

SHARON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 11, 2024 — 7:00 p.m.

(Times below are approximate.)

1. 7:02 p.m. Attendance

Present: Toben Asklar (chair); Alison Kellom; Bill Kondrath; Marjorie Mitlin; Shelley Keimach; CP Pototsky; Chandu Krishnan; Kim Hokanson; Sgt. Chris Dumais (Sharon Police Department representative). Louise Marcoux (guest to present re Sharon Pride)

2. 7:05 p.m. Toben Asklar thanked the Sharon Pluralism Network for coordinating for the Zoom silent vigil on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Toben announced that Geila Aronson (Committee on Disabilities) might attend future meetings as a liaison.

3. 7:07 p.m. Email Correspondence presented by Marjorie Mitlin, Correspondence Clerk:

12/15/23

Message from Donna Whitehouse: Telling the DEIC about the Interface Referral Service which the town has had access to since August, 2023. This is a mental Health Referral service available to any residents in the town of Sharon.

12/22/23

A message from Shelley Keimach and Don Williams: The DEIC was contacted by the Sharon Pluralism Network (SPN) about the possibility of collaborating with SPN on a community Silent Peace Vigil, in light of what is going on in the Middle East. The question was also whether or not the Town would be able to include this event under the Town's insurance if the DEIC was to co-sponsor the event.

1/4/24

Shelley Keimach sent the final flyer for the SPN and the Interfaith Clergy Silent Vigil to the members of the DEIC.

1/7/24

Nada Hashmi (from the Islamic Center of New England) sent the DEIC the zoom link for the Silent Vigil to be held on January 7th.

1/6/24

Sayjal Menon from SPN sent the DEIC an invitation to the SPN and Interfaith clergy Association's Virtual Silent Vigil to be held on January 7th at 3-3:30.

1/8/24

Toben sent out the draft of the DEIC's Annual Report to the committee.

1/8/24

Toben sent the group the minutes from 12/14/23 and also included the DEIC's Stretigic plan to look over for the 1/11/24 DEIC meeting.

1/9/24

Toben sent out the agenda for the 1/11/24 DEIC meeting.

Correspondence written up by Marjorie Mitlin, DEIC correspondence clerk

4. 7:11 p.m. Approval of minutes from three meetings:
April 11/9/2023. Shelley Keimach motioned and Margie seconded that the minutes of April 9, 2023 be approved. All present (8) voted in favor.

5. 7: 12 p.m. Louise Marcoux representing the Sharon Pride Steering Committee (SPSC)
The event will be on Sunday, June 9, 2024 from noon to 4:00PM. There will be music, a parade, and youth speakers.
SPSC is seeking the support of DEIC as a co-sponsor. This will allow the use of the bandstand without a fee. Bill Kondrath motioned and Shelley Keimach seconded that the DEIC will co-sponsor the event. 7 votes in the affirmative. One abstention.

6. 7: 18 p.m. DEI Training for members of committees and boards.
The contract with SunShower Learning was signed by the town and a check was sent on January 5, 2024. A list of 125 names was sent to Joel Lesko. The formatting of the names needs edited. Once SunShower Learning receives the information, it will take 2 days to enter into their system. DEIC was not included in the training list. The cost of the “Disabling Microaggressions” training is \$18.50 per person (for a total of \$2312.50). Melissa Imbaro sent introductory information to board and committee chairs about the upcoming training. There was some pushback on a social media site, based, in part, on misinformation. DEIC hopes to work with the town administrator’s office to help with clarity on purpose and process of training. Kim Hokanson had mentioned at the last DEIC meeting that we might include a pre-training and post-training survey. Such a survey would allow us assess the efficacy of the training. Bill will contact Joel Lesko to get Kim Hokanson, Chandu Krishna, and CP Pototsky access to the course to facilitate writing the pre- and post-training survey.
Bill moved and Margie Mitlin seconded a motion to include the pre- and post-training survey into the course. Seven votes in favor and one abstention.
Kim explained the role of an institutional review board (IRB) regarding any publication. Further discussion of any possibility of publication was tabled for the future.

