



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

October 25 - November 7, 2015

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

10/25 - Wheel of Life service - Lay Ministers

The theme for November is Belonging

11/1 - "The Little Boy" - Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed
I was hiking up a mountain when a fleeting, but excruciating, moment set me on the path to social activism. Along the way the challenges taught me some hard lessons, including learning to be thankful for the obstacles I encountered.

11/8 - Rev. Erin Splaine

11/15 - "Sources: a UU Cantata - Music Sunday

11/22 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Welcome New Members

THE NEW UU

If you are considering becoming a member of FUSN and/or would like to know more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism you are invited to attend the "New to UU" retreat on Nov. 7, held here at FUSN from 8:30 to noon. This will be a fun, low-key opportunity to get to know others, share some of your own story and learn a little about UUism. We'll start by breaking bread (bagels), together, we'll have a tour of the historic building and learn a little about how the congregation functions. Come at 8:30 for coffee, bagels & fruit. Programming begins promptly at 8:45 so that we can be sure to be done by 12 noon. Childcare will be provided. RSVP to Fran Clancy in the church office, office@fusn.org or contact one of our Member Services co-chairs- Rachel Viscomi, rachelviscomi@yahoo.com or Pat Rohan jprohan@verizon.net.

MUSINGS

"I think art keeps its newness because it's at once unforgettable and impossible to remember entirely. Art is too volatile, multiple and evaporative to hold on to. It's more chemical reaction, one you have to re-create each time, than a substance. Art's discoveries are also, almost always, counter to ordinary truths. Evolution tells us how to survive; art tells us how it's possible still to live even while knowing that we and all we love will someday vanish. It says there's beauty even in grief, freedom even inside the strictures of form and of life. What's liberating isn't what's simplest; it's the ability to include more and more shadows, colors and possibilities inside any moment's meeting of self and world." (Jane Hirshfield, in an interview with SFGate March 2015)

The musicians at FUSN - those folks in the Sanctuary Choir, FIGCO, the Family Choir, the Flute Choir, the band, and in the pews - all of us know the beauty and freedom of which Hirshfield speaks. And the Music Committee is planning on bringing out some of those "colors and possibilities" in a FUSN Musicians concert on Sunday, Feb. 7 (3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary). We hope you're interested in participating - if so, email Anne Watson Born at music@fusn.org

FUSNArts!

November 6-7 FUSN Art Show

November 15 Music Sunday:
Sources, a UU Cantata.

December 20 Annual Carol Sing Service

January 3 Evening Song begins

February 7 FUSN Musicians Concert

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, 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 Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

You've probably noticed the equipment, scaffolding, and other evidence of work being done on our FUSN building recently. If you've been keeping up on Laurel's emails, you may know what's going on, but I've been reminded that many of you may be curious and not know.

Thanks primarily to the long dedication and strategic management of our amazing Buildings and Grounds volunteer, Laurel Farnsworth, FUSN's building has made quite a physical come-back in the last 20 years or so, after many more years of benign neglect. Benign because although no one wanted to let the building deteriorate, for many years FUSN had neither the money nor a knowledgeable volunteer to shepherd the needed maintenance work. Instead, the Society had to focus on rebuilding our congregation after membership shrank precipitously following a particularly divisive conflict in the 1960s over BAC bonds. (If you're interested in knowing more about this history, you'll find a brief history on the FUSN website at <http://fusn.org/content/social-change-and-division>; and/or you can ask some of our esteemed elders, who weathered that conflict and stayed to help us rebuild.)

Since the early 1990s, the proceeds of two capital campaigns and Laurel's careful and strategic management of the annual B&G budget have funded major reroofing of the sanctuary, rebuilding the bell tower, restoring stained glass windows, building classrooms in the basement, replacing outdated HVAC (air conditioning!) and lighting systems, and many more projects.

We all know we had a challenging winter last year. Many folks suffered major damage to their homes; our FUSN home was not exempt, although our damage was not catastrophic. Nevertheless, the work that's currently underway, most visibly on the back side (office wing) of the building, is masonry repair and roof slate replacement necessitated primarily by the damage from last winter's snow accumulation. The cost of this work will run about \$144,000. We'll be in much better shape to face that kind of challenging winter again, should we have to. (Yes, I'm crossing my fingers, praying, etc. along with the rest of you!)

But the building repair, maintenance, and improvement projects are not limited to reactive ones; there are proactive ones as well, designed to further some of our most important spiritual and justice-related values. Although we have one handicapped-accessible entrance, the door

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)

by the back parking lot, our building is far from friendly for those with mobility challenges. There are long-range plans for major improvements in mobility throughout our building, some of which will be in line for a next capital campaign. In the meantime, however, we have just contracted for the initial design work to make our front narthex entrance on Highland Street accessible to those in wheelchairs. The Board voted in September to fund this design work for roughly \$10,000. We look forward to this work and future planned projects as ways to make our building be as welcoming as our membership program aspires to be.

