



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

February 9 - February 22, 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

2/9 - Rev. Meghan Cefalu

UU Urban Ministry Works to Unite Communities and Transform Lives. The Special Collection this Sunday will support the work of the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury, which includes: Roxbury Youth Programs, an after-school tutoring and academic program for Boston students; Explorers Club, a weekend enrichment program for youth that promotes self-expression through the arts and educational field trips; Renewal House & Bethany House, an emergency shelter and transitional housing program that provides services for those escaping domestic violence and summer camps for urban youth. For many years, FUSN volunteers have supported the work of UUUM by tutoring RYP students, providing holiday gifts for the younger children, and hosting trips and enrichment activities for the Explorers Club children. This Sunday, all proceeds of FUSN's Special Collection will support the work of UUUM, which makes such a huge difference in the lives of our Boston neighbors. Please give generously. Thanks.

Judy Friedman & Josie Greene, FUSN Delegates to UUUM

2/16 - Perry Montrose

2/23 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Deadline for next Newsletter is Feb. 18 at 9:00 a.m

A NOTE FROM MEGHAN

Greetings friends,

It has been just a month since I first arrived in this land of snow and chowder and I am beginning to settle in and find my place here. I am grateful to all of you who have introduced yourselves to me a second and third and even a fourth and fifth time. And thanks to all of you for wearing your name tags! It is such a simple gesture of hospitality that makes a big difference for those of us who are new – and remember there are always new people among us. Pairing the visual cue of your name with your warm smile helps a person's brain make the connection much more easily. I am happy to make you a new tag if you need one. Please stop by the Welcome Table in coffee hour and put your name on the name tags request clipboard.

It is also true that we have an opportunity to pair names and faces when people take an active role in our worship service. I would like to invite you to consider leading the congregation in the chalice lighting one of these Sundays. This is a simple but effective way for individuals, couples and families to be introduced to the congregation. Whether you have been a member of FUSN for 30 years or just a few months I encourage you to sign up to light the chalice one Sunday morning by looking for the iVolunteer link on the FUSN website or by clicking this link: <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/chalice>.

Knowing one another's names is the first step to knowing one another's story. True community is a place where people know your story and you know theirs. It is a delight for me to begin to learn your stories and be charged with helping all of us deepen our connections with one another.

Blessings and love,

Meghan

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Meghan Cefalu, *Assistant 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

In what has become something of a recurring theme in these brief testimonials from your Board members, I would like to use my sentences in this issue to express my gratitude for a recent event at FUSN. Just as Strom celebrated how Anne Watson Born, the choir(s), and the many talented musicians of this congregation have created some truly memorable sounds this year... I want to thank the entire Services Auction team for leading us through a truly memorable evening on the 25th of January.

While I am hoping for the disappearance of any pictures in which I am wearing Mardi Gras paraphernalia (!), I would by contrast like to hold tight to the feeling of connection that seemed to fill the parish hall that evening. As one of our expert auctioneer said, we are certainly a congregation that likes food! But, even more, it seems to me we are a congregation that likes food that we cook for each other. (We're counting on that at my house, in fact, where we're looking forward to being the happy recipients of two delicious home-made pies over the next few months!)

Of course, "cooking for each other" isn't always easy! Sometimes it is hard to get to decisions. Or to navigate our website. Or to make all the keys and stops and pedals of the organ actually work! Nonetheless, for me, whether it is a big event like the Services Auction or a quieter moment like a chance hallway conversation or parking lot greeting, this is a community that truly values – and works toward – making real and meaningful connections.

