



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

April 7 - April 20, 2013

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

**April 7** - "Science and Happiness - Youth Service

**April 14** - "Mercy Now" - Rev. Erin Splaine

**April 21** - Earth Day - Rebecca Hinds and  
Rev. Erin Splaine

**April 28** - "Repairing the Meander" - Holly Haynes  
Lay led service

## COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Committee on Ministry nurtures and provides feedback to Erin. The team meets with Erin on a regular basis to discuss her concerns and questions and provide her with advice and support. Your input on matters relating to the ministry is most welcome. Feel free to contact any member with thoughts, questions, or concerns.

Brian Gill [see the online directory]

Bill Horne [see the online directory]

Liz Marshall [see the online directory]

Kate Mason [see the online directory]

Louis Atamian [see the online directory]

## SPRING CLEANUP

YARD CLEAN UP



Save the date of Saturday, May 4 for our annual spring cleanup. It will be here sooner than you think and will be truly spring by then we hope, not just an unlocking month. We'll start at 8:30 a.m., and work as long as we have mulch to spread and welcome any time you can give us from an hour to a morning.

## BOSTON PRIDE PARADE

**Save the Date:** Saturday, June 8, FUSN Marches in the Boston Pride Parade. Parade begins at Noon (finishes by 3:00). Marchers often attend the worship service at the Arlington Street Church at 11:00 a.m., and then meet the rest of the FUSN marchers by noon at the start of the parade. Kristin Cleveland can also answer questions, [member\\_services@fusn.org](mailto:member_services@fusn.org)).

## PERRY'S PONDERINGS

During the service on Easter, I led a responsive reading by John Corrado about Unitarian Universalist "Good News." Our Good News is the evolution of faith community that continues to open up paths to justice, connection, and personal spiritual growth. We interpret the meaning of religious stories and holiday celebrations in a way that feeds us rich nutrients for our growth as human beings.

Jimmy Frances shared that he thought each line of the Corrado reading would make a good "elevator speech," the concept of explaining Unitarian Universalism in the time it takes to ride the elevator with someone. The line that resonated most for Jimmy was "we are more interested in getting heaven into people now than getting people into heaven later." Heaven is the representation of a place of perfect peace. In essence, it is our task to create a positive living reality for all people.

At our FUSN Passover Seder we celebrated the Jewish holiday of freedom, relating it to the injustices that remain today. The Exodus story includes the rebellion of Jews and Egyptians against unjust laws. Moses, representing the path to freedom, survived through the actions of many women who refused to adhere to Pharaoh's laws that would have ended his life. Our multigenerational celebration reflected on the responsibility we have to create freedom for everyone.

Education is a key to freedom in today's world. Our Mather School book collection is providing over 900 books for children who do not have access to adequate reading material. A group of FUSNites will

*Continued on next page*

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Kristin Cleveland, *Coordinator of Member Services and Development*, 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:** Margaret Costello, Bruce Henderson, Carl Metzger, Gordon Moriarty, *Chair*, Jonathan Reuman, Strom Thacker, *Vice Chair* Charlie Watts, 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

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deliver the books this Thursday and get a tour from the principal, learning more about the school in Dorchester and how we can be of service. We know “getting heaven into people now” is hard work but we embrace the responsibility with our values and action.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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There is a palpable, joyous energy in the air at FUSN. I have been at FUSN for 24 years, and I find what is happening now within this congregation to be something worth naming. It seems like a period of both consolidation and moving forward. There is so much energy around “putting our house in order” – new governance, new RE structures, a critical look at our financial well-being, and efforts to reach out in new ways to long-time members as well as newcomers to help us assess our relationship to FUSN. There is also so much enthusiasm around a hopeful, strong future – soon an Assistant Minister will be on board; and there have been many discussions of who we are among ourselves as a caring and loving community as well as in relation to the larger world as leaders for peace and justice.

In my work on the Board of Trustees, I see up close the hard work so many people do at FUSN. I am repeatedly inspired by the staff and the many lay leaders and committee members who carry on with the day to day details that make this place run, many of them quietly behind the scenes. If you are new (or not so new) and want a chance to be part of something special, there is a place for you on one of the committees or in one of the Adult RE programs. I hope you find your place as I and my family have found our places here. I am deeply grateful for FUSN and wish for our community a marvelous future.

*-Ann Woodbury*

## COMMITTEE FAIR

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After a few years’ hiatus, FUSN is once again holding a Committee Fair during coffee hour on April 21. This is a great opportunity to learn what FUSN’s many committees do without any obligation on your part. While you enjoy your coffee, take advantage of this opportunity to cruise the committee tables and meet fellow congregants who serve on FUSN’s committees and run various activities. You may even be inspired to get involved with one.

## A GENTLE REMINDER

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I get a kick out of our Budget Drive theme, “Give ‘til it feels good.” That’s what so many people are doing to make the Budget Drive a success again this year, so we can all keep and build on everything that is wonderful about FUSN.

But it takes more than Bruce, Josie, 38 stewards, 29 party hosts, 6 testimonial presenters, and untold others to make sure we meet our financial goal. It also takes everyone in the congregation – members and friends – contributing the amount that makes each feel proud. We hold this roof up together.

You can make your pledge by sealed envelope at a pledge party: Sign up at Coffee Hour or online at [bit.ly/fusnpledgeparties](http://bit.ly/fusnpledgeparties). Or email [budgetdrive@fusn.org](mailto:budgetdrive@fusn.org). The parties are great for connecting with people, hearing their stories, and sharing feedback on FUSN. If you can’t make it to a party, meet with your steward if you can.

But in any case, please respond. Return your steward’s call. Connect with others. Join in and pledge your share. I love FUSN, and I ask for your help to see that it continues to thrive. Thanks for joining in!

