



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

April 20 - May 5, 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

4/20 - "Intergenerational Easter Service"

4/27 - Rev. Erin Splaine

5/4 - Rev Meghan Cefalu

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.

Name	Home #	E-mail
Jay Flynn	[contact information in online directory]	
Judy Friedman	[ditto]	
Cris Goldsmith	[ditto]	
Kathy Hearn	[ditto]	
Jud Leonard	[ditto]	
Cindy Orrell	[ditto]	
Thom Theara	617-849-4711	thomtheara@yahoo.com
Gail Yeo,	508-331-1342	gailyeo84@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM ERIN

Evidently, it has been longer than I thought since I last bought a pair of jeans. When looking at the contents of my closet I knew that there was no more room for delay, I needed to buck up and make the trip to the mall. Out of habit and hope my first stop was the store where I have been buying jeans since college. Yet, it didn't take me long to realize that not only had it been longer since I had walked into The Gap – which is now known as The Chasm in my house – but that I was a fish out of water and not the only one in the store who realized that fact. I have seen the demographic and it is not I. Thankfully the mall is a great place to walk and think.

As I left The Chasm I took a little extra time before heading to the next store. I thought about the passage of time and how it can meander in my consciousness. Sometimes it feels as if it was just yesterday that I was in college – or starting my professional life on Capitol Hill. But that was 30 years ago – there have been many chapters added to my life since then. I am looking forward to chapters yet to come and for that I am grateful. I thought about the markers woven through the chapters of my life – the moments and times I can measure my life against time. Markers that help me see where I have been, who I was then and who I am now. I just never thought that the mall would be such a marker, yet now it is.

As I walked on I thought about the last few sentences of one of my favorite short stories, "The Third and Final Continent" which ends with the main character reflecting on his own life. *"There are times I am bewildered by each mile I have traveled, each meal I have eaten, each person I have known, each room in*

Continued on next page

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Meghan Cefalu, *Assistant Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Perry Montrose, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Rebecca Hinds, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Maura Hess-Mahan, *Beadle*.

Board of Trustees: Cathy Morocco, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, Charlie Watts, *Chair*, Ann Woodbury, Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley
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which I have slept. As ordinary as it all appears, there are times when it is beyond my imagination.”

Moment upon moment — chapter upon chapter we build a lifetime beyond our imagination filled with the brilliance of the ordinary. May we all continue to have lives filled with trips to the grocery store, endless loads of laundry and times to be together.

FROM THE BOARD

As spring has finally graced us with its presence, your Board of Trustees is heading into its busiest season. We seem to have lots of initiatives gathering speed and some heading into close-to-final stages.

Primary among these activities is the **Ministry Review** process, now in the capable hands of the Ministry Review Committee, chaired by Elli Crocker. The team has gathered information from many of you and is now beginning to work on a report of findings. Additionally – and along with all of you – we are helping to support the **Annual Budget Drive**, so diligently and tirelessly guided by our ABD team of Barbara Deck, Jonathan Lilienfeld, and Sharon Sisskind.

Other initiatives that are underway (but are perhaps less visible) include moving the **Conflict Transformation** project forward to the next stage (based on the foundational work done in 2012); populating a new **Financial Oversight Committee** that will be charged with helping to ensure that our processes and protocols are in line with best practices; and supporting the folks who are helping us to acquire and implement a new FUSN **database** to bring scattered pockets of FUSN data together into a whole that will work more efficiently for everyone.

And, of course, May is **Budget Month!** (If you committee chairs haven't yet submitted your budget requests for next year to the Finance Committee, please DO IT!)

In the midst of all this day-to-day activity, the Board and Operations Council, joined by Erin, Meghan and Perry, took time out on April 5 to catch our collective breath and hold a **visioning retreat**. We were joined by Rev. John Millsbaugh, a skilled facilitator from the Clara Barton & Mass. Bay District of the UUA, who helped us talk about who/what we are today (our strengths as well as our “growing edges”), what we might be in two to four years (a “vision” of sorts), and – importantly – *how we might get from here to there.*

FROM THE BOARD (continued)

The work done at this session will continue to serve us over the next several years and we'll plan to share more output from the day as we proceed. As a starting point, it was satisfying to see some of our ongoing initiatives and priorities emerge as part of a list of “catalysts” we created for moving forward, including acknowledging and addressing conflict, strengthening our approach to developing leaders, enhancing (in many different ways) communication, and fostering cultures of community and generosity.

CELEBRATE OUR BUDGET DRIVE

Speaking of generosity, the Board is very pleased to invite all of you to come help us celebrate this year's Annual Budget Drive on May 3 in the Parish Hall! We'll gather at 5:30 for delicious BBQ (including vegetarian options!), and finish off the evening with music and dancing with White Collar Crime (that's a band, folks, not a new financial policy). The Board is delighted to sponsor this celebration in gratitude for your past, present, and future generosity. Happy spring! *-Bobbie Sproat, Vice-Chair*

R.E. HELP NEEDED

The RE Council needs your help to smooth the transition in leadership from Perry to the new Acting Director of Religious Education who will be hired for the next church year. Our goal is to have all teaching teams, COA leaders and mentors, Council members, and RE Support Circle members in place for the coming year by the end of May. This will be a great farewell gift to Perry, and will ensure that our RE program continues to thrive along the path that Perry has laid out for us. Please stop by the RE Table on Sunday May 4, and find your place on the RE tree! And to sweeten the deal, free community breakfast on May 18 for all current and incoming RE volunteers!

