



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

December 9 - December 22, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

12/9 - "Love's Pure Light" - Rev. Erin Splaine

12/16 - Solstice Service

This lay-led celebration is one of the FUSN most-loved traditions. Please, consider joining up to be a part of our Middlesex Mummer's Play-- children, teens, parents and teachers -- come! Parade in with The Sun, and be on the side of Great Mother Bear and King George as they battle against Winter and Dark Winged Night. If you want to act in the Solstice Play but can't make the Saturday rehearsal, email me, Geralyn Horton, g.l.horton@mindspring.com.

12/23 - Multigenerational Carol Sing Service

The pageant is returning! We will have a rehearsal for the Christmas Eve pageant on Sunday Dec. 23 after the service. Shepherds, angels, scroll-bearers, star-carriers – we need 'em all! Children, youth, adults – save the date! The pageant will be during the 5:00 p.m. service on Dec. 24.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Guest at Your Table boxes will be collected Sunday Dec. 23. This supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which protects workers' rights, defends civil liberties and provides disaster relief worldwide. Gifts of \$100 or more are matched by the UU church in Manhasset, NY. Volunteers are needed to count funds Sunday Dec. 23 in the Parish Hall after the service. See Karen Lein.

PERRY'S PONDERINGS

There is a magnet on my fridge that says, "Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart." As I reflect on the events of the last month and the activities of the coming weeks, I think about the ways in which we support one another to feel calm in our hearts and touch other lives with that warmth.

On Veteran's Day the K-7th grade children came to realize that peace often comes with a great deal of noise and trouble. With Josh Cohen and Andrea Zatarain's leadership, the 5th-7th graders learned about the first black regiment in the Civil War led by Unitarian Robert Gould Shaw. The story is memorialized in the movie *Glory* and a relief across from the MA State House. The children considered the complexity of a fight for freedom. The group finished the session by writing cards to service men and women. The K-4th grade acted out Dr. Seuss's *The Butter Battle Book* and then created peace machines, including one that resolves the conflict by buttering both sides of the bread!

Those breaking bread together...well, rice actually...at the FUSN Oxfam hunger banquet discussed resource disparity. Coming of Ager Ruslan shared his profound recognition that most of us have so much; yet, one of the men he served during the Ecclesia trip to help the homeless was so grateful for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Many youth and mentors were affected by the personal interactions they had with the hungry and homeless.

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, Lisa Gresser, 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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In my short time here at FUSN I have already seen this community come together during great difficulty as well as joyous times. I have been truly touched by seeing how you are there for each other. Hundreds of studies show that loving connections with others help us cope better with life's challenges and traumas. In the midst of the array of experiences that encompass our lives, our connections with one another help us to remain calm in our hearts. The true meaning of the holiday season is carrying that feeling with us as we move through our days.

LAY MINISTERS

This is a monthly reminder that all 8 Lay Ministers are available to anyone in the FUSN congregation who needs help, or knows someone in our congregation who needs help. This can include rides to medical appointments, meals, a visit to your home, or a listening ear.

The Lay Minister contact list below can be found on the FUSN website, www.fusn.org, under "Leadership Info" on the home page, and under the "Ministries" tab at "Lay Ministry."

Jay W. Flynn, [see online directory for contact info]
Judy Friedman [ditto]
Cris Goldsmith [ditto]
Kathy Hearn [ditto]
Jud Leonard [ditto]
Cindy Orrell [ditto]
Greg Sullivan [ditto]
Gail Yeo [ditto]

CHRISTMAS TREES



Many of you have no doubt visited the church's backyard, and come away with a fine Balsam fir to lend a festive air to your home. But have you told your friends and coworkers? As far as we know, FUSN runs the only all-volunteer tree sales lot in the city. From the planning, to the unloading, through selling and clean-up, all the work is done by people who are donating their time. The folks in your circle of contacts might like to know that, as they're getting ready for their own holidays.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Alternative Gift Fair on Sunday, Dec. 9, 11:30 - 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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Dec. 24 - 5:00 p.m. - "Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant." Join us for a multigenerational celebration of the birth of Jesus and some favorite carols.

Dec. 24 - 7:00 p.m. - "Christmas 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.

Dec. 24 - 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 a reader for this service, please contact Erin.

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.

Chime for each baby born in 2012. If you'd like a child acknowledged at our Christmas Eve services, please email Fran at office@fusn.org.

MUSINGS

The music in our services this month will center around peace and the upcoming holidays. On Dec. 9 the choir will sing selections from Antonio Vivaldi's famous *Gloria*. (Vivaldi set the *Gloria* several times, and one other setting is extant, but it never quite took off. A BBC review understatedly calls it "rather less interesting.") The *Gloria* text, also known as the "Greater Doxology" or the "Angelic Hymn," is often performed during the Christmas season because of its references to Jesus and the resemblance to the salutation of the angels in the Christmas reading from Luke 2: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'" It's a jolly and joyful work, and really fun to sing.