*-Bonnie McDonald, 2013 FUSN Budget Drive Comm.*

## CONNECTIONS

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**Please Help** those who are hungry in Eastern Massachusetts by volunteering for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank on Saturday, April 20. Carpool from the FUSN parking lot, at 8:45 a.m. back by 1:00 o’clock. Youth are encouraged to join us, minimum age is 14. If you plan to come, contact Judy Zacek, [see the online directory].

**Should Massachusetts lead the country** on reforms of Gun Control, Climate Change and Immigration? On Tuesday, April 23, you can help make it happen. Join fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the state for UU Advocacy Day in Boston. You can choose to start your day with a breakfast with Sister Simone Campbell of “The Nuns on the Bus.” Then you will be trained with background and talking points on key legislation for this year’s three top issues. Afterwards you and others from your area will go to the State House to visit your Senator and Representative. Get details and register at [www.uumassaction.org/advocacyday2013](http://www.uumassaction.org/advocacyday2013).

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## MUSINGS

*"[they] found that Lady Gaga was the most common artist to get stuck in people's heads, with four of her catchy pop songs being the most likely to become earworms – Alejandro, Bad Romance, Just Dance and Paparazzi."*(Richard Gray, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>)

Your choir members are experiencing slightly different earworms - "Mi chomocho!" for instance – as they recover from a busy couple of months learning and singing Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service*. We had a fantastic time collaborating with the Dedham choir and it was wonderful to participate in their worship service on March 24. And now we're busy shaking those beautiful melodies out of our heads as we learn music for the upcoming services here at FUSN. This spring you'll hear the Sanctuary Choir, the Family Choir, the Flute Choir, the Intergenerational Orchestra, and the Men's Choir, and of course, we hope many of you will join us, either for one song here and there, or for an extended period of time.

Here's a quick look at the music coming up in April and May:

- Our youth have planned a wonderful service for this Sunday, April 7, including a chance for us all to sing "Rainbow Connection" together!
- The worship theme for April is Mercy, and on the 14th Catie Curtis will sing Mary Gauthier's beautiful song, "Mercy Now."
- During the April 21st service the choir will sing a beautiful piece by Cary John Franklin: *"I ask all blessings, I ask them of my mother, the earth..."*
- On May 5 our Flute Choir will play and the choir will sing a beautiful piece by Frank Ticheli to reference the worship theme of Calling: *"Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll Sing, Be, Live, See..."*
- Our Family Choir will return on May 19 and the choir will sing a piece by UU composer Hal Walker, "Praise Song": *"moving forward into the day. We're all equal voices calling hope is on the way."*

Please contact me ([music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org)) if you'd like to play with the orchestra or the flute choir or sing – many of the songs coming up can be learned easily and we would love to have you join us!

-Anne Watson Born

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## TAKING NOTE

We are fortunate to have Deborah Selig as our regular soprano soloist. She is a wonderful young artist who is in demand throughout the area. She will be singing at FUSN on May 5 as part of our dedication of the Chapel piano so generously donated by Jackie Colby. Here is Deborah's brief summary of her recent and upcoming engagements:

This season has included a debut with Boston Modern Orchestra Project for Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage* ("Deborah Selig displayed an impressively nimble, lustrous soprano in a well-delineated performance as Bella." Boston Globe); a role debut of Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni with Kentucky Opera ("All the players were strong, both in their voices and in the way they inhabited their characters... Selig's Elvira believably portrays the vengeful ex-lover who can't quite get over her bad-boy complex." Louisville.com); and a number of concert appearances in Boston, Chicago, Goshen and Providence.

Next [end of March and early April] I will join the Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute for their 25th Anniversary spring tour. I will be singing *3 Poems in French* by Earl Kim for soprano and string quartet. We will give six concerts in a variety of venues in Chicago, Palm Beach, Boston and New York. Then, I return to Boston for Haydn's *Die Schöpfung*, Mozart's *Requiem* [with Anne Watson Born conducting] and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. I will finish up the spring season singing the Brahms *Requiem* with the Dayton Philharmonic in mid-May.

Please continue to check in with my website for more information on specific appearances etc: [www.deborahselig.com](http://www.deborahselig.com) committee fair

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7, 4:00 p.m., **Hope Out Loud 2** celebration at the UU Urban Ministry. Contact Anne Watson-Born if you want to sing some great gospel tunes with the Boston Community Choir (3:00 p.m. rehearsal on the 7th). [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org)

May 5, 1:00 p.m. **Concert** to dedicate the new Chapel piano, generously donated by Jackie Colby. Featuring Deborah Selig, Jorgeandres Camargo, and Carson Cooman.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on April 7 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. Upcoming Community Breakfast date: May 5.

## VESPERS

**For a VESPERS service** (April 14, 7:30 p.m.) on this month's theme of Mercy, Vermilion joins with Triple Helix's 5-star pianist and director of FUSN's orchestra, Lois Shapiro, to sing luscious works that move us into the romantic realms of Brahms and Elgar, the classical realm of "De Profundis" by Johann Georg Albrechtsberger, and the familiar realm of Isaac Watts's tune, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" in the classic arrangement by Virgil Tompson.

**Deadline** for next newsletter is April 16, 9:00 a.m.

## MONTHLY LUNCH WITH ERIN

Friday, April 19, noon in the Alliance Room. Yes there is such a thing as a free lunch! Any and all are invited to join Erin for soup and conversation at noon on the 13th 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.

## FUSN.ORG

Did you know anyone can read the FUSNews online? The FUSNews is now available to the public on the website. The Communications team emails a PDF of the original newsletter to the congregation with contact information for event organizers. Then the contact info is stripped out and the web version is posted for the public. This process protects the privacy of FUSN volunteers—and allows potential visitors to learn about this dynamic community.

*-Communications team*

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