



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

April 19 - May 2, 2015

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

### The worship theme for April is: Soul

4/19 - "Just As I Am" - Rev. Ken Sawyer

4/26 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Special Collection for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

**Tina Chery at FUSN** - A Special Collection during morning service on April 26 will benefit the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, a center of healing, teaching and learning for families and communities impacted by violence since 1994.

Tina Chery established the Peace Institute after the death of her son Louis, who was killed walking to a "teens against gang violence" meeting in his Dorchester neighborhood. Since then, the Peace Institute has been a mainstay in Boston and beyond, providing comfort and support to families after unfathomable trauma and loss.

Committed to restorative justice, the staff of the Peace Institute provides support to families of homicide victims and families of offenders and in-depth training for providers, including first responders working with youth and families impacted by violence. Their survivor outreach programs including their school-based healing and leadership work in the Boston Schools supports their mission of helping survivors transform pain and anger into power and action.

Please join us on the 26th for a light luncheon after service to meet Tina Chery who will talk about her work and the upcoming annual Mother's Day Walk, now in its 19th year! And thank you for your generous support of the Peace Institute!

### The theme for May is Freedom

5/3 - Rev. Lee Barker

5/10 - Coming of Age Graduation

5/17 - Rev. Erin Splaine

## MUSINGS



The FUSN Sanctuary Choir will be joyfully participating in an Interfaith Concert, "Choirs and Cantors in Song", on Sunday May 17, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Shalom. Our choir will sing "We Are One" by Brian Tate and we will join with the other choirs in singing a Sufi song ("Adinu"), "Honey in the Rock", "Amen Shem Nora", and Rutter's "The Lord bless you and keep you". None of the music is hard and it's all fun, so please consider singing with us. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30-8:00 p.m., in the Chapel or Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Contact me at [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org) if you're interested in singing.

Here's information about the event, from the Newton Festival of the Arts website:

An Interfaith Concert of beautiful songs from cantors and choirs throughout Newton, harmoniously and beautifully bringing together the voices of Newton's religious organizations. Reception following concert. \$10 Seniors \$15 at the door. 7:00 p.m., Temple Shalom, 175 Temple Street, West Newton.

## THANK UUS

The Lay ministers would like to thank the care crew members for the month of March: Barbara Bates, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Allan Hartman, Eileen Kurkoski, Jud Leonard, Pamela Libby, Brenda Roberts, Sue Skoler, Gayle Smally and Margaret Zaleski.

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Acting Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Mandy Beal, *Youth Coordinator*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Madison Crosby, *Beadle*.

**Board of Trustees:** Gregg DiBiaso, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Chair*, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon, Jonathan Reuman, Alison Costello and Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Reps*.

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley

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Dear Friends and Members of FUSN,

If you have already pledged to this year's Budget Drive — thank you! I am reaching out to long-time and new members and friends we have yet to hear from regarding financial pledges for our next year's budget. I know sometimes the question of money can be a difficult one, and rather than having our wonderful Annual Budget Drive (ABD) Team (David Morocco, Linda Rinearson and Urban Larson) reach out to you again, I thought I might be able to offer some clarity to some of the questions I hear from time to time.

Pledges of any size are welcome and needed as we seek to support the mission and vision of our growing, vital congregation. Please know that no amount is too small or too big (!), and that each contribution makes a difference in the life and health of our congregation. Again, if you have already pledged — thank you!

- Sometimes folks will think that making a contribution to the plate every Sunday is sufficient. If you do that, thank you! However, what you may not know is that the plate collection is actually a very small contributor of our yearly budget. Typically the plate only accounts for three (3) percent of our operating costs. In order for us to responsibly budget from year to year we need everyone to anticipate as best they can how much they might be able to give. Pledging through the Annual Budget Drive allows our leadership to plan with confidence.
- Many may not know our commitment to supporting Unitarian Universalism at a local and national level means that we pay around \$90 for each member of our congregation. This means that even a contribution of this amount will allow us to not dip into our reserves to pay our dues to the denomination.
- Finally, sometimes financial and/or family situations are such that making a financial pledge at any given time is simply not feasible. Please know that our Annual Budget Drive Team and I understand this. However, our ABD Team can't know this unless you let them know. Our ABD Team handles all of this sensitive information, including pledge amounts, confidentially. Alternatively, you can always reach out to me.

Once again, please know that I appreciate how sensitive financial issues can be. David, Linda, and Urban are committed volunteers who, like you, strive to serve our congregation with this utmost sensitivity in mind. In a diverse congregation such as ours — diverse in belief, social class, income levels, and family situations — your contributions of time, talent and treasure make more of a difference than you know.

Our ABD Team are the people to whom you can offer your pledges (I do not know nor want to know how much folks give). They are always available to answer your questions or concerns, as am I. Please do be in touch as the Finance Committee is beginning to craft our budget for next year and we want to include your pledge to help us plan and prepare for another terrific year together.

*Peace,*

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## UPCOMING EVENT

**Mothers Out Front** is excited to do a presentation at FUSN on April 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room about our work to mobilize mothers, grandmothers and caregivers to use their collective energy and voices to create the political will to combat climate change. We are active in convincing elected officials and business leaders to push for a swift and complete transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy. Come and hear about our successes and how you can get involved to ensure a livable climate for all children. Sarah Conn, an active member of MOF, will be one of the presenters.