Dec. 16 brings us the Solstice service, brought to us by a cast of thousands, of which you can be a part. GERALYN HORTON is organizing and she will be happy to include you and your family.



Our annual multigenerational Carol Sing service returns on Dec. 23. FUSN's ensembles (our intergenerational orchestra, our choir, and our rockin' band) will be out in force, accompanying us as we sing traditional and popular carols. "Christmas Day will always be just as long as we have we." (And yes, the Grinch will return!)

Christmas Eve brings three opportunities to celebrate together: 5:00 p.m. (with a Christmas story pageant and the Family choir singing); 7:00 p.m. (lessons and carols); and the beautiful, meditative 11:30 p.m. service.

AND if you're looking for a way to bring a little cheer to folks, please join the caroling group: we'll sing at Golden Living Center on Thursday Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m. And on Saturday Dec. 15, we'll meet at 4:15 p.m. at Newton Health Care Center, where we'll carol for a while before hitting the streets of Waban for some neighborhood caroling followed by a potluck dinner. Let me know if you'd like to join us - all ages welcome!!
-Anne Watson Born, music@fusen.org

VESPERS SERVICE

Come to a Vespers service on Dec. 9, 7:30 to 8:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. You'll hear music by the Vermilion quartet and poetry chosen and read by FUSN members on the month's theme of peace.

FUSN's Vespers, the second Sunday of each month, is designed specifically for the diversity of spirit and thoughtful meditation that First Unitarian Society in Newton represents.

NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Congratulations to Jennifer Lerner who has been named one of The National Science Foundation's "Sensational 60." The Foundation has selected 60 recipients from some 45,000 Graduate Research Fellows whose work intersects with the larger work of the Foundation to receive this prestigious award. Jenn will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. where the keynote speaker will be Secretary of Education Stephen Chu.

CONNECTIONS

Your Help is Needed at the Greater Boston Food Bank on Saturday, Dec. 15. Join our FUSN group for a morning of work as we do our part to ameliorate hunger and homelessness in eastern Massachusetts. This is a great activity for families, especially in the holiday season. Minimum age is 14. We carpool from the FUSN parking lot, leaving at 8:45 a.m., back before 1:00 p.m. If you'd like to come with us (or have questions), contact Judy Zacek.

Here's a chance to clean those piles of used electronics and random canned food off your shelves and help the Newton Food Pantry at the same time! You can give needy families a much-needed boost by tossing those dusty computers and extra cans of cranberry sauce in your car and heading down to the Waban Library Center at 1608 Beacon Street. The crew from Ethical Electronics Recycling will be there from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8 and 9, rain or snow or shine. They will be accepting TVs, CRTs, stereo equipment, air conditioners, computers and peripherals--nearly anything with a battery or a plug. The recycling fee is \$1.00 per pound—less if you bring along canned food. Questions? Got an item that's too heavy or awkward to transport? Call Christopher, 617-233-4120.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Dec. 9 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. 13, Feb. 10, March 17, Apr. 7 and May 5.

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

HEALTHY BABY/HEALTHY CHILD

This is the fourth year the FUSN community is being asked to make the holidays special for at risk families identified by the Boston Public Health Service nurses through the Healthy Baby/Healthy Child program.

This program is designed to promote infant survival, positive birth outcomes, oral health, and family unity among vulnerable populations. Choose a bulb with the wishes of a child, purchase a gift and return the gift to the RE office before Dec. 16. Your generosity will make a difference to that child on Christmas morning.

Thank you

-Beth Walton, Assistant DRE

UPCOMING EVENTS



FUSN New Year's Eve Party 5:00 - Midnight - Come to FUSN on Monday evening, Dec. 31, for FUSN's New Year's Eve Party. The first hour of the party has activities designed

especially for young kids. After that, the Parish Hall, Alliance Room, and Children's Chapel will have activities for revelers of all ages.

5:00 - 6:00 Coach Maralene, from Be Ahead Of The Game, will lead active games for pre-school and elementary aged kids.

6:00 - 6:59 Party Food Potluck

6:59 -7:00 The First Ball Drop of the Evening! We'll countdown to Midnight in London, dropping FUSN's very own sparkling ball.

7:01 - 12:00 DJ Norm T will spin tunes for dancing in the Parish Hall, we'll play New Year's Movies in the Children's Chapel and Trivial Pursuit, Charades, "In the Manner of the Adverb," and other Games for Grown Ups in the Alliance Room, and on each hour we'll countdown to New Year's in 5 other time zones (including Boston!)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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First Unitarian Society in Newton



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