



FUSN *News*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

February 8 - February 21, 2015

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

Feb. 8 - "Am I My Sister's Keeper" - Rev. Marta Flanagan

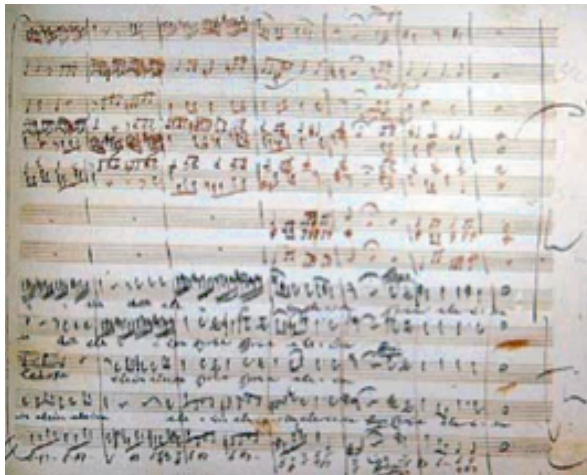
Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan has served First Parish in Arlington for the last six years. Prior to Arlington she has served congregations in Salem MA, Portsmouth NH and Montpelier VT. She is known for her probing questions and frequent laughter.

Feb. 15 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Feb. 22 - Rev. Erin Splaine

The worship themes for the spring are:

February - Faith May - Freedom
March - Redemption June - Play
April - Soul



Mozart Requiem

Music Sunday, March 22

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

Reminder to sign up for facilitated small group conversations:

The Board and Committee on Ministry encourage you to participate in facilitated small group conversations in February. To sign up, email Bill Horne at bds136@rcn.com, or look for the sign-up table at Coffee Hour.

Our goal is to provide a setting in which to share your perspectives and feelings about recent events at FUSN, and to feel genuinely heard by others. We hope this will lead to better understandings of each other. People with all perspectives are encouraged to join in these conversations, since listening and learning is as important a part of the endeavor as speaking.

It is not our goal at this point to find answers, but simply to share views. While we hope this will help to heal rifts that may have arisen in our congregation, it is not our intention to endorse any point of view or to pressure anyone into an unwilling reconciliation. This is a first step in continuing conversations about how to live in a community of members with diverse views, respecting each other's inherent worth and dignity while feeling safe and able to speak our truths, with justice, equity and compassion.

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Acting Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Mandy Beal, *Youth Coordinator*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Madison Crosby, *Beadle*.

Board of Trustees: Gregg DiBiaso, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Chair*, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon, Jonathan Reuman, Alison Costello and Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Who are we...

As a board member, there is no "I", it simply does not exist. We strive to listen and to make sometimes difficult decisions that affect us all. We do this knowing that not every individual within this diverse community will be in agreement. We've shared in the many emotions that 2014 embedded in the fabric of our lives. Change took place just as it always does, such as the horse and buggy giving way to the automobile, or texting displacing talking (fortunately not a problem at FUSN). Good or bad, change, like life...happens.

This past year we've shared our hopes and concerns and personal details of our lives. Most notably we've shared in the loss of our Assistant Minister. We are troubled by her departure. We are at ease with her absence. We felt liberated by her words. We were profoundly offended by them. Many of us experienced emotions somewhere in between. We couldn't ask someone to stay who felt it was time to go. There is an empty space within us all, no matter what we felt. Divided as we are, we've respectfully listened to each other's viewpoints.

In her commencement speech to the 2013 Concord Academy graduating class, U.U. Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie previewed what is now her book, "5 Things I Know" (I recommend this book highly). One of the things she says is: "Never let a serious crisis go to waste." For we learn more from our mistakes than when everything is smooth sailing. Another is: "Befriend regret". She says when we befriend regret, we get off the hamster wheel of what might have been, could have been, should have been.

The soul has no rainbow, if the eyes have no tears. What's done is done. So... Let's look forward to what can be. What we were...We are. What we had...We have. We **must** stay together and understand that the truth is not for everyone, but only for those that seek it.
Still Evolving, Gregg DiBiaso

ADULT R.E.

The Criminal Justice Speaker on Feb. 10 will be the new Massachusetts Commissioner of Probate Services, Ed Dolan. On Feb. 24 our speaker will be Mike Rezendes, the Boston Globe reporter who exposed the troubling conditions for incarcerated mentally ill prisoners at Bridgewater State Hospital. We will meet at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The special collection for Feb. 22 will be to benefit the Massachusetts chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI Mass has worked with the Department of Mental Health and local police officers in the Criminal Justice Diversion Project to encourage partnerships between law enforcement, mental health providers, and other stakeholders to work on diversion from jail and toward treatment when the circumstances are right. The project worked to launch a new mental health curriculum for police recruits and veteran officers. An even more comprehensive 40 hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training was developed to more intensively train state and local police, and to develop a program to put a social worker in the car with police. Most reasons for arrest (loitering, homelessness, substance abuse) are not reasons for jailing a person. Police really appreciate having a knowledgeable social worker on board who knows many treatment plans and can set up a referral that the person can agree to. Please remember to bring your checkbook and make the check out to NAMI MASS.

