow congregants.

### **Casual Music Jam Friday April 12th 2024 from 7-9pm**

We'll be gathering on Friday, April 12th 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 has been meeting in Room A/B on first and third Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m. People are enjoying it, and contributing between \$5 and 10 to help defray the cost of the excellent teacher, Vince Jornales. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. Never did tai chi? Come give it a try; it's fun, relaxing and energizing all at once., basically focusing the mind and body on simple movements and the breath.

### **Art Wall**

The Art Wall beseeches you to add your artistic creations to the church show place. Please share your ideas with Dinah, if not your work. People enjoy seeing the art during coffee hour; please don't be shy.

### **Meditation Group, weekly on Mondays 7-8 PM**

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

## **CHURCH NEWS, continued**

### **UPCOMING SERIES**

#### **Conversations at the Death Café**

With Rev. Gary Strichartz, Ph.D

Rev. Gary Strichartz is a Chaplain at Millford Regional Medical Center and a UU minister. He brings to his chaplaincy more than 30 years of experience as a researcher and professor of the science of pain.

Facilitated by Rev. Gary and Rev. Jolie, with help from Rumni Saha, Ellen Bordman, and Lauren Grasso

Tuesday Evenings: April 16, 23, 30, May 7. 7 - 8:30 PM, in Program A/B (large downstairs classroom at UCS)

Description: Dying and death are uncomfortable topics, and people avoid talking about them. To anyone, including friends, family members, clergy, even their spouses. Through the four sessions of this workshop we hope to relieve some of the anxiety about dying and death, to provide some helpful information, both practical and spiritual, and to encourage people to begin a conversation on these topics with their loved ones. Our hope is to make these subjects less frightening and anxiety provoking, and thereby to help people live their lives to the fullest, right up to the end.

RSVP to Rev. Jolie: [minister@uusharon.org](mailto:minister@uusharon.org). Please indicate if you are unable to meet in person and need this to be a hybrid program.

