



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

February 23 - March 8, 2014

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

2/23 - Rev. Erin Splaine  
 3/2 - Rev. Erin Splaine & Rev. Meghan Cefalu  
 3/9 - Guest Preacher

## FUSN LAY MINISTERS

The FUSN lay ministers are available to help members and friends who are experiencing difficulties and could use a listening ear, help with meals in case of illness, rides to the doctor, and the like. If you would like to reach a lay minister, here is the list below. If you would like to be one of those who make up our Care Crew—the cadre of people the lay ministers call on to help—just e-mail for more information or to sign up to be in the Care Crew database. If you would like to reach a lay minister, here is the list below.

### FUSN Lay Ministers

Name	Home #	E-mail
Jay Flynn	[see contact info in the online directory]	
Judy Friedman	[ditto]	
Cris Goldsmith	[ditto]	
Kathy Hearn	[ditto]	
Jud Leonard	[ditto]	
Cindy Orrell	[ditto]	
Thom Theara	[ditto]	
Gail Yeo	[ditto]	

## A NOTE FROM ERIN

It really does take a village to run an Annual Budget Drive — just as it takes a village to keep FUSN running. Thank you to Barbara Deck, Jonathan Lilienfeld and Sharon Sisskind for heading up our Budget Drive this year. Thank you to all of you for all that you give of your time, talent and treasure so that FUSN can continue to be the amazing village that it is. I am honored to be a part of this community, a community so infused with enthusiasm, openness, good heartedness, and a generosity of spirit. The FUSN we create together is where isolation becomes community where we have a chance to join our lives — our hopes — our fears — our joys — our sorrows — all parts of us together so that we may feel the strength, the care and the support of many.

Our Annual Budget Drive will kick-off in earnest with the service on Sunday March 2 which Meghan and I will lead. Yet the fun begins the Friday before with the first Pledge Party. There are more Pledge Parties than ever this year — they are a wonderful way to meet in small groups for connection and sharing thoughts and hopes about our beloved community. Meghan, Perry and I are looking forward to getting to as many of the parties as we can. If you haven't yet signed up the boards will be in the Parish Hall on Sunday or you can register on our FUSN website.

The result of the budget drive is not just about the amount of money raised but rather it is a promise we make to each other. It is a promise to engage with each other and the world around us — a promise to continue to provide a spiritual home where children, youth and adults come together to seek, to share, and

**Deadline for next Newsletter is March 4 at 9:00 a.m**

*Continued on next page*

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Meghan Cefalu, *Assistant Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Perry Montrose, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Rebecca Hinds, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Maura Hess-Mahan, *Beadle*.

**Board of Trustees:** Cathy Morocco, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, Charlie Watts, *Chair*, Ann Woodbury, Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan, *Youth Reps*.

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley  
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to help each other along the way. With an eye toward our future — acknowledging all that is good about our present and honoring what has come before our time here on Washington Street — let us celebrate the beginning of this year's budget drive. Let us cherish the many aspects of our life together as a community and let us keep the promise we have made to each other in the days, months and years to come.

## FROM THE BOARD

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This past Sunday, we were blessed with a powerful service that asked the question - how do we reach across the "divide"? The children's story of Lincoln's leadership in the Civil War; Bob MacWilliam's song of a soldier born in the South and drafted by the North who questions whether he might fight his cousins; Perry's life history, with relations who criss-cross many divides over the years. It was a service that sparked many conversations - I found myself sharing that, generations ago, some in my family had scaled the divide when a relation (an English Congregationalist) became engaged to a Scotsman!

It was a beautiful service that asked the questions that we as a denomination as well as a congregation ask ourselves often. How do we "cross the divide?" How do we reach out to each other, in spite of our differences, and welcome and listen and offer love? Whether it is greeting someone we don't know in coffee hour, or preparing our "elevator speech" about what is UU, or trying to listen and understand the life story of someone who we may at first think of as "other" - we stretch ourselves to shake up the old false dichotomies of "us" and "them" and begin to practice love. We have so many opportunities to reach out. The Board works to keep the goal of strengthening our relations with each other and the larger community in the forefront of its mission. As we greet one another on Sundays, embrace Meghan into our community, support those who returned from North Carolina, we can grow an ever more loving community.

*-Ann Woodbury*

## PERRY'S PONDERINGS

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As you enter the Religious Education classroom hallway, you will see a children's version of the covenant written by James Vila Blake: Love is the spirit of this church and service its law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, To seek the truth in love, And to help one another. At FUSN, we are constantly putting those words into action and it has been especially apparent this February.

Last Friday, more than fifty children, youth, and adults ate, danced, played, baked, and laughed together at the Valentine's Day Potluck Party organized by Deborah Bennett. The loving spirit that naturally bubbles up at FUSN was in full force. When we noticed that so many people stayed to help one another clean up, someone said to me, "People are here because they want to be, not because they have to be."

In the spirit of love, we are doing Homebound Holiday Project II: You Are Loved. The children are again making cards and gifts to be delivered by families to those who have not been able to attend FUSN. It is the visit and connection that is truly the gift. Please let me know if you would like to make a visit or know someone in need of one.

Fifteen 9th grade youth, who had not connected since Coming of Age graduation, showed up to have breakfast together, attend the worship, and hang out afterward. In addition to the social time reconnecting, they had an impromptu political discussion that created an interesting sharing of views. Their respect for one another enabled them to seek their truth in love. They have decided to meet every Community Breakfast Sunday.

