



# FUSN *News*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

*Unitarian Universalist*

May 15 - May 28, 2016

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

### **The theme for May is Kindness**

5/15 - Coming of Age Graduation

The culmination of our Coming of Age program for 8th graders is a Sunday worship service. The graduates share statements of their beliefs and music that represent them. In this milestone, the congregation recognizes the transition a young person makes from being a "child" to being a "youth," and graduates are invited to become members of our congregation. Please join us for this meaningful service.

5/22 - Sunday and Every Day

As our church year winds to a close, we celebrate the spiritual growth and learning that has happened in our congregation in our annual Religious Education Sunday. For the first time, the worship service itself will be completely led by participants in our Lifespan Religious Education programs, from hymns to homilies, lifting up the meaning of the Unitarian Universalist principles in our everyday lives.

5/29 - Rev. Phyllis B. O'Connell

Rev. O'Connell has been a Parish Minister for the past 25 years. She served the Melrose UU Church for ten years and the UU Society of Wellesley Hills for nine years and served local congregations as an interim minister for six years. Recently retired, she now leads workshops called "Exploring Issues in Retirement" and has a chapter in the recently published Skinner House book, "Landscapes on Aging and Spirituality." She has two grown daughters, lives in Newton and enjoys playing the flute in The New Horizons community band.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

On April 29, the Member Services Committee had the pleasure of hosting a multigenerational FUSN Fun Friday! It was an amazing night of games, pizza, a movie, and great company. FUSNites of all ages attended, and it was a wonderful time to simply be with one another. I would like to specifically thank Pat Rohan for all of his work and dedication in planning the evening - it could not have happened without his coordination. As Pat advertised on the listserv, the night certainly underscored the 'FUN in FUSN'! If you have any ideas for future Fun Fridays, let Pat Rohan, Rachel Viscomi, or myself know. We would love to hear your feedback and ideas you may have!

The fun doesn't end there - be sure to mark your calendars for FUSN's annual retreat to Sandy Island from May 28-30 in Lake Winnepesaukee! It is a great opportunity for FUSNites of all ages to have fun, relax, and connect with each other. Activities range from sports, crafts, discussion groups, music, fishing, boating, nature walks, to a bonfire and talent show! The registration form as well as additional information about the retreat can be found on the website and the FUSN Facebook group. Let Denise Bousquet, [denise4@rcn.com](mailto:denise4@rcn.com), know if you have any questions, and send her your forms by May 18. Spaces are limited on a first-come, first-serve basis!

Last but not least, be sure to join us on June 11 for the Boston Pride March! We will first go to the Arlington Street Church's annual pride service and then go as a group to march in the parade. A huge thank you to Jenn Bradbury and Cora Jeyadame for volunteering to be our marshals this year and making our marching possible! To prepare for the march, we will be having a sign-making and pizza extravaganza the evening of June 10. Be sure to check the order of service, mailing list, or Facebook group in the coming weeks for further information about these events. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me, [ash@fusn.org](mailto:ash@fusn.org)!

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**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*

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, John Brennan, Jeannie , Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

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## MUSINGS

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Lots of wonderful music in the area:

Friday, May 13, 8:00 p.m.

Masterworks Chorale, Steven Karidoyanes, Conductor  
The Chorale's 76th Season concludes with J.S. Bach's "Mass in B Minor." Steven Karidoyanes conducts the Chorale, soloists and orchestra. Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge. For more information visit [www.MasterworksChorale.org](http://www.MasterworksChorale.org) or call, 617-858-6785.

Saturday, May 14, 8:00 p.m.

Triad: Boston's Choral Collective

Location: Harvard-Edworth United Methodist Church, 1555 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. Triad presents: Chorale and Variations. New works for choir featuring William Kenlon's Five Fantasies on Bach Chorales, Saunder Choi's Oratio Sancti Francisci, and Caroline Mallonée's I Saw a Peacock with a Fiery Tail, along with world premiere works by Triad composers Thomas Stumpf, Emma Daniels, and Charles Turner. Tickets are \$10 at the door. More info: <http://www.triad-choir.org/>. Questions? [info@triadchoir.org](mailto:info@triadchoir.org)

Sunday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

Labyrinth Choir, Dr. Anita Kupriss, Artistic Director  
The mixed professional ensemble is presenting a concert on journeying with a concert called "Hit The Road!" featuring songs from our upcoming tour to Europe. Composers: Lauridsen, Chydenius, **Carson Cooman**, Esenvalds. The concert is at the Latvian Church, 58 Irving St in Brookline. Audience participation! Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for seniors and students. Reception before the concert at 6 pm. Tickets available at the door and at [www.labyrinthchoir.org](http://www.labyrinthchoir.org).

Friday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.