#### **Not Just Another Coffeehouse**



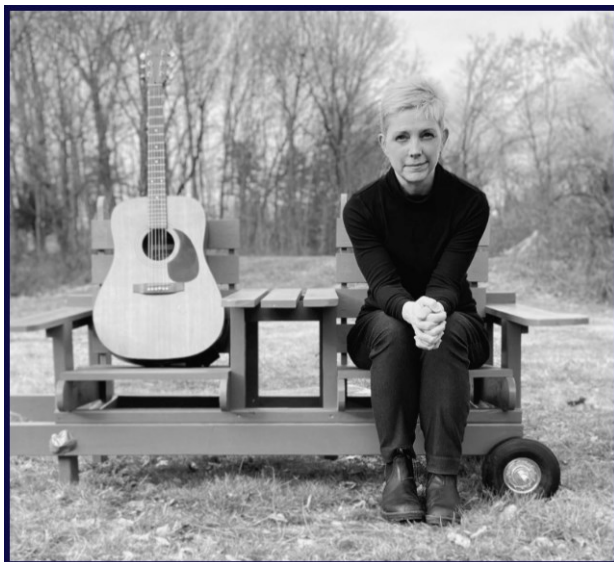
#### **Upcoming Performance**

**Erin Ash Sullivan, Saturday May 25, 2024**

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

Suggested donation \$20

<https://erinashsullivan.com/>



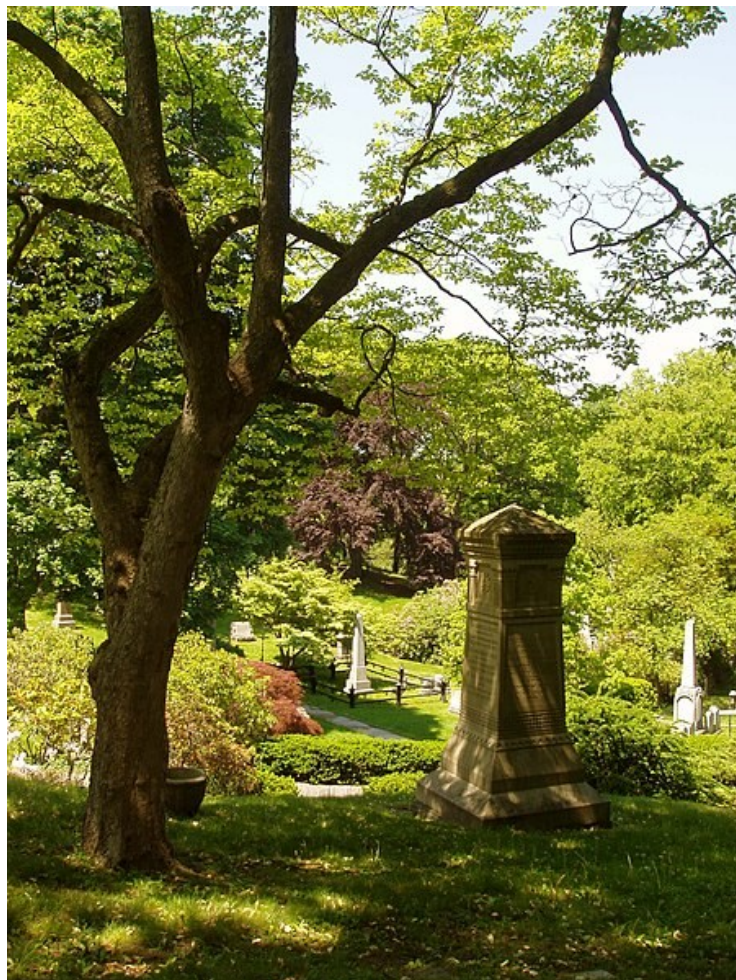
## ***CHURCH NEWS, continued***

### **Transcendentalist Club - 2nd Annual Outing**

Saturday May 4, raindate Sunday May 5

Join our small band of like minded friends as we tour Mount Auburn Cemetery, where we will enjoy a walking tour at the height of Spring in some of the most beautiful grounds in the area. The day will be capped off by a light picnic and visit to Margaret Fuller's cenotaph along with an overview of the women who was the first editor of the Transcendentalist magazine 'The Dial' and at the invitation of Emerson a member of the Transcendentalist Club.

The 174-acre cemetery is important both for its historical aspects and for its role as an arboretum. Anyone interested in joining us can contact Courtney Hopkins at [courtneyhopkins@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyhopkins@gmail.com) or look for me at church



## CHURCH NEWS, continued



Dear Beth,

Thank you for welcoming me at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, MA pulpit on Sunday, March 17. It was an honor to share the work of UUSC with you and introduce you to some of our grassroots partners working for justice around the world with your support.

Here are some links to use to stay in touch and get involved:

- Learn more about our human rights initiatives and grassroots partners at [UUSC](#) and explore immersion learning and justice education at the [UU College of Social Justice](#).
- Sign up for our newsletters [here](#) to get the latest updates on our work and how you can get involved.
- Get our action alerts by texting "**UUSC**" to **52886**.
- **Make a gift!** Gifts of **\$150** or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar thanks to our great supporters at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock!

If you have any questions or would like more information about UUSC, please reach out to me at [lrandall@uuscs.org](mailto:lrandall@uuscs.org).



Sincerely,

Laura Randall

*Director of Development for Congregation Relations*

### Worship Committee Update

The worship committee has funds in the budget for a "spiritual retreat", and we're looking forward to sponsoring an upcoming four-session workshop series about a topic we all might rather avoid. However, our congregation has experienced a lot of loss this year. To help us process, Rumni Saha and Rev. Jolie contacted Rev. Gary Strichartz, PhD, MDiv, a Chaplain at Milford Regional Medical Center in Milford, MA. Rev. Gary will co-facilitate these sessions to get us more comfortable with conversations around death and dying. Rumni, Lauren Grasso and Ellen Bordman will also be assisting. Please join us! More information in this [newsletter](#).

## ***CHURCH NEWS, continued***

**We received a farewell from Liz Moore and Mia Joiner-Moore, who moved to Vermont about a year and a half ago:**

They write:

It is with mixed emotions that we share with you our decision to transfer our UU membership from UCS to All Souls Church in Brattleboro, Vermont. After 20 years as members of UCS, we are very grateful for being able to legally marry there, the opportunities for spiritual growth, and especially the community and friendships we formed. We have also appreciated the opportunities to participate virtually in worship services and discussion groups as we transitioned to Vermont over the past year and a half.



We will miss you, Liz and Mia! We love you and we hope you keep in touch.

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### **Memorial Service for Joyce Bramhall**



Saturday, April 6, 2 PM at UCS

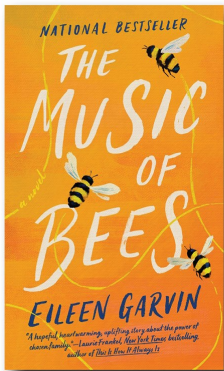
Remote access information: <https://www.uusharon.org/calendar/joyce-bramhall-memorial-service/>

Reception to follow

We are still looking for volunteers to help with this event, contact Rev. Jolie for the signup link.

