



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

December 8 - December 21, 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

12/8 - Music Sunday: Gloria!
12/15 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Baby Dedication
12/22 - Carol Sing - Baby Dedication

Guest at Your Table envelopes will be collected Sunday Dec. 22. This supports UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) which strengthens workers' rights, defends civil liberties and provides disasters relief. Gifts of \$100 or more are matched by the UU church in Manhasset, NY. Volunteers are needed to count donations after the service on Dec. 22. See Karen Lein.

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Service with Pageant. Join us for a multigenerational celebration of birth of Jesus and some favorite holiday carols.

7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service. Join us for this familiar FUSN service of the reading of the nativity story and the singing of traditional Christmas hymns.

11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. All are welcome to gather together for this service of less traditional readings, music and candlelight. This service will give us all a chance to center ourselves after the rush of the holidays. If you would like to be one of the readers for this service, please contact Erin.

Chime for each baby born in 2013. If you'd like a child acknowledged at our Christmas Eve services, please call 617-527-3203, or email Fran at office@fusn.org.

A NOTE FROM ERIN

At the end of one year and the beginning of another, may we wake to life with our hearts open to love. I wish us all happy and calm holidays.

WINTER SOLSTICE by Rebecca Parker

Perhaps
for a moment
the typewriters will stop clicking,
the wheels stop rolling
the computers desist from computing,
and a hush will fall over the city.
For an instant, in the stillness,
the chiming of the celestial spheres will be heard
as earth hangs poised
in the crystalline darkness, and then
gracefully
tilts.

Let there be a season
when holiness is heard, and
the splendor of living is revealed.
Stunned to stillness by beauty
we remember who we are and why we are here.

There are inexplicable mysteries.
We are not alone.
In the universe there moves a Wild One
whose gestures alter earth's axis
toward love.

In the immense darkness
everything spins with joy.
The cosmos enfolds us.
We are caught in a web of stars,
cradled in a swaying embrace,
rocked by the holy night,
babes of the universe.

Let this be the time
we wake to life,
like spring wakes, in the moment
of winter solstice.

Staff: Erin Splaine, *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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FROM THE BOARD

We are entering that time of year when we slow down to take stock of our many blessings at Thanksgiving and we prepare for the holidays ahead. Our FUSN community has much to be thankful for. We are on the cusp of beginning a new phase in the growth of our society. Early in the New Year, Rev. Meghan Cefalu will be joining us.

Meghan will play a vital role in welcoming newcomers to FUSN as she also supports the engagement of current members in the vitality of our society.

Meghan brings considerable pastoral and ministerial talents to FUSN, and her contributions will support us all... not so we can do more but rather so that we can do better, by enriching our community more deeply.

Although moderately anxious about the radical weather transition, Meghan is very much looking forward to getting to know all of us in the FUSN community. The current plan is that she will be here in the building at the beginning of January and then in the pulpit with Erin on January 12.

These are positive times for FUSN, and it will be exciting to see how Meghan – with our collective support - can build on the continuing process of enrichment as FUSN grows and evolves as a community.

Jon Reuman, Board of Trustees

MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

This Fund exists at the heart of our common ministry. It is used throughout the year to help members of our community, and the larger community of which we are a part, find a way through difficult times. If this is a year that finds you feeling comfortable with your finances please consider donating to the Fund. As usual the plate at the first two Christmas Eve Services will go to this Fund. If you are not planning on attending consider sending a donation to the office with a notation that it is for our Minister's Discretionary Fund.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Sunday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. With stress, expense and expectations surrounding the holidays, it is no wonder they often exhaust rather than uplift us. Contributing to a charitable organization in the name of a loved one honors them, nurtures our own holiday spirit and can ease gift buying stress. When you make a donation toward a specific charitable organization, you receive a card to give to your recipient which details your gift contribution in their name. It provides a perfect opportunity to buy for those folks who have what they need. Organizations represented include international and major local charitable efforts. Tax deductible gifts start at \$10.00. For tips on simplifying the holidays, check out www.newdream.org

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Erin Splaine, Minister

Erin is usually in and around FUSN Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for daytime and evening appointments/meetings. She tries to keep Friday and Saturday reserved for sermon writing and preparation for Sunday service. Monday is her day-off. Please let Fran know if you would like to make an appointment.

Perry Montrose, Director of Lifespan Religious Education Ministries is typically off on Mondays.

