



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

February 24 - March 9, 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

Feb. 24 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Second Collection
March 3 - Rev. Erin Splaine
March 10 - "This I Believe" - Rev. Erin Splaine
March 17 - Music Sunday

MONTHLY LUNCH WITH ERIN

Thursday March. 13, 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.

R.E.NEWS

Mather School Children's Book Drive -

Extended into March... please bring in your gently used books for our partner school in Dorchester. The children there need books and it matters! Collection boxes will be at each FUSN entrance.

Coming of Age Visioning Sunday, March 10, 11:45 a.m -1:00 p.m. in the Chapel

What do you appreciate about COA? How do we want the program to evolve? Share your thoughts and questions. An opportunity for everyone to give input. Please join us for the conversation. If you cannot attend but would like to talk about COA, please contact Perry at dlre@fusn.org or 617-332-3438.

PERRY'S PONDERINGS

Last summer before I officially started at FUSN, I spent many days agonizing over paint colors and arranging my office so it would feel welcoming. There were many stripes on the wall and FUSNites would happily give an opinion as they introduced themselves. My hope was that the office would feel warm and comfortable, while still being a professional workspace. Opinions will vary on the feng shui success, but it's been nice to hold small meetings in my office sitting area.

The best moments are when a passerby stops in to sit and talk. Whether the conversation is intentional about a specific topic or organically blossoms from a moment's "hello," I appreciate getting to know each of you in those relaxing impromptu chats. Getting to know one another is the joy of congregational life.

It's the personal dialogues that enables me to know what you care about, want for this community, wrestle with in life, and light up about. Although you are expressing your individual feelings and thoughts, each time we connect it also adds to the dynamic nature of this congregation and the creative energy that is constantly sparked. Most of all, I appreciate the opportunity to know who you are and share our journeys.

One of my sisters gave me a beautiful tea set and I plan to add it to my office décor. This means I will make you a cup of tea anytime you would like to stop by to chat or simply sit and breathe for a moment. If you let me know in advance that you are

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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

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

coming, I will be sure there is a crumpet or scone to go with it. After all, my mother is British. I look forward to more of these opportunities, in addition to the congregational endeavors we will continue to engage in together.

FUSN'S ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

Each spring, our community asks everyone in it (members and friends) to make a pledge to support FUSN for the upcoming fiscal year (June through May). Each pledge, very simply, is a promise of financial support for the day-to-day maintenance and running of the congregation, to be paid in installments during the year. This March and April, we will be asking for everyone's support and reminding all that every pledge counts! FUSN needs everyone's pledge in order to plan sensibly for the coming year.

Again this year, you will have a choice of how to pledge. Beginning March 3, you will have an opportunity to sign up at coffee hour for one of 15 pledge parties, held at congregants' homes March 22 through April 28. These parties got rave reviews last year, so we encourage you to sign up early.

If you prefer a stewardship visit, this can be arranged in your home or any convenient location. Starting in mid-March, Steward Callers will be calling everyone in the congregation to offer them this opportunity or help in finding a pledge party that is convenient for them.

This year, when you sign up for the Fellowship Dinner (March 9), you will also have the option to attend a Pledge Party at the Fellowship Dinner, where you can participate in a discussion similar to last year's pledge parties and also make your pledge. This is completely optional and new this year. Those who do not elect this option will be assigned to Fellowship Dinner parties just like they were last year. The Fellowship Dinner remains a fun, social, and "no pressure" event.

Over the next several weeks, you will be hearing a lot more about the importance of your financial support for a sustainable and thriving FUSN -- and about the importance of the Annual Budget Drive, not just in making the budget but in making connections. We're looking forward to this, and we hope you are, too!

Any questions -- or offers to help! -- please email Josie and Bruce at budgetdrive@fusn.org

VARIETIES OF GIFTS

The breadth of interests and professional talents of members of our FUSN community is remarkable. They include expertise in organization development and group leadership, building and grounds management, engineering, architecture, law and mediation, and financial management. Undoubtedly I have omitted others for which I apologize in advance. Our Board of Trustees and FUSN have benefitted greatly from the contributions of many of you in these and other areas. For example we recently began to address an important subject for us, conflict management. FUSN members with experience in conflict management and mediation have helped to formulate new policies and approaches that will help us as we grow. As your treasurer, I also worked, several years ago, with members of our finance committee who developed written financial policies for FUSN. These policies have been a valuable reference point for the Board of Trustees and Operations Council to resolve quickly, questions regarding requests for additional spending during the year, preparation of financial reports and others. Laurel's stewardship and knowledge, along with other members of the Building and Grounds Committee have protected and preserved our beautiful building.

The Board is grateful to everyone who contributes their talents and gifts to FUSN and its governance. Along with the valuable advice we receive as a Board from you, we also learn about areas outside our own talents. Because it was not a focus in my own career, I have found it very interesting to learn about governance and organization development from others in FUSN. For me that has been one of the most enjoyable gifts received from serving FUSN in various leadership positions.

The Board would like to know more about how serving in FUSN leadership positions can help you learn and develop. As part of our changes in governance, FUSN formed a Leadership Development Committee to consider these and other questions. Other UU congregations tell us that learning and leadership development is an important benefit to their members who commit the time required to serve their congregations. Perhaps you have some ideas on how FUSN could do this more than we do now. For example should we offer formal training in leadership, meeting management and other topics for committee members and chairs? Do you have areas of personal development you are seeking that could be realized if we matched you with the right FUSN leadership opportunities? These are important questions as we grow not just in size but in our intentions for what we want to be as a congregation.