# CHURCH NEWS, continued

## 2024 ONE BOOK, ONE TOWN SHARON READS TOGETHER



### The Music of Bees

by Eileen Garvin

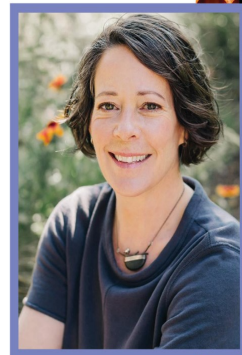


An Evening with Author Eileen Garvin

Saturday, April 20, 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Sharon High School Auditorium, 181 Pond Street

Author Talk and book signing. Thanks to generous grants from the **Mass Cultural Council** and the **Sharon Cultural Council**, this event is **FREE**. No registration is required. Garvin's books will be available for purchase at the event from An Unlikely Story Bookstore and Cafe of Plainville.



Eileen Garvin is the author of the nationally acclaimed novel *The Music of Bees*, a Good Morning America Buzz Pick, a Good Housekeeping Book club Pick, a People Magazine Best New Book, an IndieNext Pick, a Library Reads Pick, a Christian Science Monitor Pick, and named a Most Anticipated Book of 2021 by BookRiot, Bookish, Nerd Daily, The Tempest, Midwestness and others.

Beautifully moving, warm, and uplifting, *The Music of Bees* is about the power of friendship, compassion in the face of loss, and finding the courage to start over at any age. In the novel, three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town, each working through grief and life's curveballs, are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing - and maybe even a second chance - just when they least expect it.



Eileen's memoir, *How to be a Sister*, was named an Indie Next by IndieBound and was chosen as a Target Book of the Month and a Kindle Book of the Month. Her new novel, *Crow Talk*, a beautiful story of love, grief, friendship, and the healing power of nature in the darkest of times, will be published in late April 2024.

Sharing her backyard with four chickens, wild birds of all kinds, and about 120,000 honeybees, Eileen Garvin lives in Hood River, Oregon.

For more information, log on to [www.OneBookOneTown.org](http://www.OneBookOneTown.org)



Design by Carol Abram



## From the Minister



Dear Ones,

I wanted to be sure that everyone in our UCS community knew about something important that we are doing, albeit somewhat indirectly, by virtue of our membership in and support of our Unitarian Universalist Association. In coordination with the United Way of Mass. Bay, YMCA of Greater Boston, and the Black Refugee & Immigrant Community Coalition, one floor of our UUA headquarters in South Boston is serving as a temporary overnight shelter for 25 immigrant families at least through May 31. The commercial space on the sixth floor of our headquarters was vacant and is being offered free of charge to the shelter program. The need for emergency shelter sites such as this one is incredibly high right now. As our UUA's Executive Vice President Carey McDonald said, "As a religious community headquartered in Boston, we consider it an act of faithful witness to use our facilities to do our part to support families in need, including migrant families who are simply seeking safety for their loved ones." I am so proud our UUA is living its values in this way. Read more about this on the [UU World site](#).

Here in Sharon, our efforts to support our asylum-seeking neighbors continue. There are still lots of volunteer opportunities: childcare help is needed while parents are in a weekly ESL class, and drivers are needed for various purposes. Please let me know if you would like to learn more about volunteering. And then there's financial contributions! As noted in the Social Justice Committee's section of this newsletter, we raised \$2975 for our neighbors in February. This total includes the money you all donated in our weekly Brown Envelope collection and a generous donation from our Five Points Cluster in honor of Jim Mullin. I will put a large portion of these funds towards diapers and wipes, as there is a very high need for those items at this time. And I plan to keep some on hand to support food at the next social event and/or Know Your Rights Immigration Law workshop that may be scheduled. I will keep you posted!

We have had a lot of loss in our church community this year. I heard a request from some congregants to reflect on the spiritual, emotional, and practical aspects of death and dying - a suggestion which I agreed with wholeheartedly. I have invited my colleague and former coworker in the Spiritual Care Department at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Rev. Gary Strichartz, to help facilitate a four-part program called "Conversations at the Death Café." The description is in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter. An RSVP is not required to participate but it will help us plan so if you know you are interested or if you have any questions, please reach out.