Cantata Singers, David Hoose, Music Director  
Hear the Boston premiere of Arvo Pärt's Adam's Lament, framed by J.S. Bach's Lutheran Mass in A Major and the motet "Komm, Jesu, komm" at First Church, Cambridge. Adam's Lament—stunningly beautiful music for chorus and string orchestra composed in 2009—chronicles Adam's banishment from paradise with drama and mystical delicacy. Scott Allen Jarrett, Director of Music at Marsh Chapel and Music Director of Back Bay Choral, will give the pre-concert talk at 7:00 p.m. Following the performance, all are welcome at a free post-concert reception. Single tickets: \$25-\$69 | [www.cantatasingers.org](http://www.cantatasingers.org) or call 617-868-5885. GBCC Members Discount: 20% off any single ticket price level by using the code "GBCC1516"

## MUSINGS (continued)

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Saturday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.

Mystic Chorale, Nick Page, Artistic Director  
The 180 voices of the Mystic Chorale, directed by Nick Page, will sing "Spirituals and the Blues" this May, focusing on the sacred and secular, two musical cousins that evolved from the African American experience. Mystic singers will explore the connections between the two - the blues side of Spirituals and the spiritual side of the Blues. Where: Converse Hall, Tremont Temple, 82 Tremont Street, Boston (1 block from the Park Street T station). Tickets: \$18 general admission, available through Brown Paper Tickets or at the door, one hour before each performance. For more information visit [www.mysticchorale.org](http://www.mysticchorale.org) or call (781)316-2500.

Saturday, May 21, 8:00 p.m.

Commonwealth Chorale, David Carrier, Music Director  
"Love & Devotion": Dharma Chant by Richard St Clair (World premiere) A Commonwealth composers concert. Church of the Holy Name, 1689 Centre St, West Roxbury MA

Sunday, May 22, 4:00 p.m.

The Seraphim Singers, Jennifer Lester, Conductor  
The Seraphim Singers performs at the American Guild of Organists, Boston Chapter's Women in Music Festival. Program includes sacred works by leading women composers Abbie Betinis, Patricia Van Ness, Gwyneth Walker, and Polina Nazaykinskaya. Also featuring a performance by organist Christa Rakich. Free admission. Venue: Second Church in Newton, 60 Highland St., West Newton, MA. Visit <http://www.bostonago.org/> for more information.

And as we head towards summer, the annual Masterworks Chorale Summer Sing series remains as one of the best ways to experience great choral music - from the inside, as it were. Here's the schedule:

June 14 Mozart *Requiem*

Steven Karidoyanes, conducting

June 21 Orff *Carmina Burana*

Katherine FitzGibbon, conducting

June 28 Faure *Requiem*

Steven Karidoyanes, conducting

July 12 Mendelssohn *Elijah* (highlights)

Anne Watson Born, conducting

July 19 Vaughn Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem*,

Pamela Mindell, conducting

July 26 Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

Steven Karidoyanes, conducting

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## TEACHERS NEEDED

Don't forget! You must ReMEMEber to Sign Up To Teach FUSN Religious Education Next Year

We hope you have been enjoying our series of 'RE memes' over the past couple of weeks. We have more in store for you...don't you worry! We won't stop until we have our over seventy slots filled. Yes--you read that right--we're looking for 70 mighty FUSNites to step up to help us run our RE program next year.

Teaching RE is a great way to feel connected to other adults at FUSN and to deepen your own spirituality. Our curriculum at the different age levels distills our UU values into fun and active activities and discussions--so many FUSN members have become more connected to our community and our faith tradition through learning alongside our children. Being a teacher in RE takes a little bit of humor, whimsy, and fun--you'll find your place with our crew! If you'd like to learn more about volunteering next fall, contact Beth at [reassist@fusn.org](mailto:reassist@fusn.org) or Rowan at [rowan@fusn.org](mailto:rowan@fusn.org) or chat with any member of the RE Council at our table during coffee hour over the upcoming weeks. (To see a full description of the RE teacher job at FUSN, click on the blurb on the home page at [www.fusn.org](http://www.fusn.org).)

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## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is more than the annual business meeting of the Association. The myriad of programs, worship events, witness and service opportunities, and exhibits not only provide a rich experience to the thousands of UUs who attend each year, they also give participants a renewed sense of energy, up-to-date information, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities.

*"It felt like we were part of a living faith - it gave me energy to keep going in my own community."*

The votes that GA delegates cast have a huge impact on Unitarian Universalism. They determine our elected leaders, amend the bylaws and rules that govern our Association, and shape the justice work that we do as a movement.

*"I was able to grasp the scope of the UUA - there is so much possibility when we are part of the whole!"*

### Theme for 2016: Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect

The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. Labels no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and

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## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued)

communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

### Social Justice Process and General Assembly

One way to engage in Unitarian Universalist social justice work and further promote liberal religious values is to participate in the Statement of Conscience process. This process was created to uphold our principles and to engage Unitarian Universalists in pressing social justice issues.

