



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 10th, 2017

Sharing Our Plate: December Our Father's House

Our Father's House is a non-profit agency providing shelter and related services to homeless men and women, with facilities in Fitchburg and Devens. Its programs encourage and assist each guest to become self-sufficient by offering client advocacy, assistance in searching for housing and employment, crisis counseling, and referral to community resources. Transitions at Devens, is managed by Our Father's House and provides transitional housing services for homeless mothers and their children. Other Our Father's House programs include an emergency shelter for men, a transitional shelter for women as well as transitional housing for chemically addicted homeless men and women who have at least thirty days of sobriety. Please make your checks out directly to Our Father's House.

December 10th *Families of the Heart*

Rev. Jill Cowie Often this month is hard as it brings so many different memories of family. I find hope in Andrew Solomon's words, "if the physical and psychic place to which you were born wants no more of you, an infinitude of locales of the spirit beckons." What he is saying is that when families to which we are born are not welcoming, or change over time, we can find families of the heart, places of belonging, of rebirth. My sermon tells my story of such a journey and invites you to ponder yours.

Dec 17th Solstice Service 10:00 a.m.



Religious Education.....

December 10 is a Fellowship Start and the second Sunday of Advent. All children and teachers will start in the Fellowship Building, meeting in Sutherland Hall for communal mini-worship before going to their respective RE classes. Mummers practice will also take place. Please see below for the weekly theme for each RE age group:

- * Butterfly Garden: Hanukkah Lights
- * Rock Garden: "The Star" Spirit Play
- * Cosmix: Mummers Practice (10 am - noon in Sutherland Hall)
- * Bridges: Session 10 in Compass Points – "Our Living Tradition"

Passages Refugee Experience

Passages Experience: an awareness activity putting participants through the ordeal of refugees. Passages is a role-playing experience developed by UNHCR in 1995 designed to put participants through the ordeal of being a refugee fleeing war or persecution. It is experienced in a large space, outside on a square or inside in a large room like a gymnasium, in groups of 15 to 67 people. Experienced facilitators are designated and the group is subdivided in "families". Each of these families will go through experience modules putting them through all aspects of being a refugee (fleeing a country, crossing borders, claiming asylum). The facilitators will brief and debrief the players afterwards. Some props and clothing are will be provided. This experience is designed to help create awareness, arouse emotions and encourage participants to take action on behalf of refugees. This experience is recommended for middle schoolers and above. Register by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/passages-refugee-experience-unhcr-tickets-40910789272>

-Daniel Payne

Guest at Your Table 2017

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about our work to advance human rights. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. GAYT is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table. Please take a box from the back of the sanctuary and collect change through December. We will collect boxes on January 7. -Daniel Payne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send words of love and support to our youth! *On the Wing* is a program of the HUUC which strives to connect recent high school graduates to our church-based community. Many of these young people have graduated from our High School Youth group to college, jobs or just time away to sort out their next move. We want to be there for them. Several times yearly we send care packages filled with snacks, school supplies, treats and well wishes from our congregants. Talk to Michelle Catalina, Patty Ruze or Rebecca White for more information after the service.

Social Justice Ministries Council, Gem of the Week: “A cow is God with a wet nose.” This week's selection is a young adult novel called *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate. It is a beautifully written story for any age, about a young refuge from Africa.

We currently have three very important volunteer positions that need to be filled immediately: Fellowship-Hour-Scheduling-Team, and Website Content Manager. Please contact Paige O'Brien, paigeob21@gmail.com.

Handel's Messiah, Sunday, December 17th 4:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The 53d Annual Sing In. The Harvard Unitarian Universalist Music Committee presents the *Anne Marie Arnold Memorial Messiah Sing*. Join singers from Harvard Pro Musica and the greater community to sing (or listen to) this great work. Directed by Ted Johnson, with professional soloists, orchestra, including harpsichord, tympani and organ. Participating in this ritual is an amazing jump into the Christmas spirit!

-Eleanor Toth

Bargains Consignment Shop Open for Holiday Shopping. Bargains in the Belfry, a consignment shop upstairs in the Harvard Unitarian Church will be open the next two Tuesdays – December 12 and December 19 -- 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sunday December 17th from 11:30-12:30. Please stop by. Bargains will be closed on Tuesday, December 26. -Sharon Briggs

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 10
8:45 Chimers
10-12 Mummies (Sutherland)
10:00 Worship Service
Families of the Heart
Rev. Jill
11:20 Jr. Choir
Tuesday December 12
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open
Wednesday December 13
7-8 p.m. Silent Meditation
Thursday December 14
7-9:30 p.m. Board meeting
7-8 p.m. Seven Path Meditation
Saturday December 16
1-3:30 Mummies rehearsal (Sanct.)
Sunday December 17
8:30 a.m. Mummies (Sanct.)
9:15 a.m. Jr. Choir (Sanct.)
10:00 a.m. **Solstice Service**
11:30-1:00 Senior High Youth Grp.
11:30-12:30 Bargains in the Belfry
4:30 p.m. Messiah Sing