



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 6 - March 19, 2016

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for March is Calling

3/6 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/13 - Rev. Erin Splaine



Daylight Savings Begins in on March 13. Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour so you won't miss worship, Sunday School and Community Breakfast.

3/20 - Music Sunday

Come, lamp of every heart...

3/27 - Easter - Multigenerational Service

'CAN WE TALK?'

A reminder to please join us on Monday, March 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room at FUSN for a highly interactive and educational workshop exploring cross-cultural communication in the age of social media facilitated by Beau Stubblefield-Tave and Judy Kaye of the Center for Culturally Fluent Leadership. Session participants will have the opportunity to explore techniques for effective communication, learn three "race talk skills:" and consider four techniques supporting courageous conversations on race. We will also have the opportunity to explore other topics and issues identified by members of the audience. For more information, please contact Josie Greene, josieg49@gmail.com, 617 513-2814. Sponsored by the Multicultural Ministry Initiative

A NOTE FROM ERIN

As we began to consider "Silence" as our theme for February I posed a concern and question to you all in a sermon:

"We are so very blessed to be part of such an active and caring congregation. FUSN has a long history of engaging with each other and the larger world and yet of late I have begun to worry that we might be spreading ourselves to thin.

I see all the many and great ways you give of your time and talent and treasure to keep our community thriving.

I see all the many and great ways that you, as we say together in unison at the close of our Child Dedications "by your actions lessen the tides of human sorrow."

I see a congregation in almost constant motion and I worry that we are very good at doing and not so adept at being.

The monthly theme for February is silence. I wonder as we might seek to find it in our individual lives what would it look like to find more of it in our collective lives. As ironic as it sounds — I want to encourage us all in to think about and talk with each other about how we can be more silent together.

How can we keep true to who and how we are and yet find more space to be together — rather than do together?

We need to consider together how we can keep true to the core of our being as a congregation and yet find ways to open up more space — allow the pace of this place to slow down so that we don't burn each other out — so that we might sustain ourselves and this beloved community in healthy and nourishing ways."

Continued on next page

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Ashley Engel, *Membership and Communications Coordinator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Dani Negus, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Ruslan Crosby, *Beadle*.

Board of Trustees: Brian Burba, Gregg DiBiaso, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Co-Chair*, Lesley Sneddon, *Co-Chair* Julianna Lakomski, Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Representatives*

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My hope is that you have been able - and will continue - to think and talk with each other. It is ironic that trying to schedule a moment after the service so that we can have a more structured conversation has proven to be impossible because — well yes there's too much going on and no space available. I encourage you all to make time in your groups and monthly committee meetings to further the conversation. As always, please let me know what is in your heart and on you mind.

R.E. CONNECTIONS

While it may seem still a ways away, the spring holiday season is nearing. This year, Easter is on Sunday, March 27 and Passover begins on the evening of April 22, though we'll be hosting our annual Seder on the second night, Saturday, April 23. Our Sunday morning Easter service is a multigenerational affair and in many years, volunteers have put together an Easter Egg hunt to follow the service. Passover is an eight-day long holiday, though seders are traditionally held on the first two nights. We hope you will join us in celebrating these joyous occasions.

Why do many UUs celebrate Easter? Unitarianism and Universalism were both originally movements within Christianity. The Universalists were trinitarian, believing in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three parts of God. The Unitarians believed in the oneness of God and that Jesus was an important teacher. Celebrating Easter connects UUs with our origins, with many modern UUs beliefs, and lifts up the value of Jesus' teachings in our world. Regardless of the diversity of our beliefs about Jesus, there is much we can learn from these stories.

Why do many UUs celebrate Passover? There are a few reasons why this holiday is important. For some UUs of Jewish heritage, this is a holiday that continues to have great meaning and they want to celebrate with their religious community. Passover is not simply a story about liberation from slavery, but is a remembering of how we once were slaves and asks us to reflect on how that might influence our lives. There are universalities in this message--we all can think of ways our own lives might feel bound--whether it's to societal expectations of us, to food insecurity, or to our identities--as well as how others in our larger world are still seeking liberation. Drawing from world religions, and in direct relationship with people in our congregation with Jewish identities, we celebrate Passover with a Seder open to all.

R.E. CONNECTIONS (continued)

There are large and small ways you can help in making our annual traditions around these holidays--from the Easter Egg Hunt to helping manage the many roles needed for the Passover Seder--they can't happen without your support! Please be in touch with me, rowan@fusn.org or 617-332-3438, if you are willing and able to lend a hand, and I'll make sure we can put you to work!

SERVICES AUCTION UPDATE

The Services Auction was a big success. After expenses, the auction generated just over \$16,700 for FUSN. And it was a fun evening with lots of energy. I want to thank all of the generous donors of services and all of those who bid on services. I also want to thank all of those who contributed their efforts to making this event happen: Leslie Barrows, Karen Bottar and Don Buonagurio, Denise Bousquet, Jeannie Chaisson, Dana Hanson, Bill and Sandy Horne, Christine and Saul Lookner, David Morocco, Maura Morse, Bob Persons, Chris and Jon Reusser, Jacki Rohan, Mindy Scharlin, Greg Sullivan, Norm Thibeault, and Judy Zacek.

