



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

April 29 - May 12, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

April 29 - "Fragile and Rooted" Rev. Erin Splaine
May 6 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Rebecca Hinds
May 13 - 10:15 a.m. - Coming of Age Graduation
1:15 p.m. - Coming of Age Graduation
May 20 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Welcome New Members
May 27 - Kevin Tarsa, Intern, First Parish Wayland
June 3 - Mr. Barb Greve

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 4, the New & Improved FUSN Fun Night. In addition to the pizza, socializing, activities for young children and singing & games for all ages that we've had at prior FUSN Fun Nights, there will now be Movies for tweens and Parlor Games for grown ups. Bring a few \$s for the pizza or a dish to share. (Come any time between 5:30-7:00 p.m for dinner; any time between 7:00-9:00 for singing, kids activities, movies and parlor games).

Newcomer Potluck Saturday May 5, 6:00-9:00 pm
Would you like to have dinner with other people who are relatively new to FUSN and get a chance to learn more about FUSN? Come to a potluck at the home of FUSN members Julie & Dan Brody. Contact Kristin Cleveland at member_services@fusn.org for details and to RSVP.

R.E. Registrations due on May 1.
May 26-28 - Sandy Island Weekend
June 3 - High School Seniors Recognition
Last Day of R.E. Classes
June 10 - Sundaes for Sunday
Annual Meeting
BBQ & Farwell Party for Barb Greve

SECOND COLLECTION

Several years ago, I had an opportunity to listen to a group of Boston mothers talk about their fear for their children's safety due to violence in their neighborhoods. I realized how desensitized I'd become to a reality occurring just miles from my home.

While I was struck by the resilience of the young people I spoke with, I was disturbed by their perception that violence was taken for granted in their communities and considered primarily a "Dorchester, Mattapan and Roxbury problem."

Shortly after this experience, I began volunteering at the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute which was founded in 1993 by Tina Chery, after her son Louis, was killed in gang crossfire on his way to a "Teens against Youth Violence" meeting. Channeling her pain and anger into power and action, Tina has dedicated her life to providing support services to survivors of homicide and working to lift up and build peace in Boston's most beleaguered neighborhoods.

Guided by seven principles: love, unity, faith, hope, courage, justice and forgiveness, Tina truly "walks the talk." A year after her son's death, Tina reached out to the mother of the boy who is currently serving time for her son's murder. "There were tears and an embrace" and that mother is now a daily volunteer in Tina's office at the Peace Institute.

Every year, the Peace Institute sponsors a 3.6-mile Walk on Mother's Day that draws thousands to Dorchester to walk in solidarity with mothers who had lost children to violence.

On May 6 at FUSN, we will have an opportunity to support Tina's work as our Second Collection that day will support their work with survivors. Should

Continued on next page

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Kristin Cleveland, *Coordinator of Member Services and Development*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Mr. Barb Greve, *Consulting 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*, Corey Hess Mahan, and Dylan O'Brien *CoBeadles*.

Board of Trustees: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Margaret Costello, Barney Freiberg-Dale, Bruce Henderson, Pamela McA'Nulty, Carl Metzger, Gordon Moriarty, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, Ann Woodbury, Alan Cody, *Treasurer*, Conrad Buys, *Youth Rep*.

Operations Council: Pat Rohan, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Anne Hess-Mahan, Laurel Farnsworth, Kim Shanks

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

you wish to make a contribution but can't attend the service, donations can be sent to the Louis D Brown Peace Institute 1452 Dorchester Ave. 3rd floor, Dorchester, MA 02122.

I know as a parent, I have struggled with what I can do to help address injustice in our world and how to raise children who are aware, but not frightened of these tough issues. For me, it is the overarching message of the value of peace that I want my children to understand, and Tina, whom they've both met, embodies courage and grace. Make checks payable to Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, thank you. *-Josie Greene*

PLANNED GIVING NEWS

FUSN's Legacy Circle. The leadership at FUSN would like to say "Thank You" and recognize those members who have joined our Legacy Circle by making FUSN a part of their estate plan. Dan & Julie Brody, Barbara Bates, Kate Carney, Margaret Costello, Beverly & Thomas Droz, Bill Dusett, Judy Friedman, Laurel Farnsworth, Allan & Anne Hartman, Betsy Leavitt, Ned & Patsy Leibensperger, Ellie Mamber, Linda Rinearson, Pat & Jacki Rohan, Linda Ross, Peter & Brenda Roberts, Judy Zacek. These members of our community have joined in working to sustain our vision for future generations with bequests to FUSN. If we have missed someone or if you wish to discuss ways to include FUSN in your estate plans please let us know by contacting Fran Clancy or Committee members: Bill Dusett, Adrian Bishop, Bev Droz, Peter Farago or Judy Zacek.