Classroom Discovery. Curious about what goes on in RE classrooms? Thought about teaching but don't think you can do it? Join a teaching team for a day and find out how manageable it really is! Sign up with Beth, reassist@fusn.org for either Sunday, May 4, or May 18, and you may find yourself heading over to the RE Table during coffee hour to join a team for the coming year.

ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE UPDATE

We have \$507,000 in pledges so far which is 87% of our goal. We've held 21 successful pledging parties with about 200 FUSNites attending. As we approach the end of the budget drive we need everyone who hasn't pledged to do so as soon as possible so that we can meet FUSN's financial needs and keep it vital. If you have already pledged, we thank you, but if you haven't pledged please email your pledge to Fran Clancy at office@fusn.org, or contact Jonathan Lilienfeld at [see online directory for contact info] to request a pledge card. We hope to complete the drive in a few weeks but we will continue until everyone has responded. Thank you all!

CONNECTIONS

Planning a FUSN event or need to get announcements out to the community? Come to this one-hour session for a quick overview of the FUSN website, a walkthrough of the internal communications channels from FUSNnews to the email lists, and an introduction to getting your news out to the wider community. Brought to you by Communications team members Nancy DuVergne Smith and Andrea Kelley on Sunday, April 27, 11:45 a.m., in the Children's Chapel.

Put your "Faith in Action" on Tuesday, May 13. Join the FUSN team, led by our own Rev. Meghan Cefalu, attending the 9th Annual UU Advocacy Day, sponsored by UU Mass Action, at the Arlington Street Church and the State House. This year we will be delivering wedding cupcakes to each of MA's 200 Senators and Representatives in boxes which say: "Thank You for 10 Years of Marriage Equality! Now it's time to raise the minimum wage, reform drug sentencing, and change our immigration policies."

Celebrating 10 Years of Marriage Equality in Massachusetts. Join our inter-generational celebration of 10 years of Marriage Equality on Sunday, May 18. After the worship service, we will gather in the Parish Hall to eat wedding cake and then we will have a short parade around the West Newton business district. FUSN and other UU congregations in Massachusetts, together with the UUA, played a significant part in advocating for marriage equality on behalf of same-sex couples.

WALK FOR HUNGER



One of life's truths is that we never know what secret hardships people bear. Who is having financial problems and having trouble putting food on the table for their kids? On May 4, the FUSN team will celebrate our 31st year on the Walk for Hunger. You can help make sure there is food on our neighbor's tables by walking or sponsoring a walker. Go to the team of the "First Unitarian Society in Newton" at supportprojectbread.org, or stop by the Social Action table at coffee hour to pick up walking papers or sponsor a walker. Thank you!

FUSN GARDEN PROJECT

Families welcome! Save the dates for future work parties in the garden with FUSN's Garden Project group! Join us on these dates if you are interested in helping out:

Saturday April 26, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Saturday May 3, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Saturday May 10, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Sunday May 18, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

We hope to have a spring crop of peas and spinach to donate to the Newton Food Pantry. Come join us for garden preparation and seed planting! Families welcome! Cancellation in case of inclement weather will be announced via e-mail and a notice on FUSN's Facebook page. Or, contact Paul Antonucci at fusn-garden@fusn.org or 617 923 9412. The garden is located at 240 Beaver St in Waltham at the UMASS Agricultural Extension property, which is also the home of Waltham Community Fields. To find our plot, go along the road (Beaver Street) to the East of the buildings and go through the opening in the tall hedge.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on May 18 for our FUSN Community Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Toddlers welcome, we have high chairs available for them. The menu (eggs, eggbeater omelets, fried potatoes, pancakes, biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee) is great and the price (\$4) is unbeatable. Clean-up help appreciated.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, May 11 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.

Deadline for next Newsletter is April 29 at 9:00

SAVE THE DATE



Save the date for FUSN yard

clean up: Saturday, May 10. Is there some nagging weed, branch or other yard issue that you would like to deal with? We will be spreading mulch, liming grass and pruning

what we can reach. Please mark the date on your calendar. We will start at 8:30 a.m., and go until we run out of steam. Any amount of time you can spend with us is welcome.

LUNCH WITH ERIN AND MEGHAN

May 15 noon in the Alliance Room. Yes there is such a thing as a free lunch! Any and all are invited to join Erin and Meghan for soup and conversation at noon on the 15th in the Alliance Room. Long-time members of the community and those who are retired are especially invited. Please let Fran know if you plan to attend or you need a ride so we will know how much soup to prepare.

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