I have been so impressed, as a 2+ year Board of Trustees member, every time Laurel presents a new project for discussion and approval. Before a proposal comes before us, there has been careful thought and planning, both of the work itself and its financing. It is always evident that a balance has been sought among sometimes competing values: the need to address the most urgent needs first; the desire to do long-range planning for our building with our ideals and mission as the guiding principle; the need to use our financial resources wisely, balancing frugality with quality; and the need and desire to be patient and thoughtful with the process while actually getting something done!

You'll be pleased, as I am, to know that all the work being done this fall is being financed from currently budgeted Buildings and Grounds funds – i.e., from the Operating Budget for FY16 which you all approved at last June's Annual Meeting. Even a hefty fee spent last winter to clear snow from the flat roof over the kitchen, in order to keep the roof from collapsing under the weight of all that snow, came from reserve funds set aside annually as part of the B&G budget.

We are so fortunate and grateful to have a dedicated volunteer who is able and willing to manage this kind of large portfolio of essential congregational business. Please offer your appreciation to Laurel Farnsworth when you have a chance, and know that she and the Board and Operations Council are carefully and prudently managing your generous pledge dollars.

-Bobbie Sproat

YOUTH ACTIVITIES BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning in for another week of the Youth Activities Broadcast! On Oct. 4, the youth teachers had their first meeting to share their experience in the classrooms with one another. It was great to hear the youth discuss their experiences with the children at FUSN and offer each other advice and tips on how to connect with children of all ages.

On Oct. 25, the youth group will be heading out to Honey Pot Hill Apple Orchards to pick loads of apples and complete a mini hedge maze together. We will be leaving FUSN at 12:30 p.m., and will return at around 4:00 p.m. The apple orchard trip will take the place of Sunday night youth group. On Sunday Nov. 1, the youth will put all of the apples to good use by making baked goods to share with one another!

As always, if you have any questions about any of the youth activities, please feel free to email me at dani@fusn.org or by call/text at (517) 881-5485.

Best, Dani Negus, Youth Programs Coordinator

UPDATED DIRECTORIES

After a long layoff, we are now in the process of creating an updated directory of FUSN folks. We are hoping to have accurate, up to date information in the directory. To help insure that, we will have preliminary copies available near the Membership table for several Sunday mornings for you to look over and make any corrections to how your information is listed. So please stop by and check. If you cannot make it to services, you can contact Fran Clancy, office@fusn.org to check your information. Once we believe that we have up to date and correct information, we will make copies of the directory for distribution. *-The Member Services Committee*

UPCOMING EVENTS

New to FUSN or Unitarian Universalism? Grab a cup of coffee (in a BLUE mug if you're feeling new!) and join us in the Children's Chapel following the service on Oct. 25 for a short video and conversation about what it means to be a UU. There will be someone from Member Services present to answer any questions you may have.

Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m., Chapel, Proposed changes in the MA Parole Process presented by Lead Sponsor State Rep. Dave Rogers. His bill would require the Parole Board to justify the denial of parole after a risk and needs assessment.

NEWCOMER POTLUCK

If you are new to FUSN or still feel you are new, you are invited to a potluck dinner at the home of Jay Flynn and Barbara Niles on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 6:00 p.m. Children are welcome. Come talk with other newcomers who are interested in Unitarian Universalism and in FUSN. There will be time to discuss our congregation's services and activities and to ask questions, as well as time just to get to know one another. RSVP to Brenda Roberts, bnroberts@comcast.net, to tell us if you can come and what you would like to bring (suggestions: an appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad or dessert that serves 6-8 people). We will provide beverages. We look forward to having this opportunity with you.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Let's Honor the Women's Alliance. Since its inception in 1886 the Women's Alliance has supported many causes, offered speaker programs, provided hospitality for members at difficult times, given money to purchase large kitchen items in FUSN, and established an intern minister stipend fund.

Times have changed and it's time to write the last chapter of our Alliance. Former Alliance members and other interested women are invited to discuss this at a potluck lunch Nov. 22 at 12 noon in the FUSN chapel. Bring your ideas, memories and food for four people. Erin will be chairing our gathering. *-Eileen Kurkoski*

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.

Cris Goldsmith, 617-969-1638, crisgoldsmith@gmail.com

Kathy Hearn, 617-965-0938, kathyhearn@rcn.com

Jud Leonard, 617-969-2623, jud.leonard@gmail.com

Erin O'Donnell, 303-520-3917, ejnodonnell@gmail.com

Cindy Orrell, 617-901-6848, cindy_orrell@hotmail.com

Ann Woodbury, 617-964-7699, ann@sulliwood.org

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on Nov. 8 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 – Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 13, Apr. 10 and May 22.

EVENING SONG

Evening Song is coming Sunday, Jan. 3, 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 Nov. 3, 9:00 a.m.

The Family Choir will meet Oct. 25 at 11:30 a.m., in the Nursery.

Our Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra will rehearse on Oct. 25, 11:45 a.m., in the Sanctuary.

The Sources choir will meet at 1:00 p.m. Oct. 25 in the Headstart room.

The Flute Choir will rehearse next Sunday, Nov. 1, at 9:00 a.m., in the Chapel.

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