Our non-perishable food collection for the Newton Food Pantry has been very successful, thanks to your generosity. Paul Antonucci and Dede Vittori are organizing an effort for FUSN to tend to a community garden plot in Waltham. This is a great service opportunity for FUSNites of all ages to work together. All of the fruits of our labor will go to the Newton Food Pantry.

As we dwell together, let us share our time in ways that create mutuality. Please let me know what you are searching for or need and communicate what you might like to offer to our community. The possibilities are expansive in this vibrant congregation, but what matters most is that each endeavor feels like a step in your own journey.

## ADULT ED OFFERINGS

**The Sources of Our Unitarian Universalist Faith,** Sunday, Feb. 23, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. in the Alliance Room  
Where do you find inspiration? What are your sources of spiritual growth, wisdom and connection? In addition to our Seven Principles, Unitarian Universalism has six "official" Sources from which we draw. Join Perry Montrose and Jacqui James as we explore the first two of these this Sunday. Over the next two months (on March 16 and April 27) we'll explore the other four. The two Sources in this first session are:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit, and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Register with Fran Clancy by Feb. 21.

**Loving Kindness Meditation Collage:** Saturday, March 1, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Free workshop - come and enjoy making your own collage! Art supplies will be provided. Register by Feb. 26 at: [createyourownLKM@gmail.com](mailto:createyourownLKM@gmail.com) Any problems?[see .online directory]

**Common Read Discussion Groups** -Three Choices: Sunday, March 2, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.; Wednesday, March 5, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 16, 11:45 - 1:15 p.m. Come and discuss this year's UUA Common Read is *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. The author examines the issues as she tells the stories of ten restaurant workers in cities across the U.S. Consider wage and working conditions for restaurant workers and the political, economic and moral implications of eating out. Join us for a discussion of the book and its connection to ethical eating, the minimum wage campaign, and ways our congregation might respond. *Behind the Kitchen Door* will be on sale at the Adult Education table and is available on-line from the UUA bookstore and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## CONNECTIONS

**The FUSN family** extends their sympathy to Chris and Jon Reusser on the death of Chris' mother, Adrienne Murphy, who died on Feb. 9 at the age of 96. She had a long and full life, and passed at home, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

**FUSN's Garden Project group** is looking for children and adults to help plant seeds in the upstairs kitchen on Sunday March 2 at 11:45 a.m., during coffee hour! No need to RSVP.....just come by! Also, please join us on Sunday March 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., to help out at the garden with preparation and seed planting. In case of inclement weather, the back-up date is Saturday March 29 from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. (notice will be on FUSN's Facebook). The garden is located at 240 Beaver Street in Waltham at the UMASS Agricultural Extension property, which is also the home of Waltham Community Fields. Do you have a green thumb? Then consider fostering Garden Project seedlings at your home. We are looking for folks with grow lights and space who can grow seedlings at home during the late winter and early spring. If you can help with this, please contact Paul Antonucci at [see online directory] or Lois Shapiro at [ditto].

**What's a Winning Score?** Learn how to measure, benchmark and improve your energy and water use on Sunday, March 2, 11:45 - 1:30 p.m. The facilitator, Rachel White, founder of Greener Every Day, has joined Byggmeister, a residential remodeling company. Are you trying to improve your home's efficiency but aren't sure which efforts will reap the most savings? Do you want to know how much energy and water "green" homes actually use? Have you ever wondered how your home's resource use compares to others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this presentation is for you. As performance manager at Byggmeister, Rachel has been collecting and analyzing utility usage data for homes Byggmeister works on. With energy usage data for about 30 homes, and water usage data for a handful of these, the Byggmeister team has developed a pretty good idea of what constitutes a "winning" efficiency score, as well as the impact that various performance upgrades and occupant choices have on usage. Rachel will explain how she measures and benchmarks usage; share case studies of several homes she is tracking; and show you how to measure and "score" your home. A light lunch will be provided. No registration required.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on March 23 for our FUSN Community Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Toddlers welcome, we have high chairs available for them. The menu (eggs, eggbeater omelets, fried potatoes, pancakes, biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee) is great and the price (\$4) is unbeatable. Clean-up help appreciated. Upcoming Community Breakfast dates: April 13, and May 18.

## VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will not be held in March; it is usually the second Sunday. The service is designed for diversity of spirit and thoughtful meditation. This is a unique monthly service of music led by the Vermilion Quartet and poetry—written or chosen—read by FUSN's poets. Vespers will last just half an hour—a way to set aside the noise and stress of daily life and to spend some time in stillness and mystery.

## CLIMATE ADVOCACY GROUP

The Climate Advocacy Group will meet on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Children's Chapel. Please join us for a presentation by Professor Eric Olson, Brandeis University, on the subject of Paleoclimatology. There will be a discussion following the presentation about what climate history tells us about the risks and consequences of continuing global warming. There will also be a short business meeting about the programs for March and April. The Climate Advocacy Group focuses on education about the risks presented by climate change and on ways to thoughtfully dialog with policy makers and their staff to encourage enactment of local, state, and national measures to address those risks. Please feel free to call Mark Leicester at any time at [see directory].

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