PUBLIC POSITION STATEMENT: DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

At its April meeting, the Council for Social Action approved a statement for consideration by the Board of Trustees, lending FUSN's official endorsement to the Death With Dignity Act, which will appear on the ballot this November. The Board may choose to either (a) endorse it as a final action, (b) defeat it, or (c) put it on the agenda for consideration by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 10. We have already had one congregational discussion about this matter, attended by about twenty people. There will be a second such discussion to permit as many as possible to educate themselves and express their views, scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 9:00 a.m., in the Chapel. The FUSN website has the text of the resolution, as well as some important links to the proposed Act itself and a General Resolution by the UUA in support of the concept of the Right to Die.

BARB'S BANTERING

7H15 M3554G3 53RV35 7O PR0V3 H0W 0UR
M1ND5 C4N D0 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5, 1MPR3551V3
7H1NG5! 1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG 17 WA5 H4RD BU7
N0W, 0N 7H15 LIN3 Y0UR M1ND 1S R34D1NG 17
4U70M471C4LLY W17H 0U7 3V3N 7H1NK1NG
4B0U7 17, B3 PROUD!

(translation: This message serves to prove how our minds can do amazing things, impressive things! In the beginning it was hard but now, on this line your mind is reading it automatically with out even thinking about it, be proud!)

For some of us, reading the text above was quite a challenge, while for others of us it came as naturally as thinking. How was it for you? Did you find yourself frustrated? Delighted? Perhaps you gave up?

Each of us processes information differently and thus expresses our thoughts differently. Recent studies offer us nine broad strokes for understanding learning styles (aka Multiple Intelligences): Aural (sounds/music), Existential (value-based thinking), Logical (systems), Naturalist (environment), Physical (movement), Social (interpersonal communication), Solitary (self study), Verbal (word-based expression), and Visual (imagery).

The theory is that while most of us are able to learn in each of these styles, some styles work better for us than others. Sometimes one or two of the styles are quite dominant while others are completely challenging for us.

Our commitment is to foster "open minds, loving hearts and helping hands." This helps remind us that just as we each learn differently, we also each express ourselves differently. Some of us are most comfortable expressing ourselves through written or spoken word while others of us are most comfortable expressing ourselves through music or art or dance.

One of the strengths of our Unitarian Universalist Religious Education Program is that we accept and encourage all learning styles. We recognize that there is not one singular way to learn or to express ourselves. With this knowledge, we build curricula and learning environments that help our learners flourish. Our classroom milieu is designed to foster inquisitive minds and engaged hearts, regardless of the age of the learners.

Whether it be through taking (or teaching) an Adult RE class, serving as a teacher in the Children's RE Program or trying your hand as a Coming of Age Mentor or Youth Group Advisor, we have plenty of opportunities for you to explore and share your preferred learning styles.

1N F417H,

-Barb

MUSINGS

“Now the bright morning star, day's harbinger, Comes dancing from the east, and leads with her The flowery May, who from her green lap throws The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose. Hail, bounteous May, that doth inspire Mirth, and youth, and warm desire; Woods and groves are of thy dressing, Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing, Thus we salute thee with our early song, And welcome thee, and wish thee long.”
[John Milton]

May –springtime, fa la la, Red Sox, and...virtues, our worship theme this month. A virtue is “a positive trait or quality subjectively deemed to be morally excellent. Personal virtues are characteristics valued as promoting collective and individual greatness. The opposite of virtue is vice.”