7. 7:57 p.m. Sharon’s New Residents. Shelley reported that new people have from have moved into a new hotel with about 76 families. English as a second language (New English Speakers) classes started last week. We are lacking in mental health resources and transportation. People are able to congregate in the small dining room and hallways. Students are enrolled in schools. Margie mentioned the INTERFACE referral service that the town pays for may be available. Also, Riverside mental health may be able to travel to the motel. Riverside may be able to travel to the motel to provide services. Sgt. Chris Dumais mentioned that the Police Department may be able to help with some collection needs.

8. 8:06 p.m. DEIC Annual Report draft. Chandu suggested two categories in the report: initiatives and activities. Misspellings were discussed. The committee spent time trying to shorten the report to one page.

9. 8:25 p.m. Strategic plan update. Shelley has put out multiple feelers for people to work on Juneteenth with little success. She will reach out again to SREA and report next month. She will also reach out to people who are organizing Juneteenth in Walpole. The events listing has morphed since it began. Last month, the Sharon Communications Director did post our events along with slides. Toben will update the strategic plan with what has been accomplished for next meeting.

10. 8:32 p.m. Announcements and upcoming events.

A list of upcoming events (January, 2024 through March, 2024) can be found at:

[Upcoming events January 2024 through March 2024](#) click link or below:

https://www.townofsharon.net/sites/g/files/vyhlf3801/f/pages/jan_to_mar_events_observances.pdf

11. 8:38 p.m. Subjects not anticipated in 48 hours.

There was an incident of a racial slur written on a desk of a student in one of the schools. The new director of diversity at Sharon Public Schools has been involved with this most recent incident.

Sgt. Chris Dumais spoke about how the police responds when they are contacted. They generally identify what is happening and try to mitigate. The schools do a good job of responding. The new school director of diversity is also involved and trying to do some repair for the students were targeted. The vice president Joan Glasheen is wonderful in these situations. As a committee, we could possibly offer a space for people to talk. Toben will talk to and invite the director of DEI for the schools to come to our February or March meeting.

8:49 p.m. Appreciations, Regrets, and Learnings

8:55 p.m. Next meeting February 8, 2024. Shelley moved that we adjourn and CP seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Submitted by Bill Kondrath

Images of upcoming events slides January to March 2024 (text listing to follow the slide images):

January



It is Winter Concert Season!

Celebrate our talented student musicians and their dedicated teachers at SPS free community-wide winter concerts.

East: Monday, December 11, 7pm at SMS
Cottage St: Wednesday, December 13, 7pm at SHS
SMS: Thursday, December 14, 6pm at SMS
SHS Large Ensembles: Tuesday, December 19, 7pm at SHS
Heights: Wednesday, January 10, 7pm at SMS
SHS Small Ensembles: Thursday, January 11, 7pm at SHS

January 11: Sharon DEIC meeting, virtual, 7 p.m.

January 11: SHS Small Ensembles Winter Concert. Sharon High School, 7 p.m.

January 11 & 13: Indigenous & African American History Tour. Stoughton MLK event. Lucius Clapp Building, 6 Park St., Stoughton. Jan. 11, 6-8 p.m.; Jan. 13: 2-4 p.m.

January 15: MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu

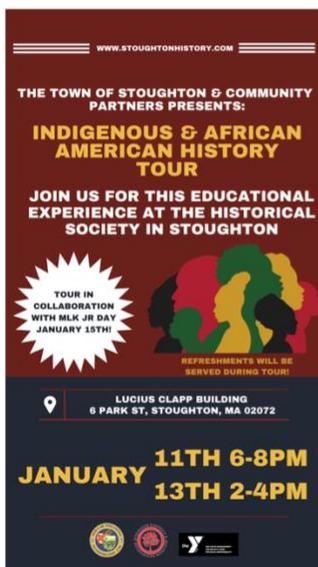
January 15: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

January 15: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration. Free, all-ages event. Stoughton Public Library, 84 Park St., Stoughton, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-annual-celebration-pursuing-your-purpose-tickets-750458320037>.

January 15-19: NO NAME-CALLING WEEK & LIBERATION WEEK

January (cont.)



WWW.STOUGHTONHISTORY.COM

THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON & COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENTS:

INDIGENOUS & AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOUR

JOIN US FOR THIS EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN STOUGHTON

TOUR IN COLLABORATION WITH MLK JR DAY JANUARY 15TH!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING TOUR!

