



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

May 29 - June 11, 2016

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

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.

June 5 - 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 there is 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

## ANNUAL MEETING

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

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

One of my favorite times of the year is quickly approaching - the Boston Pride Parade! It is not only a ton of fun, but also offers us the opportunity to affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. In just over two weeks, FUSN will be marching in the parade to stand on the side of love and express our commitment to the 2016 Pride Theme - "Solidarity through Pride".

To prepare for the Parade, we will have a Pre-Pride Poster-Making and Pizza Party on June 10! It will begin at 5:30 p.m., and take place in the Parish Hall. It will be a great way for us to spend time together while having fun making signs and posters and eating some pizza! There will also be fabric markers for any creative individuals who want to bring a t-shirt, bag or shoes to decorate and celebrate Pride and LGBTQIA+ diversity. So we know how much pizza to order for the party, please RSVP by June 3 to ash@fusn.org or sign up online using the link provided on the FUSN website.

On the day of the Parade, June 11, please meet us at the Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston for their annual Pride Service at 11:00 a.m prior to marching. Their service will feature a live band and is often people's favorite part of the Pride festivities! We will then walk over together to march in the Parade after the service ends. Thanks so much to Jenn Bradbury and Cora Jeyadame for volunteering to be our marshals! Please also let Ash, ash@fusn.org, know if you plan on marching with us by June 3 so we have an idea of how many FUSNites will be joining us. I look forward to celebrating this important event with all of you!

-Ash

**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

First Unitarian Society in Newton • 1326 Washington Street • West Newton, MA 02465 • <http://www.fusn.org>  
office tel: 617-527-3203 • fax:617-964-5409 • Religious Education: 617-332-3438 • e-mail address: office@fusn.org

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

### Waking Up to White Privilege

The Black Lives Matter planning group and our Multicultural Ministry Initiative are supporting us in thinking about the personal experiences as well as the institutional and systemic conditions that give some people more safety and opportunity than others. My awareness dawned when I was ten years old, and a member of a touring Black choir stayed in our home, because the local hotel wouldn't give them rooms. I wrote about this moment in this poem, which is part of a collection of poems, *Dakota Fruit*, about my South Dakota childhood.

#### Wings Over Jordan

I wake to singing—*Who is Sylvia?*—Schubert, I know that.

One voice lower, winding like a river underneath a high soprano.

Voices vibrating like harp strings, transcending Mother's normal warbling folding laundry. At the piano, I discover two strangers,

one the shape and color of my cello, a skin shade new to me—

and Mother, snapping her fingers to Boogie Blues, while the stranger

plays, half-dancing. Then Mother raises her arms, twirls her hands—

I check myself for fever. I learn the stranger came on a bus named

*Wings Over Jordan*, her choir curled in seats from Missouri to Sioux City.

Stopped to sing in Jewell—one gas pump, church—and Waterloo.

Hardboiled eggs from paper bags, and farmers warning of twisters splitting barns, the choir persevering like the pony express

to bring their singing to our stage, just to get shut out by our one hotel, that heap of bricks on Main Street. All across the town, folks—

*some* folks, Mother said—tuned their uprights, made up beds for strangers.

Half-way into the room, I watched her standing close behind a friend,

bending to see the page. Throats bare, bodies lifting, falling—

Mother's chin brushing the woman's hair.

This experience revealed contradictions about my town—a business shut people out, but townspeople (some townspeople) took them in. It gave me a new understanding of my mother—how quickly she

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)

---

bonded with a stranger around music, how beautiful her singing voice was, and how electrically excited she could be. It revealed the sober history and resilience of the members of the *Wings Over Jordan* choir. When they returned the following year, my mother's new friend stayed with us again and they sang together.

—Cathy Morocco, Board of Trustees

## RE CONNECTIONS

---

Our Lifespan Religious Education Sunday on May 22 was a huge success! Children and adults of all ages spoke, lit candles, provided energizing music, and sang hymns in a truly multigenerational worship service. I want to thank Dana Hanson for her relentless support in planning and pulling this service together, and I want to give an especially big thank you to the children and youth who spoke during the service! We know that it takes a lot of courage to get up in front of the whole congregation, and we are so grateful for them sharing their gifts with our community.

What a year! It takes over 90 volunteers to run our Lifespan Religious Education program every year. That is a significant percentage of the adults in our congregation! We are so grateful for all of their contributions. As we wrap up this year, we are really hoping to have a full slate of Sunday School teachers for next year, and we still need another 10 teachers. Please let me, rowan@fusn.org or Beth Walton, beth@fusn.org know if you can help out!

—Rowan Van Ness, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

## WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE

---

We now have a wheelchair at FUSN, which is available to assist anyone who might need it in the Sanctuary and at coffee hour. After consultation with the lay ministers and the Operations Council, the wheelchair has been loaned to FUSN by a long-term member. It will be stored in the Flower Room. Short-term loans of the wheelchair may be arranged by consulting the Lay Ministers, Minister or Administrator.

## UPCOMING PRESENTATION

---

**The Status of Jesus and Mary in the Quran.** A presentation by Professor Bahar Bastani. Questions and Answers to follow, Saturday, June 11, 12:00 until 2:00 p.m., in the Alliance room. Professor Bastani was educated in Iran and came to the US in 1984 where he has risen to become Professor of Medicine and Director of the Kidney Transplantation Program at St. Louis University. Please call Dr. Richard Bail for further information 617 965 4713.