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## EQUAL EXCHANGE

FUSN is a participant in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Coffee Project ([www.uusc.org/uusc-coffee-project](http://www.uusc.org/uusc-coffee-project)). The fair trade coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa, chocolate, and olive oil at our Holiday Fair and Sunday Coffee Hours comes from Equal Exchange (<http://equalexchange.coop>), a fair trade products cooperative that sources their goods directly from farmer cooperatives, following the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products. This ensures that farmers earn a fair price for their crops, allowing them to better meet their families' basic needs for food, education, and health care — and their long-term security. In addition, Equal Exchange returns a portion of all sale through their Interfaith Program to participating faith communities for relief, development, and human rights projects in farming communities where the products come from. For us, that's the Small Farmers Fund of the UUSC Coffee Project. In 2014, from sales to Unitarian Universalist congregations, offices, programs, etc., Equal Exchange returned \$14,309 to help fund the UUSC Coffee Project.

**FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

Because we know that in this age of multiple communications channels, no one medium reaches everyone in a community, the Board is using our newsletter space in this issue to re-share the letter that went out from Gordon Moriarty, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, to the FUSN Business e-List on April 12. It offers more specific information about the April 26 congregational meeting the Board announced in the last newsletter. Please read it carefully, and if you have questions or other feedback, please address them to Gordon.

Dear Members of FUSN:

I apologize for this lengthy email but it's **important** so please read on.

As announced by Board Vice-Chair Lesley Sneddon in her email of March 31, **there will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 26 at 12:30 p.m.** This meeting is part of a deliberative process for considering a proposed amendment to the FUSN By-Laws with regard to membership. The Board has asked the By-Laws Committee to lead the deliberative process.

I am the of-record member of the By-Laws Committee. Dwight Golann and Dan Brody have agreed to join me in facilitating the congregational meeting.

(A Special Collection benefiting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute will occur during that Sunday's service followed by a reception in the Alliance Room welcoming Tina Chery - Founder & Executive Director of the Peace Institute who will talk about her work, her commitment to restorative justice, and share the inspiration that led her to create the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, now in it's 19th year. So, please participate in that reception, then stay for the congregational meeting.)

**The goal of this congregational meeting** is to give the members of the congregation an opportunity to understand the proposed amendment to the membership language in the By-Laws, to ask questions, to speak, and to listen closely in an atmosphere of respect and care. It is also hoped that this meeting will provide a sense of whether a vote at the Annual Meeting to amend the By-Laws is timely or whether further opportunity for contemplation and discussion is desired by the congregation.

**The meeting will be in two parts.** In Part I, congregants will be divided into small groups, each with a facilitator, to discuss the proposed amendments for about 45 minutes. In Part II, we will come together in the hope of finding common themes from the small group meetings. We hope to conclude by 2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be available beforehand for those not attending the Tina Chery reception.

**The proposal to amend the By-Laws, offered by the Inclusive Sanctuary Committee, is posted on a bulletin board in the office hallway.** (This group is a self-organized committee of FUSN members and is not a Board-chartered committee.) **The Board takes no position as to the proposal.** To fully participate in the up-coming meeting, members are asked to read and consider the proposed amendment.

Members have also expressed a desire to better understand some of the language in the proposed amendment:

- racialized identity      gender expression
- gender identity      affectional or sexual orientation
- family and relationship structures

**We are requesting interested and knowledgeable people to email me (moriartygordon@gmail.com) links to definitions and other resources that will help us all better understand these terms.** We will create a digest of those definitions and resources for distribution to the congregation in a subsequent email, prior to the April 26 meeting.

**Others have also submitted alternative amendments via the listserv.** If you would like your alternative amendment to be considered by the congregation, please email it to me as soon as possible with an optional summary of up to 100 words. The summary can be a paraphrase of your proposal, a rationale for it, etc. Please indicate if your proposal should be shared with attribution or anonymously. I will compile the alternative proposals in a digest to be distributed by email prior to the April 26 meeting.

Thank you for your involvement, for your patience, and for your dedication to our Society.

Gordon Moriarty, on behalf of Dwight Golann and Dan Brody, for the Bylaws Committee  
moriartygordon@gmail.com

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## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our last Community Breakfast on May 17 from 9-10 in the Parish Hall. Our menu consists of scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, home fried potatoes, bacon, sausage, white and whole wheat biscuits, gluten free corn bread, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and sometimes a special treat. We have high chairs for the tots. The price is only \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. First timers eat free. Clean-up help appreciated.

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## VESPERS

The monthly **Vespers service** with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. 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.

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## WALK FOR HUNGER

The **Walk for Hunger** is Sunday, May 3, to raise money for 400 soup kitchens and food pantries in New England. FUSN has had a proud team for over 30 years. Care to join us? The FUSN team leaves after coffee hour and walks together. Parents with kids can walk as long or as short as you like. Get your walking papers at the Social Action table. Join our team or sponsor a donor at [www.projectbread.org/walk-for-hunger](http://www.projectbread.org/walk-for-hunger). Team is “First Unitarian Society in Newton”. Hungry people thank you!

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## NEWCOMERS POTLUCK

Save the date: Newcomers Potluck. If you have just stated coming to FUSN since September 2014 or if you still feel new you are welcome to sign up for the May 2 gathering. Contact Brenda Roberts, [bnroberts@com-cast.net](mailto:bnroberts@com-cast.net)

**Deadline for next Newsletter is April 28, 9:00 a.m.**

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