LUCIUS CLAPP BUILDING
6 PARK ST. STOUGHTON, MA 02072

JANUARY 11TH 6-8PM
13TH 2-4PM

January 16: Coaches vs. Cancer SHS Eagles Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. SHS vs. King Phillip

January 25: MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist, *date varies from region to region*

January 25: TU B'SHVAT • *Jewish New Year's Day for Trees*

January 25: History of Indoor Heating Sharon and Heat Pumps. Sustainable Sharon & Sharon Historical Society, 16 High Street, Sharon. 7-9 p.m.

January 27: INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

January 30: A Personal Conversation in Mrs. Washington's Bedchamber. Sharon Community Education. \$15. 5:30 p.m. Register at www.sharoncommunityeducation/programs/adult-education or 781-784-1574 x5

COACHES VS. CANCER

JOIN THE SHS EAGLES FOR A SPECIAL GAME

@SHS VS KING PHILLIP

TUESDAY, 01.16.2024



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE SHS EAGLES FUNDRAISER

Why We Support the American Cancer Society:

Cancer has affected so many people we know and love that it has inspired us to join with the American Cancer Society. We are participating to inspire hope for those facing cancer and raising money to help end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

The funds we are raising will sustain critical research and provide services for people trying to cope with their cancer experience. Believe us, every dollar really does count, so we are asking you to please donate today. Together, we can make a big difference in the fight against cancer.

Questions? Please contact Ann at anroemis@hotmail.com

SCAN HERE TO DONATE



Click here to donate: <https://secure.giveonlinetoday.org/2024/01/16/SHS-EAGLES-FUNDRAISER>



Sustainable Sharon Coalition & Sharon Historical Society invite you to



The Past & Future of Indoor Heating in Sharon & The Arrival of Heat Pumps

Thursday, January 25th
7 - 9 PM

Sharon Historical Society
16 High Street, Sharon

Learn about how Sharon residents have historically heated their homes. Then listen to a panel discussion on the installation and performance of heat pumps. Refreshments to follow.

Register on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SustainableSharonCoalition/events>

For questions, contact support@sustainablesharon.org



THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON PRESENTS

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ANNUAL CELEBRATION

PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15 | 10AM-4PM
STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
84 Park St. Stoughton, MA

FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC



SPEAKERS - SMALL BUSINESS VENDORS - PERFORMANCE - FOOD TRUCK



A Personal Conversation in Mrs. Washington's Bedchamber
January 30th at 5:30 pm
\$15.00 to attend



Spend time with Mrs. Washington as she completes dressing for her day in this interactive and informative program. During the time together, Mrs. Washington will share news of her family, and how the current events that her husband is so deeply involved in impacts her family and her developing nation. If you are interested in clothing, this is the conversation for you!

Sandy Spector delivers this performance in first person as Martha Washington. Sandy Spector feels that through conversation, true connections are made and learning is absorbed more readily. What she does best is "become" Martha, and gives you a chance to time travel with her while she shares stories and visits.

This program has been funded in part by Sharon Cultural Council. We would like to provide special thanks for their support!

Advanced registration is required. Registration may be completed online at www.sharoncommunityeducation.com/programs/adult-education or by calling (781) 784-1574 x 5

Community Education is a self-supporting branch of Sharon Public Schools
181 Pond Street, Sharon, MA 02067 • (781) 784-1574



Adult Fitness programs are starting soon!

Community Education's Adult Programs are beginning as soon as next week but there's still time to register!



For the Badminton lovers out there! We still have space available for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings beginning January 9th and 10th! The cost for each program is \$128.00 for 10 weeks. The cost for Sharon town employees or Seniors 65+ is \$64.00.



We offer Volleyball for varying experience and skill level players! Intermediate Volleyball on Mondays are for players with limited competitive experience looking to improve their skills. Volleyball: Power on Tuesday is for more experienced players looking for competitive pick up games. Volleyball Advanced on Wednesdays is for advanced, competitive players (New players will require approval from the program lead). These programs begin the week of January 8th and end by March 20th. The cost for Monday Volleyball is \$115.00 for 9 weeks or \$77.50 for Seniors and Sharon town employees. The cost for Tuesday and Wednesday Volleyball is \$128.00 each for 10 weeks or \$64.00 for Seniors and Sharon town employees.