NAMI tip: if you are concerned about someone in the family with a mental health problem who seems to be worsening, meet with your local police ahead of time with your concerns, so they will be clued in about what to expect. Another solution: call your local mental health service (Riverside for Newton) for a wellness check. They also have emergency services with a crisis hotline. Call Nancy Stanton 781-642-7284 with questions.

MUSINGS

The worship theme for February is faith, and the FUSN musicians will reflect on it in different ways. On Feb. 8 the choir will sing the inspiring anthem “I Am Only One” – with music by the composer Adolphus Hailstork, who was the music director for many years at the Unitarian Church of Norfolk (VA), and words by the Unitarian clergyman Edward Everett Hale. Hale (April 3, 1822-June 10, 1909) was one of the most prominent American Unitarian ministers of the last half of the nineteenth century. He was also a popular journalist, editor, and author. His short story, “The Man Without A Country,” is an American masterpiece. An active social and charitable reformer, he founded the Lend a Hand Society to help people needing financial assistance.
(<http://uudb.org/articles/edwardeveretthale.html>)

I am only one, But still I am one. I cannot do everything, But still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

Also on the 8th, CreationDance will dance to one of the most-beloved melodies of the Lutheran faith, “Jesu bleibet meine Freude”, aka “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”.

On Feb. 15 our musicians will sing a movement from the contemporary cantata *Sources* by UU composer Jason Shelton. He writes, “(All Lifted Hearts) is a meditation on the golden rule, a bit of wisdom that seems to have manifested itself in nearly every culture and religious tradition found on the planet. It is simple in structure, a refrain which the congregation/audience is invited to sing interspersed with a narrative of the golden rule, followed by a choral prayer for peace in many languages.”

We are so fortunate to have Deborah Selig as our soprano soloist. Some of her upcoming solo engagements include performances of Handel’s *Messiah* in March, Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and Orff’s *Carmina Burana* (www.deborahselig.com). On Feb. 22 at FUSN she will sing Aaron Copland’s setting of the the Emily Dickinson poem “Why do they shut me out of Heaven?”

Why -- do they shut me out of Heaven?
Did I sing -- too loud?
But -- I can sing a little minor,
Timid as a bird.

Wouldn’t the angels try me --
just -- once -- more --
Just -- see -- if I troubled them --
But don’t -- shut the door!

MUSINGS (continued)

Oh if I -- were the Gentlemen
in the White (Robe)1
and they -- were the little Hand -- that knocked --
Could -- I -- forbid?

Why do they shut me out of Heaven?
Did I sing too loud?

Looking ahead to March, we will see the return of our Men’s Choir. All men are welcome to join us to sing “There’s a Meetin’ Here Today”. There are also opportunities to sing with our Women’s Choir. We are beginning to rehearse Elise Witt’s song “Open the Window”. Email me at music@fusn.org for more information.

FUSN – A GREEN SANCTUARY

“On behalf of the Green Sanctuary review team I am delighted to say that your congregation has received official Accreditation as a Green Sanctuary.” So began the letter written by Rev. Karen Brammer, UUA Green Sanctuary Program Manager.

We want to thank all of the people who have been part of this process including:

- Shawn Konary and Eric Olson who conceived of the possibility, set the foundation, and continue to share their expertise. And, as Eric so beautifully added, Bob Zeeb who pushed Shawn & Eric to become leaders
- The steady hands of those who attended regular monthly meetings to plan, organize, and produce our projects
- The many who shared their creativity, passion, enthusiasm, time and effort to lead and participate in worship services, celebrations, gardening projects, educational activities, climate education and advocacy, reduction of carbon footprints at home and at FUSN, recycling at FUSN, sharing appreciation of nature, and panel presentations
- Other FUSN committees who supported our projects
- Ministers and staff members who helped spread the word, worked with us on projects, found rooms, shared expertise
- To the entire FUSN community who supported our efforts by attending various activities, providing feedback, and approving our motions at the June and October membership meetings

The Green Sanctuary Committee looks forward to continuing the work within and beyond FUSN as we live the UUA 7th Principle.

-Carrie van der Laan on behalf of the Green Sanctuary Committee

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our special Chinese New Year's **Community Breakfast** on Feb. 8 from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We'll serve Chinese dumplings, scallion pancakes, steamed buns, and Chinese style eggs in addition to many of our usual menu items. We have high chairs for the tots. The price is only \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. First timers eat free. Clean-up help appreciated. Upcoming Community Breakfast dates: March 8; April 12, May 17.

VESPERS AT FUSN

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Feb. 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. Second Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is **Feb. 17**



Coffee House is Brewing. The 2015 Youth Coffee House will be held in the Parish Hall on March 7 at 7:00 p.m. See Newton North and Newton South students, many from FUSN, on stage. Music, comedy, magic, and three live bands. Don't miss this night

of great entertainment and food served by our Coming of Age candidates. All profits from the event are donated to Communities Without Borders (CWB), a non-profit organization founded in Newton that supports the education and well-being of AIDS orphans and vulnerable children living in and around Lusaka, Zambia. FUSN has been an active supporter of CWB since its founding.

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