Please let Board members know your thoughts. We welcome your input and promise to consider it. If you have friends or business associates that could offer expertise that would enhance our mission, please forward along this newsletter and have them contact any of us on the Board for further involvement. We greatly appreciate your support.

Alan M. Cody, Treasurer and Board of Trustees Member

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The FUSN Music Committee supports our thriving music program. We started off the year sponsoring a vocal workshop which was attended by fifty enthusiastic participants. We then had our fall Music Sunday service in November and provided breakfast for the 75 musicians who performed.

We are now getting ready for the spring Music Sunday on March 17 in which the FUSN choir and the First Church and Parish in Dedham choir, under the direction of Anne Watson Born, will perform the beautiful *Sacred Service* by Ernest Bloch. Our choir will then take a road trip the following week and perform this piece at the Dedham church with their music director Linnea Bardarson. As always, the collection on the March 17 Music Sunday will be designated for purchasing sheet music for the various FUSN music groups.

We are also currently in the midst of planning a very special FUSN event. The committee is producing a concert featuring Mary Gauthier with our own Catie Curtis. These fabulous singer-songwriters will perform in the Parish Hall on Sunday March 17 at 7:30 p.m. We will be selling tickets at coffee hour on Feb. 24, March 3, 10 and 17. This is a large undertaking we would love some more people to join us to help out. If you would like to lend a hand in creating this exciting evening please email me at: jaboduvall@gmail.com or call me at 617-965-6976. We are also always searching for new members for this vibrant committee.

-Jenny Duvall

THANK UUS

A special thank you to Jackie Colby for donating the piano now located in the Children's Chapel. We will have the use of this fine musical instrument for many years to come. Also thanks to the Services Auction Team for putting on the very successful Services Auction. The evening was great fun and generated significant funds for FUSN. Team members are Judy Zacek, Bill and Sandy Horne, Pat and Jacki Rohan, Chris and Jon Reusser, Karen Bottar, Don Buonagurio, Leslie Barrows, Leslie Sneddon, Greg Sullivan, Bob Persons, Naomi Olson, Mindy Scharlin, Norm Thibeault, Jeannie Chaisson, MaryLou McArdle and Maria Shewmon. Also thanks to DLRE Perry Montrose for organizing the kids party. And of course thanks to all of you who so generously donated your services.

CONNECTIONS

Congratulations to George Psathas who was honored for his contributions to phenomenological sociology and ethnomethodology by the Society of Phenomenology and Human Sciences.

The FUSN community extends their sympathy to Tom and Beverly Droz on the death of Tom's brother.

Do Something About Hunger in eastern MA by joining our group of FUSN volunteers for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank on Saturday, March 9. Carpool from the FUSN parking lot, leaving at 8:45 a.m. back before 1:00 p.m. Youth are encouraged to join us minimum age is 14. If you plan to come, please let Judy Zacek know by Friday, March 8. Phone, [see directory].

Understanding Climate Change: Establishing a Common Foundation at FUSN for Potential Action

Join the Green Sanctuary Committee for a 3-part series to establish a common foundation of knowledge within our FUSN community about climate change, so that we can collectively decide how we will move forward in addressing this pressing issue of our time. Details of the first meeting, Feb. 28 are below. Detailed information about the March 21 and March 28 meetings will be provided at a later date.

An overview of Climate Change. We will learn (or review for those who already know much about this topic) how and why the Earth's temperature is rising and the climate is changing. Rear Admiral David Titley explains why the Pentagon considers climate change a reality that must be faced. We will hear how China is responding and how we can avoid the "energy abyss." Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Denial of Climate Science. Thursday, March 21, 7:15 p.m

Actions to Stop Accelerating Climate Change. Thursday, March 28, 7:15 p.m.

Each evening will begin with 50-60 minutes of professionally produced video on the topic, followed by 30-40 minutes of facilitated group discussion. Further details and reminders will be on the listserve and FUSN website. We encourage FUSN high school students as well as our adult community to attend one or all of the series.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on March 17 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: April 7 and May 5.

YOUTH NEWS

The annual FUSN youth Coffeehouse will hit the stage on March 2. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, they will be sold during coffee hour. The Coffee house is a youth run event that brings forward the talent of Newton youth. The show holds no shortage of incredible bands, solo musicians, dancers, and actors. We will also have snacks, tshirts, and Zambian items for sale during the show. All money will go to Communities Without Borders, an organization that funds the Chawama house, an orphanage for AIDS orphans in Lusaka, Zambia. So don't miss out on this opportunity to see a great show to support a great cause!

Join us for FUSN's Vespers, on March 10. At this month's theme of Trust, Vermilion sings works of Gibbons, Tallis, and Gesualdo that ask the questions to which Trust might just be the answer. Our poems this month include: Susan Kinsolving's *Trust*, Li-Young Lee's *The Gift*, and John Ciardi's *Most Like an Arch This Marriage*. And we loved her so much, this month Susan Miron returns to play her beautiful Celtic harp again. Join us - even at the end of a full day at FUSN - for a bit of quiet music, reflection, and free floating sound to ease into the week ahead, and into our ever busier lives.

The UUA chose The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander as this year's "Common Read" -- a book so important that every UU should read it. Michelle Alexander's eloquent and compelling book shows how drug laws, combined with differential enforcement at every level, relegates millions of black people to prison and permanent second-class status while devastating their families and communities. Please join us for one of three discussions about this book and how it affects our understanding of our world. Sunday, March 10, 11:45 am; Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 pm; Sunday, March 24 - 9:00 am. Questions contact Naomi Rush [see directory] or Linda Rinearson [see directory].

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First Unitarian Society in Newton
1326 Washington Street
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