*"I love feeling the energy, knowing that our efforts to do social justice work are part of something larger."*

Together, as congregations and at General Assembly, we articulate and adopt positions on social justice issues such as:

- Reproductive Justice
- Immigration as a Moral Issue
- Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice

Hundreds of youth turn out for GA each year (about 8% of the total GA population), due in large part to the efforts of religious educators, youth advisors, and congregational lay leaders who believe in the influence of the GA experience on youth faith development. GA is a wonderful way to experience the power inherent in intentional multigenerational communities. Financial aid and childcare are available.

The dollars that congregations contribute support the infrastructure that makes GA planning possible year after year. The work of our UUA is made possible by the generosity of individual donors and gifts to the Annual Program Fund. Please consider making a contribution today to continue this important work: [www.uua.org/giving](http://www.uua.org/giving)

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## YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. This past Sunday, May 8, several youth joined FUSN for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace. The walk benefits the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in their efforts to support, assist, and empower families impacted by violence.

On May 22, following the service, the COA class is invited to join the youth group for a volunteer trip to the Franklin Park Zoo. A large part of youth group this year has been monthly service projects and we are excited to include the newly graduated class!

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our last Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on May 22 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.

## EVENING SONG

**Evening Song Sunday**, June 5, 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.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

**Calling All Committee Chairs!** Let the rest of the congregation know what a great time you had chairing your committee. The deadline for your submission to the Annual Report is Friday, June 3. Send your submissions to office@fusn.org. Thank you.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and FUSN Barbeque will take place on **Sunday, June 12** after the service.

## FUSN REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

Just a reminder that our FUSN Fiscal Year ends May 31, 2016. Any Committees or individuals with reimbursement requests should get those to Fran Clancy in the FUSN office at your earliest convenience, and definitely before the end of May. Thank you!

*-Judy Curby, FUSN Treasurer*

**Deadline for the next newsletter is May 24, 9:00 am.**

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This week, our staff faced another hitch with the email server, requiring them to rely on alternate email addresses, and facing the uneasy feeling of not knowing what communications, both to and from, were lost in the process. We are blessed to have such a capable person in Greg Sullivan to step in, keep communications flowing in the short term, and fix the problem.

Still, it got me to wondering whether our various modes of communication actually allow us to communicate effectively. We are awash in ways to exchange information: email, web site, Facebook, newsletter, two listserves, order of service, congregational conversations, bulletin boards, discussions at coffee hour, snail mail, texting, phone, skype, and countless other more casual contacts. Combine that with the age range of our congregation, each with its generational preferences for staying in touch, as well as personal idiosyncrasies, and we have a delicate balancing act on our hands. How can we be sure that we don't inundate people with too much information, or conversely, that we are reaching everyone in the congregation, and that every congregant feels heard?

In my other life as an ecologist, I face a somewhat analogous situation – how do we protect all of biodiversity? Conservationists developed an approach that came to be known as “coarse filter” and “fine filter” in relation to protecting life on earth. We developed the coarse filter – one that protects almost every species by protecting ecological communities - groups of plants and animals that interact and share the same habitat. We don't necessarily know all the species in an ecological community, but the filter's holes are small enough to make us confident that we are protecting almost every species using this approach.

Almost. There are species that are so rare that we can't be sure that we'll save them by using a coarse filter approach, that they are apt to fall through the holes if we don't focus on them individually. Some species are even unknown to science, and are lost before they are even discovered. This reminds me of our attempts to communicate with each other at FUSN, and beyond. We can rely on our coarse filter – web site, listserves, newsletter, and Facebook - to be quite confident that almost everyone will know what is going on at FUSN and with each other. Our stellar new Membership and Communications Coordinator, Ash Engel, is doing an outstanding job of keeping us in the know, and with such steady good humor to boot. We have a very active listserv and Facebook group. Our fine filter, however, is the challenge, just as it is in the world of conservation.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)

We face this challenge in a number of ways, sometimes unsuccessfully despite our best attempts. Our data infrastructure has been one barrier to individualized attention, and it's so exciting that we are on the path to solving that problem with a new database and updated web site. Our Minister, Care Crew and Lay Ministers reach out to those of us who are not visible at FUSN for various reasons, either chronic or acute. I once heard a congregant say “the Care Crew is amazing, I don't know what I would do without them. But you do have to ask. They need to know you need help before they can help you.” It's so very human to feel hurt or angry when we are isolated. Unlike other species, however, we have the ability to let someone know when we need friendship, help, support, or someone to share our joys with. We all bear the responsibility to make the best of what we have, to find and be clear about our individual needs, and to pitch in and improve the system. Let your voice be heard - we are all in this together!