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Jolie

## From the President



I missed the 3/24 origin worship—though I would have loved to be a black hole. I was visiting my daughter and family in Yakima, WA. Sunday morning she offered to take me to worship at the UU congregation in Yakima, but instead I opted to go hiking with goats. A different kind of worship.

Claire has five or so milking goats and 9 month-old kids (baby goats, not children). You put two of the babies in the back of your electric car and pile in to drive to a trail in Cowechee Canyon. You walk along a trail in the shrub steppe (mostly grass and sagebrush) where the recent (and rare) spring rains have coaxed an abundance of wildflowers into bloom. You walk along admiring the flowers and chuckle at the antics of the bounding kids and the chocolate lab, and enjoy the delight of other hikers you encounter who weren't aware that hiking with goats is a thing.

You wonder at the greening rim of hills around you and reflect once more at the awesome geologic history of the Yakima valley . . . this part of Eastern Washington was reshaped by an enormous flood which happened when a gigantic lake in Montana broke through its glacial dam and roared down across the basalt plains of Idaho and Washington towards the Columbia, carving the landscape as it went.

I've always been a fan of Emily Dickinson's poem that begins "Some keep the Sabbath going to church—I keep it staying at home", (although mostly, as you know, I DO go to church). But that Sunday I thought it ought to be modified a bit:

Some keep the Sabbath going to church  
I keep it hiking with goats.

My new picture was taken on that hike—I'm holding a tumbleweed. Tumbleweeds are iconically western. There are songs about them. . . but I learned recently that they are not native and in fact are invasive. Who knew?

Looking forward to seeing everybody at the Easter service!

Valerie White

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

### **April Faith Development**

This month we will distill some lessons from the Great Story of the Universe and that grand Epic of Evolution explored last month and we will interpret them through the lens of nature, gardening, and project based learning. Spring is here and we will spend as much time outdoors as we can! We will begin some outdoor projects that will carry us through the spring.

### **April 7: Life Persists**

K-4: Ebbs, flows, cycles, endings, beginnings - this was so evident in the Great Story and is evident in so many aspects of our lives. Including Spring! We'll be planning a food pantry garden, planting seeds, and looking for signs of life persisting into spring.

Gr. 5-6: OWL Session 7 / Reproduction and Staying Healthy, 10:30 am -12:00 pm

### **April 14: Creativity Comes from Tension**

K-6: In the formation of the universe, the tension between expansion and contraction give rise to the creativity of life. And so it is for us. Our exploratory selves often come up against the limitations of form and culture. Today we'll brainstorm about what's next for the playground: what do we want and what are the limitations we are working within?

NO OWL

### **April 21: Death is Natural and Creative**

K-4: The story of evolution shows us this over and again. Today we'll explore compost - both literally and figuratively. Preparing planting areas, adding compost.

Gr. 5-6: OWL Session 8/Decisions and Actions, 10:30 am -12:00 pm

Come for Breakfast! The Annual PanWaff, hosted by UCS middle and high school youth will begin at 9:00am! Adults \$7, children \$3, Families of four + \$20

### **April 28 : Intergenerational Animal Blessing**

K-4: attend the worship service

Gr. 5-6: OWL Session 9/Consent and Peer Pressure, 10:30 am -12:00 pm

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

### Annual Pancake Waffle Breakfast

Sunday, April 21 @ 9am

Hosted by Youth for a service trip to City Reach



Come to the annual Pancake Waffle Breakfast (aka the PanWaff)! In addition to pancakes and waffles with all the fixings, there will be bacon or sausage, fruit salad, and eggs. Gluten free options too! Adults \$7, Children \$3, Families of four or more \$20. Serving from 9am - 10:15am.

All middle and high schoolers are welcome to help host this event. There will be a planning pizza party for this on April 12, at 6pm.

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT, continued

Thanks to all for bringing to life this thought-provoking and downright fun celebration of the birth of the universe and the evolution of life on Earth!

### Photo collage of the Great Story Pageant



# SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS



The Social Justice Committee encourages you to visit the UCS website ([uusharon.org](http://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 February Brown Envelope donations built on our ongoing **support for immigrant families** currently in temporary housing in Sharon. Current information can be found on the Sharon Town website at [Migrant/Homeless Families in Sharon page](#). Our collection raised \$1,675 for this effort, held in reserve with Rev Jolie's Discretionary Fund, where program coordinators have been able to propose various funding needs.