The music in May will comment on virtues and vices – look for an Instant Choir piece (promoting collective and individual greatness -!) on May 6. This will be followed by the choir singing Richard Farrant's classic and beautiful “Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake,” which, while being a work solidly of its time (c. 1645) also speaks to us today: but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.” On May 20 we will present music reflecting on some virtues: kindness, generosity, forgiveness. We may sneak in a little vice as well.

We would love to have you sing with us this month. Please join us on Wednesday evenings (7:30 p.m.) or on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

-Anne Watson Born

Our soloists, Deborah Selig Anne and Jonathan Mark Roberts, will perform with the Nashoba Valley Chorale and Orchestra on Sunday May 6, 3:00 p.m. at the Indian Hill Music Center. They will be featured in J.S. Bach's cantata, “*Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis*” (“I have great heaviness in my heart”), a work which expresses the journey of the soul from darkness to light.

CONNECTIONS

Reminder - The Adult Education discussion “Spirit of Life: What is it?” is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m., in the Alliance Room. For questions or information contact Allan Hartman at [see Online Directory for contact information.]

LAST WEEK OF THE BUDGET DRIVE

The Budget Drive is drawing to a close, but there's still much to accomplish. This weekend, the last of 23 pledging parties will be hosted by the Marshall/Curtis family (at capacity) and the Lerner/Gill family (8:45 a.m. Sunday at FUSN, childcare will be provided. RSVP).

Next Wednesday, we'll report the total of pledges in hand to the Finance Committee. If you want your pledge counted in the revenue side of next year's budget, please pledge by Monday, April 30.

This week, volunteers will be calling all who have not yet pledged. You can bypass that call by pledging in any of several ways: Call Fran in the FUSN office, or email budgetdrive@fusen.org, or see us at Coffee Hour this Sunday, or mail your pledge to FUSN.

We invite everyone to the Alliance Room this Thursday at 7:00 p.m., for the Phonebank Jamboree. No experience necessary; just bring your cell phone. How much fun could calling be? Come find out!

This Sunday, we'll find out where we stand vis-à-vis our goals of \$542,000 to sustain FUSN financially and 329 pledges to demonstrate broad community support. Come to the Parish Hall at Coffee Hour to see the results in the U-Tubes!

Many, many thanks to all who have participated in the Budget Drive this year – captains and stewards who gracefully morphed into intrepid callers, party hosts who stepped forward into the unknown with faith and hospitality, testimonial presenters who served as beacons guiding our generosity, everyone who pledged or is considering what they'll pledge this week. Thank you, all!
-Bruce and Josie



Come help us be beautiful for Mother's Day. Saturday, May 12

We will pick up the trash stuck in the bushes, rake, put down mulch, prune, lime and generally get our yard in shape.

Early folks can show up at 8:30, later folks can come when they are ready. We'll need wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels of choice as well as your favorite garden gloves and hats. See you there.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday May 13 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.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on May 20 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.

Deadline for next newsletter is May 8, 9:00 a.m.

THANK UUS

Thank You to the volunteers and/or contributors to the recent FUSN-sponsored UU Urban Ministry field trip to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Waterworks Museum, and lunch at the Chestnut Hill UU church: Jeff Baker, Suzanne Di Carlo, Judy Friedman, Josie Greene, Max Posner, Kim Shanks and Brad Hollister, Norm and Kate Thibeault, Dede Vittori, Mary White, and Nancy Wrenn. Over 35 UUUM children and adults learned about Boston’s drinking water including the source, high quality, history, conservation efforts, and the lower cost of tap water versus bottled water. We walked around the reservoir and did a scavenger hunt which helped the kids be more observant of their surroundings. It was a very successful day!

Operations Council thanks the members of the Green Sanctuary Committee for getting FUSN in position to apply for Green Sanctuary Candidacy and filling out the detailed application form. The committee leaders, Shawn Konary, Eric Olson and Carrie van der Laan, and to all of those who have participated in the various Green Sanctuary activities: Lynne & Dick Bail, Sarah Barnett, Lucy Boyle, Laurel Farnsworth, Mark Leicester, Doris Lewis, George Martins, Dede Vittori, Holly Zeeb. Thanks to Pete Roberts for the photos he contributed to the Membership Directory and the Annual Budget Drive materials.

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