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

He is happy to speak or meet with you anytime, please call or email to make an appointment.

Beth Walton, R.E. Assistant

Monday, Tuesday and Sunday, call for appointment

Rebecca Hinds, Youth Coordinator

Sundays 4:00 p.m. call for appointment

Fran Clancy, Administrator

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anne Watson Born, Music Director

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 12:00-7:00 p.m.

There will be limited staff presence during the upcoming holidays.

MUSINGS

★	Music Sunday: Gloria!	★
	★ Vivaldi <i>Gloria</i> , ★	
with Deborah Selig and Bethany Hickman, soloists		
Music by Bob MacWilliams, Tchaikovsky and more,		
accompanied by strings, oboe, trumpet, banjo, guitar,		
and...		
★	our intergenerational orchestra,	★
	and featuring the Family Choir.	
★	This Sunday, Dec. 8	★

Here are a few more upcoming events to liven up the holidays:

This Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. is the annual Messiah Sing, with soloists and orchestra, to benefit Project Bread. All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline.

Our soprano soloist, Deborah Selig (www.deborah-selig.com) will sing the Poulenc *Gloria* this Saturday, Dec. 7; 7:30 p.m. at the Harvard (MA) Unitarian Church (Harvard Common, routes 110/111).

Deborah will also sing the gorgeous solos in the Vivaldi *Gloria* the next morning, as part of our Music Sunday, and on Dec. 14 she will be the soprano soloist for the Boston Civic Orchestra's Holiday Pops Concert - 2:00 p.m. at Regis College. FUSN member Debra Minard will also be there, in the cello section.

Also on Dec. 7, our bass soloist, Jorgeandres Camargo, will sing Balthazar in the BU Opera Institute production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. 7:30 p.m. at the CFA concert hall at BU.

Geoff Wadsworth, our resident saxophonist, has some upcoming gigs:

Dec. 13: The band Exit 17 and the Tracy Clark Band will play at the The Vineripe Grill. Call Tracy for reservations 617-512-2630 1281 West Roxbury Parkway Chestnut Hill (the Putterham golf course)

Jan. 21, 2014

Ryles Jazz Club, with Exit 17. Call for tickets in advance, 212 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, 617-876-9330.

SERVICES AUCTION & MARDI GRAS



Mark your calendars now for the Fabulous Services Auction and Mardi Gras Party at FUSN on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014. Yes! That's two weeks before the festivities begin in Louisiana!

For those not familiar with our annual Services Auction, it is a lively evening where folks can bid on services, dinners, vacations and other items donated mostly by FUSN folks while enjoying the fellowship of friendly FUSNites in a festive feast. This year we will be providing supper, and we will have special activities for kids. Many more details to follow.

Pat Rohan on behalf of the Fabulous FUSN Services Auction Team.

CONNECTIONS

Chalice Circles have a few openings. Contact Brenda Roberts at bnroberts@comcast.net. The CC meet the third week of each month from Nov. through May 2014. There are groups on Dec. 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 in the evening and one group on Monday morning Dec. 16. The theme is "Wonder."

Active Hope: Revive your connection with nature and the web of life. Are you discouraged, overwhelmed, or worn-out about climate change? Are you feeling powerless in the face of the enormity of our global situation? How would you like to find new energy, tell a new story? Join us as we explore Joanna Macy's approach, "The Work that Reconnects." The central goal is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the systemic, self-healing powers in the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization. Our group will also draw on recent material from Mary Pipher. This new group is for anyone who is already active in climate advocacy work and wants to recharge and renew themselves. It is also for anyone who is considering becoming active in climate change advocacy for the first time or returning after a break. Come and experience it! It might be just what you are seeking. We will meet on two consecutive Saturday mornings, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8, from 9:00-1:00, in the room behind the stage. The group will be led by Jeff Baker, Wendy Haskell, and Holly Zeeb. RSVP, hollyzeeb@rcn.com

Anne Watson Born

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Dec. 15 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 dates: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 23, April 13, and May 18.

VESPER SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Dec. 8 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.

CHRISTMAS TREES



Okay, you've bought your tree and signed up for a shift on the sales lot. The Tree Team can still use your help: tell friends, neighbors, and co-workers about our operation. Help get the word out. Our goal is to sell them all; we hate to throw any away.

Tree sales begin on Dec. 7, Monday-Thursday, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Friday, 5:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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