## THE OVER 60 CLUB

Co-facilitators – Wendy Haskell and Nancy Wrenn

If you suspect you're embarking on the best years of your life in spite of rumors to the contrary...

If you would like to share the challenges and opportunities of this phase of your life....

If you are finding delight in the skills and wisdom that come with age...

If you could use a map and compass for the next stages of your life's journey....

Consider joining a group we're planning for men and women over 60 to provide a friendly and supportive space for sharing information, inspiration and ideas about really important aspects and challenges in this phase of our lives. A small group of ten will meet biweekly this summer as a six-session pilot. More groups will be started in the fall if there is interest.

Let us know if you would like to join the club by contacting Nancy Wrenn, co-facilitator [wrennnancy@gmail.com] or landline: 617-969-2758. Space is limited. We need to know that you can participate in at least five of the six sessions.

The first meeting of the Over 60 Club will be: Wednesday, June 15 from 3:00-5:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room at: The First Unitarian Society in Newton, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. Subsequent meetings: June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24

## MASS. BAY DISTRICT NEWS

On Saturday, April 23, we three FUSN delegates attended the Massachusetts Bay District (MBD) Annual Meeting. At that meeting, an historic vote was taken by the congregational representatives: the delegates voted 44 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention, to adopt this motion:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Bay District (the District) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (the UUA) moves that the attending congregational delegates give full authority to the Board of Directors to complete all of the legal and other tasks necessary to dissolve the District on such terms as the UUA Board of Trustees and UUA may agree.”

This is the almost-final step of a process that has been taking place over the past few years: transferring the traditional district functions to the New England Region of the UUA and to our UUA Trustees. On Saturday, the District Board of Trustees skillfully presented the history of the transition, including last year’s delegate vote instructing the Board to study the issue and process of dissolving the District and to recommend action to this year’s Annual Meeting. They described the Board’s thorough and faithful consideration of the issue over the past year, and they presented the Board’s recommendation of dissolution and the plan for accomplishing it.

Legally, the District Board alone is responsible to make the decision to dissolve the District, but the Board felt it was covenantally bound to ask the District congregations to approve its recommendation before it acted further to accomplish dissolution. There were questions and discussion among the delegates, and some concern about the restrictions on one fund held by the District. An important factor for both the MBD Board and Saturday’s delegates was the excellent support and programming that’s been provided by the New England Regional staff in the past few years, as congregational support functions transferred from District to Region. Overall, the delegates’ discussion was favorable to the Board’s decision, and the vote certainly reflected that view.

It will take at least one more year to accomplish legal dissolution; the goal is June 30, 2017 (end of our next fiscal year). The District Board hopes there will be no reason for an Annual Meeting next year. Thank you to Jacki Rohan for her faithful service on the MBD Board throughout this period of transition.

*Jules Delamar, Duane (“Jim”) Matthiesen,  
Bobbie Sproat FUSN delegates to 2016 MBD Annual Meeting*

## SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Criminal Justice Sponsored by the First Unitarian Society in Newton 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

May 17 - Rahsaan Hall, Director Racial Justice Program, ACLU, Graduate of Andover-Newton, former Suffolk County District Attorney

May 24 - Susan Sered, professor of Sociology, Suffolk University, Author of “*Can’t Catch a Break: Gender, Jail, Drugs and the Limits of Personal Responsibility*”

June 7 - State Senator Cynthia S. Creem, Newton, First Middlesex and Norfolk Districts, Member of the Working Group for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative of The Council of State Governments Justice Center

June 21 - Arthur Bembury, Director, Partakers’ College Behind Bars program

June 28 - Erin Freeborn, Executive Director, Communities for Restorative Justice

All programs will be held in the Chapel from 7:00-9:00 pm. Co-sponsored by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. The public is cordially invited to attend. No registration is required. Free.

For more information: Nancy Wrenn, FUSN Criminal Justice Task Force, wrennnancy@gmail.com, 617-969-2758.

## LIVING BY LOVE

**An Interfaith Worship Service of Unity** and a Citywide Celebration of Peace and Unity. June 5, on the grounds of Newton City Hall.

Rev. Erin Splaine and Rev. R. Crowley from Myrtle Baptist Church have initiated an interfaith service. The service and celebration are being planned in conjunction with Mayor Setti Warren and the Newton Chief of Police, David McDonald. Our combined choirs will be involved and the wider Newton public is enthusiastically invited to the service and festivities.

Schedule: 9:30 - 10:30 - Meet and Greet time for both congregations. Coffee and pastries provided.

10:30 - 11:30 - Interfaith Service with public invited

11:30 - 2:00 - Festival - Music, craft vendors, games and food trucks

If inclement weather, we will have our service celebration inside City Hall auditorium. Can you lend a hand? Sell your Art or Crafts? Join the musicians? Help set up clean up? Questions, Kate Mason, 857-231-1077 or katelagrezemason@gmail.com