We have two Yoga classes available for the Yogis out there! Vinyasa Yoga on Tuesday nights begins on January 30th. The cost for this class is \$95.00 for 8 weeks. We also have Yoga for Seniors on Tuesday mornings beginning January 16th. The cost for this class is \$50.00 for 8 weeks.



Making a popular return to Community Education is Pilates on the Mat on Thursday nights. Space for our Winter session beginning January 18th is extremely limited at this time but there is still availability for our Spring session beginning April 2nd! The cost for this class is \$75.00 for 8 weeks.

Full program details on these and our other offerings coming up are available by visiting www.sharoncommunityeducation.com/programs/adult-education

Registration is available online, by calling (781) 784-1574 x 5, or by visiting Sharon Community Education at 181 Pond Street, Sharon (Door A21).



SOUTH SHORE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

QUINCY | HANOVER | SHARON | BRIDGEWATER

NEW SINGERS WELCOME IN JANUARY!!

Rehearsals begin the last week of January for new singers to join us in grades K-12 at our four convenient locations. All programs are **audition-free** and tuition assistance is available for those who apply.



LEARN MORE & SIGN UP
www.sscchorus.org



February (cont.)

February 15: NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist

February 15: SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY

February 19: PRESIDENTS' DAY

February 19-25: AROMANTIC AWARENESS WEEK

February 20: U.N. WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

February 22: CHOSEN FAMILY DAY

February 24: MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist

February 26-29: AYYÁM-I-HA or INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í

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

February is

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 1: NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

February 6-10: NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR WEEK

February 8: Sharon DEIC meeting, virtual, 7 p.m.

February 10: LUNAR NEW YEAR • Confucian, Daoist & Buddhist

February 10: The Great Sharon Bake Off.

Registration/information:

<https://www.uusharon.org/happenings/the-great-sharon-bake-off/> . The Unitarian Church of Sharon, 4 North Main St., Sharon. 3-6 p.m.

February 13: SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian

February 14: VALENTINE'S DAY

March is

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 1: NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í

March 2: NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

March 8: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8: MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu

March 11-April 9: RAMADAN • Islamic

March 14: Sharon DEIC meeting, virtual, 7 p.m.

March 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian

March 18: CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Orthodox Christian

March 19: VERNAL EQUINOX

March 20: NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian (Bahá'í)

March 20-24: NATIONAL LGBT HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

March 21: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

March (cont.)

March 21: TWO-SPIRIT & INDIGENOUS LGBTQ+ AWARENESS TO CELEBRATION DAY

March 24: PALM SUNDAY • Western Christian

March 24: PURIM • Jewish

March 25: HOLI • Hindu

March 26: HOLA MOHALLA • Sikh

March 29: GOOD FRIDAY • Western Christian

March 31: EASTER • Western Christian

March 31: CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

March 30: *Beau McCall: Buttons On!* Opening reception with the artist including discussion of exhibit's pop culture and social justice themes. Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak St., Brockton, MA. 3-5 p.m. <https://fullercraft.org/programs/beau-mccall-buttons-on-opening-reception/>

March 31: INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Sources of Observances & Events

Individual community submissions, Sharon DEIC member announcements, and Sharon Public School's Dispatch

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Calendar of Observances 2024:

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023-06/calendar-of-observances-2024.pdf>

GLSEN's School Year Calendar: https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/GLSEN_School_Calendar_2023_24.pdf

Sharon Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Upcoming DEI Observances & Events

JANUARY

January 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 5: GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh

January 6: CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian

January 6: EPIPHANY | THEOPHANY • Christian/Eastern Orthodox

January 7: CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian

January 7: [Tentative] Silent Vigil. Sharon Pluralism Network. Details TBA

January 10: Heights Elementary Winter Concert. Sharon Middle School, 7 p.m.

January 11: Sharon DEIC meeting, virtual, 7 p.m.

January 11: SHS Small Ensembles Winter Concert. Sharon High School, 7 p.m.

January 11 & 13: Indigenous & African American History Tour.
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February 14: VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14: ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian

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March

March is Women's History Month

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Individual community submissions, Sharon DEIC member announcements, and Sharon

Public School's Dispatch

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<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023-04/calendar-of-observances-2023.pdf>

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023-06/calendar-of-observances-2024.pdf>

GLSEN's School Year Calendar: https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/GLSEN_School_Calendar_2023_24.pdf