



# Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church  
December 17th, 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.

## **Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Solstice Service 10:00 a.m.**

A big part of recent Solstice services has been traditional sword dancing and mummery plays written and directed by our own Marc Vilain. This year members of Cosmix and Building Bridges have once again combined forces to bring you an updated play, as zany and full of antics and dancing as any that have gone before. Are aliens controlling the President's brain? He wants to know and Dragon's Fact-o-mat machine may be able to tell him...but will the device explode before he can find out the answer? Join us Sunday morning when all will be revealed. And again this year, after church, there will be a **SOUP SALE** (brought to you by the Senior High Youth Group) so bring your checkbooks! All proceeds go to UUSC.

## **Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service for All Ages, 5:00-6:00 pm.**

Come as we tell the Christmas story in song and prose, with a short homily,

ending with a beautiful ritual of passing the light. A pre-service concert will begin in the sanctuary at 4:30.

## **Religious Education.....**

December 17 is a Whole Congregation Worship Service, and I am so excited about watching the Harvard Revelry Mummery Play (and hope you are too). Helen Hill, Marc Vilain and the Sword Dancers and Abbots Bromley Dancers, in addition to all our mummerys, have been working hard to prepare an excellent performance! I hope to see all of you there!

## **Passages Refugee Experience February 3,**

**12 noon - 6 pm** 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**

#### **Social Justice Ministries Council**

**Gem of the Week:** The median net worth for non-immigrant African-American households in Greater Boston is \$8, compared with \$247,500 for whites. <http://apps.bostonglobe.com/spotlight/boston-racism-image-reality/series/image/> The Boston Globe Spotlight team has come up with another wonderful series and it's free to all.

**Bargains Consignment Shop Open for Holiday Shopping.** Bargains in the Belfry, a consignment shop upstairs in the Harvard Unitarian Church will be open Sunday December 17th from 11:30-12:30 and Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and. Please stop by. Bargains will be closed on Tuesday, December 26.  
-Sharon Briggs

**We currently have two very important volunteer positions that need to be filled immediately:**

- Fellowship-Hour-Scheduling-Team
- Website Content Manager.

Please contact Paige O'Brien, [paigeob21@gmail.com](mailto: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!

### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

Sunday December 17

8:30 a.m. Mummings (Sanct.)

9:15 a.m. Jr. Choir (Sanct.)

10:00 a.m. **Solstice Service**

11:00 Soup Sale

11:30-1:00 Senior High Youth Grp.

11:30-12:30 Bargains in the Belfry

4:30 p.m. Messiah Sing

Tuesday Dec. 19

Belfry Deadline

10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open

Wednesday Dec. 20

7-8pm Silent Meditation

Thursday Dec. 21

7-8pm Chanting Meditation

**Sunday Dec. 24**

**4:30 p.m. Pre-Service Concert**

**5:00-6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service for All Ages**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Looking Ahead**

**Admin Office will be closed** Dec. 25 & 26; and open for the mornings of Dec. 27, 28, 29. Closed Jan. 1.

**Sunday December 31, 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Service. A Time to let go -- and a time to look forward.** The turning of the year presents the perfect time for reflection on the year that is ending and the year that is about to begin. Our worship will include a Fire Ceremony as well as an opportunity to plant our past joys and hopes for the future.

-The Worship Team.