-Pat Rohan on behalf of the Services Auction Team

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Join FUSN's Black Lives Matter on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel to discuss the next steps in how our congregation engages with the Black Lives Matter movement. We also invite you to wear a Black Lives Matter button (and pick up a brochure) and a get a sign, available on Sundays at coffee hour. Questions, Bill Dusett, dusett@rcn.com

THE FUSN GARDEN GROUP

The FUSN Garden group will be planting seeds of lettuce, chard, and kale during coffee hour for the next two Sundays, March 6 and 13. We will be in the upstairs kitchen. Everyone please come visit, participate, and learn more about our efforts to grow food for the Newton Food Pantry. Bring your own seeds and containers if you like, and start seeds for your own garden! Tomato planting will be next, 2-3 weeks later. Contact Paul Antonucci Paul@AlbertisWindow.com



This Sunday is Budget Drive Sunday. In keeping with this year's theme of "FUSN Values are for Life," you will hear how the values two young men learned in the FUSN R.E. program continue to influence their lives today. In coming weeks, you will hear from several young women who grew up at FUSN talk about the influence FUSN values have had on their lives. Please come to services and join us to hear how a FUSN religious education helps raise an adult whose values we admire and share.

Let us now address the difficult topic: How much should you pledge to FUSN as part of the Annual Budget Drive? FUSN is not simply a charity, like WGBH or Second Step, whose mission you support. It is a membership organization that provides you with support and sustenance in time of celebration and in time of need.

Together, we share the journey on the "wheel of life." These include: baby dedications, where we pledge our support and commitment to the parents and the new life among us; singing our children out of the service each Sunday to their R.E. classes and recognizing their volunteer teachers during a service; youth "Coming-of-Age," where we sit in amazement and admiration each year at the credos our eighth graders write and deliver; and graduation from high school, where we watch our seniors walk down the aisle under a human "bridge" that we make. The journey also means that we have a "care crew," which delivers meals to and drives people who are ill or unable to provide for themselves. And, at the end of the journey, it means we are there to remember and honor our beloved members and friends, and to provide a reception after a memorial service so that loved ones can grieve. In sum, we celebrate life's joys and successes together, and support each other when life presents its remarkable challenges.

We are encouraging everyone to think about giving to FUSN this year a little differently. Rather than asking you to increase your pledge last year by a specific percentage, we are asking you give at least 2%-5% of your Adjusted Gross Income. We are also asking you to think about your pledge in terms of what FUSN is worth to you monthly. For an individual or family with an income of \$100,000 per year, a donation of 2%, or \$167 per month, is something we ask you to consider. For those of you who are FUSN stalwarts, we invite you to consider pledging toward the higher end of the percentage range.

We hope the brochure you received in the mail answers your questions about why we give, the amount and sources of our revenue, and the amount of purposes of our expenses. Should you have any questions about the brochure, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up for pledge parties. For those of you who have not, please do so. The parties are fun. Let's celebrate how good it feels to give together.

Your Annual 2016 Budget Drive Co-Chairs, *Tom Bean, Ellen Metzger, & Saul Lookner*

NEW UU CLASS

Are you a newcomer or been a part of the FUSN community for a few years but want to learn more about the congregation, UUism, and what it means to be a member? Join us for our New UU class on March 12 from 8:30 to noon in the Children's Chapel! You will have the chance to meet other new(ish) FUSNites, share your own spiritual journey, hear from key leaders, get your questions answered, and explore our historical building with a guided tour. Breakfast will be served, and childcare will be provided. RSVP to Ash, ash@fusn.org (including childcare needs) as soon as possible!

NEWCOMER POTLUCK

If you are new to FUSN or still feel new, you are cordially invited to a potluck dinner at the home of Brenda and Pete Roberts on Saturday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. It's a great, low-key way for newcomers and recently new FUSNites interested in UUism and FUSN to meet and spend time with one another. There will be time to ask questions, discuss our congregation's services and activities, as well as time to just get to know one another. Please RSVP to Ash Engel, ash@fusn.org, with the total number of attendees (children are very welcome) and what dish you would like to bring (i.e. appetizer, salad, dessert, or main dish that serves 6-8 people). We will

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on March 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The extensive menu includes scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, gluten-free corn bread, home fried potatoes, white and whole wheat biscuits, vegetarian sausage gravy, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and the occasional special treat. It's only \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts – Apr. 10 and May 22.

EVENING SONG

Evening Song March 6, at 7:00 p.m.! FUSN's Vespers service sung by Vermilion, a quartet directed by Amelia LeClair, has a new Name, a new Time, a new Date! Our monthly service of contemplation with music and poetry chosen by FUSN poets continues every FIRST Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Deadline for the next newsletter is March 15, 9:00 am.

SUMMER SERVICE IDEAS

Summer Sunday services at FUSN are lay-led and informal, taking place at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We are now collecting proposals for this coming summer. Do you have an idea for a summer service that you would like to lead – perhaps to share a personal journey, explore an issue, share some music, consider a favorite thinker. Contact Curt Lamb with any ideas for a service you might consider leading, or would hope that others might lead. The Worship Committee will provide lots of support in structuring a service, providing music etc. Curt.Lamb@the-BAC.edu or 617-895-8208.

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