We are 100+ United Methodist congregations in Southeastern Massachusetts committed to



Collaboration Taking Action During Resource Engagement Service

In addition, our own **Five Point Cluster** of local UU churches ([fivepointcluster.org](http://fivepointcluster.org)) recently voted to transfer to this program approximately \$1300 from a reserve fund. A few years back the Cluster created an experimental effort in Brockton to offer a **Community Closet** clothing center for free distribution to Brockton residents in need, and our own Jim Mullin was a central force behind the project. Covid and other complications forced the eventual closure of the CC, but the Cluster voted to donate the project's monetary reserves

to UCS' Immigrant Family Fund in honor of Jim. Therefore, the combined donations raised this year come to \$2975, which has already and will continue to enrich the lives of our new neighbors in numerous ways. Thank you to the UCS congregation, and to the other member congregations of the Cluster, for this generous support!



In March, our Brown Envelope offerings help the **UU Service Committee** support grassroots partners working for human rights for migrants and other vulnerable people here and around the world ([uusc.org](http://uusc.org)). The UUSC's **Guest at Your Table** program introduced us to local leaders of some of these remarkable partners, and invited church families to make them our "guests", especially at our Easter and Passover holiday tables. Many households have taken back to their dinner tables the traditional GAYT collection boxes, where home conversations and family giving ensued. We will collect the boxes in April, and combine the funds with the BE collections from Sunday services, and send them all off to the UUSC forthwith.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued

rising forces of Fascism apparent in our society.

April brings us closer to the annual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**, and once again we ask for your support for this important program. The Brown Envelope donations for April will be sent to the **Louis D Brown Peace Institute** ([ldbpeaceinstitute.org/mothers-day-walk-for-peace](http://ldbpeaceinstitute.org/mothers-day-walk-for-peace)), and there will again be opportunities for UCS members and friends to attend the Walk on Sunday morning, May 12<sup>th</sup>. This year we will walk and fundraise in collaboration with the Five Point Cluster team; look for registration and pledging details soon. And again this year, Rev Jolie will be part of the Cluster Walkers, but a lay-led service will occur in Sharon that morning if you are only with us on the streets of Boston in spirit.

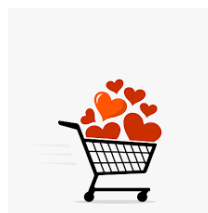
### **Accompaniment as an Antidote to Fascism – a UUSC workshop**

On 17 March a group of us joined our guest minister that Sunday, **UUSC's Rev. Laura Randall**, for an interactive workshop where we learned to recognize the tactics of fascism and to explore concrete ways to be in solidarity with those being targeted by state violence. We discussed how our UU values call us to resist and counteract the



Coffee, good food, engaged participants and a spirited conversation led by Rev Laura Randall during the anti-fascism workshop in March.

**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 April, during the second service upstairs, the team will assemble the meals on our behalf. If there is still work needed to finish the project, please give a hand during Coffee Hour. Thanks!



**Want to help make the Brown Bag lunch program work?** You too can help to make the MSH lunch program a success when you shop for your own groceries. We fundraise 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). .....**Continued on next page**


# **SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS, continued**

Stop by the Social Justice Table in the Vestry during Coffee Hour to learn more about this user-friendly program. The more UCS consumers use the S4J program, the more resources we raise that can be directed to helping address local food insecurity. And we all need to shop for OJ, kitty litter (?) and such, so get the stores to give the church 5% of your weekly total for this program – it’s easy!


**SJC Meeting for April:** the monthly SJC meeting will be on Sunday, April 7th, starting at approximately noon. A representative from the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury (UUUM) will join us to explore potential collaboration efforts with their work on many social justice issues and our own endeavors. It should be a lively conversation. 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.



**Check out this upcoming lecture series hosted by a dear friend of our minister!**



The  
Minns  
Lectures  
2024



ADULT  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
EVENTS

Sponsored by  
First Church Boston  
and King's Chapel

## Abolition Theologies: Praying for Liberation

Prison abolitionism is a theological imperative for Unitarian Universalists.

**REV. JASON LYDON**

**April 18**

**Boston**

First Church  
and on Zoom  
7:00 pm ET

**April 21**

**Boston**

First Church  
and on Zoom  
2:00 pm ET

**April 25**

**Boston**

King's Chapel  
Parish House  
and on Zoom  
7:00 pm ET

**May 9**

**Chicago**

Second Unitarian  
Church and on  
Zoom  
7:00 pm CT

**In Person or Online. [MinnsLectures.org](https://MinnsLectures.org)**