## SUMMER SERVICES

**Summer Services** at FUSN Sunday Services continue at FUSN from June 19 through the entire summer except for July 4th and Labor Day. Many enjoy the informal quality of summer services, held in the Parish Hall and attended by 50 – 70. Each service is coordinated by a member of our Lay Services Committee and might include a story presentation, visiting musicians, an ethical conversations, or a spiritual exploration. Lois Shapiro will provide music for each service. This summer there will be guest appearances by Jimmy Tingle; a Jewish rabbi; and Mandy Beal, FUSN's former Youth Program Coordinator. Services start at 9:30 and conclude with lemonade and fellowship.

June 19 - Mindfulness is Heartfulness - Betsy Simmons and Journey Songs

Compassion Practices including gentle breath awareness, chair yoga, simple singing, loving kindness meditations, poetry, reflection and partner sharing. Come with an open heart and spirit of exploration JourneySongs, our hospice choir, will accompany us.

June 26 - Foreign Intrigue - Kate Carney

They say "travel broadens one." Whether it's the pleasure of sharing insights with a new friend from another culture, the exasperation of trying to communicate with no language in common, or the sheer adventure of travel, it deepens us. Come hear - and share - your own stories of travels which affected you deeply.

July 3 - No Service

July 10 - Art in Prison - Betsy Leavitt, Lynn Holbein, Denise Bousquet

If you had been a fly on the wall at the Northeastern Correctional Center any Thursday night over the last 15 years, you would have seen FUSN volunteers and incarcerated men busy with pieces of paper, colored pencils, stencils and glitter glue. Come to share some of the men's art and find out what it's like to enter a different world where people aren't so different.

July 17 - Hope and Art - Curt Lamb, Juliette Carignan

What can we learn from artists about how to create a fulfilling life, and how to find hope in our darkest moments? Three FUSN artists - a painter, a musician and a sculptor - will describe the nature of art and what it brings to their lives. Come and consider the artistic facets of your life, and indeed, explore the possibility that our own lives ARE our ART!

July 24 - Multifaith Relationships - Em Mueller, Curt Lamb

Most FUSN families have diverse religious backgrounds. What passions are generated by the religions we grew up with? How do we create vibrant families that honor diverse passions? Em Mueller, a rabbi who has conducted many interfaith marriages, will discuss the enthusiasms of Judaism and her experience with interfaith relationships. Bring thoughts about multifaith reckonings in your own life.

July 31 - Experiencing Our Older Selves - Allan Hartman

What is it like to feel old? What mix of joy, sorrow, worry, relief, awareness, loss and such do we newly feel as we near the end of life? Through words, poetry, and music we'll look inside ourselves. Time will be set aside for congregant sharing.

August 7 - Jimmy Tingle renowned Boston comedian, will share thoughts on humor and humanity.

August 14 - Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice - Betsy Levitt

Studies show that people who practice gratitude enjoy greater happiness, improved ability to deal with adversity and stronger relationships. Come to hear friends' stories of thankfulness and ideas for building more gratitude into your life.

August 21 - Self-actualization in Beethoven - Lois Shapiro

Many consider Beethoven one of the visionaries who significantly shaped our sense of ourselves as "Human" - beings, endowed with a rich and complex inner life, capable of reflection as well as action in the world. In learning about, and listening to one of Beethoven's last piano sonatas, his Op. 110, we will look at the nature of a musical process that rises to a metaphor for our own consciousness.

August 28 - Marking the Sacred - Mandy Beal

Drawing on recent experiences in Israel, Mandy Beal will explore the theme of religious symbol and rituals. Mandy is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry, and the Ministerial Intern at the First Parish in Lincoln. Mandy is also FUSN's former Youth Program Coordinator, and FUSN is Mandy's congregational sponsor.

## 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 is Friday, June 3. Send your submissions to office@fusn.org. Thank you.

## 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*

## CHIMES CELEBRATION

**Chimes Celebration:** 100th Anniversary, Saturday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m. The year 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of FUSN's chime. The 11 bells were heard for the first time on June 4, 1916. We feel especially fortunate that June 4 falls on a Saturday and we will celebrate as they did in 1916, with a concert.

Carson Cooman has composed a special piece for the occasion, *Tower Antiphonies*. The three-movement composition will be the centerpiece of the concert.

We plan a casual and celebratory event at 4:00 p.m., a Saturday afternoon. For further information, contact Gayle Smalley, [gaylesmalley@mindspring.com](mailto:gaylesmalley@mindspring.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE OVER 60 CLUB** - Co-facilitators - Wendy Haskell and Nancy Wrenn. 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 important aspects and challenges in this phase of our lives. Contact Nancy Wrenn, [wrennnancy@gmail.com](mailto:wrennnancy@gmail.com) or 617-969-2758 if you wish to join. Space is limited. We need to know that you can participate in at least five of the six sessions. First meeting will be: Wednesday, June 15, 3:00-5:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room. Subsequent meetings: June 29, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24.

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Boston  
Massachusetts  
Permit No. 8900

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Unitarian Society in Newton  
1326 Washington Street  
Newton, MA 02465