And that is an unnumbered Services Auction item for which I am deeply grateful. *-Charlie Watts, BOT Chair*

FUSN'S ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

FUSN's Annual Budget Drive is starting soon. We are continuing the very successful -- and fun -- "Pledging Party" model used in the last two years, with over 25 pledging parties already scheduled. The parties where you can pledge in a context of fellowship, fun, and inspiration will start at the end of February and go through early April. Please sign up for a pledging party at the budget drive table at coffee hour or online. Our goal is 100% participation this year! And if you pledge by 8:00 p.m. on March 16 you will be entered into the Early Pledgers Pot O'Gold Raffle. There are great prizes so be sure to pledge early! - *Co-chairs Barbara Deck Jonathan Lilienfeld, Sharon Sisskind*

CONNECTIONS

What's the Winning Score? Learn how to measure, benchmark and improve your energy and water use. Sunday, March 2, 11:45 am. Are you trying to improve your home's efficiency but aren't sure which efforts will reap the most savings? Do you want to know how much energy and water "green" homes actually use? Have you ever wondered how your home's resource use compares to others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this presentation is for you. As performance manager at Byggmeister, Rachel White has been collecting and analyzing utility usage data for homes Byggmeister works on. With energy usage data for about 30 homes, and water usage data for a handful of these, the Byggmeister team has developed a pretty good idea of what constitutes a "winning" efficiency score, as well as the impact that various performance upgrades and occupant choices have on usage. Rachel will explain how she measures and benchmarks usage; share case studies of several homes she is tracking; and show you how to measure and "score" your home. A light lunch will be provided. No registration required. *Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee*

Save the date - Saturday, April 19, 9:30 -12:30, for a FUSN Environmental Justice morning at the Food Project in Dorchester. Youth and adults are invited to volunteer. Learn about the Food Project where they grow food for hunger relief organizations and local distribution and help prepare the garden. Register early with Mark Leicester, [see online directory.] Sponsored by FUSN's Green Sanctuary Committee

Mans favorite scarf left at coffee hour on chairs near piano on Jan 19. Wool louden green and black plaid design with fringe. If you would check your things it would be much appreciated. David Isaacson, [see online directory].

Decorate FUSN's Chancel in honor of a special event or memory, or as a way to contribute to the beauty of our worship experience. Sign up for a Sunday at fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/worshiphelp or by signing up on the list in the hallway across from Fran Clancy's office. If you would like help decorating, email Chancel coordinator Betsy Leavitt, [see online directory].

MUSINGS

“And it came to pass ... when I was 42 years and 7 months old, that the heavens were opened and a blinding light of exceptional brilliance flowed through my entire brain. And so it kindled my whole heart and breast like a flame, not burning but warming... and suddenly I understood of the meaning of expositions of the books...” (Hildegard von Bingen)

“And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels was as the colour of a beryl stone. And as for their appearances, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel.” (Ezekiel 10:9-10)

The next FUSN Music Sunday, on March 23, will take a look at some visions that appear in various sacred texts and the music that illustrates the visions. We would love to have extra singers for this service, so if you have a hankering to sing, we have lots of opportunities:

- The Sanctuary Choir will sing an amazing 8-part arrangement of “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel”.
- The Men’s Choir will contribute a raucous setting of “Dry Bones”.
- The Family choir will sing “Gonna Get Through This World” – words by Woody Guthrie, music by The Klezmatics.
- The choir, with piano and string quartet, will sing “Dark Night of the Soul” – Ola Gjeilo’s setting of the poem by the mystic Saint John of the Cross. You can hear it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtMFh7au72g>

We welcome singers of all ages and experience – if you want to participate by singing one piece or several, either way we’ll be glad to have you with us. We’ll begin rehearsing on Wednesday February 12, 7.30pm in the Chapel.

There will also be several Sunday rehearsals for those who can’t come on Wednesdays.

FIGCO (FUSN Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra) will be playing Pavane Pour une Enfante Defunte by Maurice Ravel on March 23, as part of Music Sunday. All are welcome to join us for rehearsals after the service in the Sanctuary.

-Anne Watson Born

PARTAKERS UPDATE

As some of you know, FUSN has been involved with a wonderful organization - Partakers - for many years. Partakers supports Massachusetts prisoners who are involved in the Boston University Prison Education Program. A major aspect of Partakers is their College Behind Bars Mentoring Program. This program creates and supports teams of volunteers that mentor inmates as they work toward their baccalaureate degree through the BU Program. Volunteer mentors visit inmates and exchange letters to build relationships, encourage success in classwork, provide emotional support during incarceration, and increase the chances for success upon returning to the community.

FUSN teams have sponsored four individuals through Partakers in recent years. Mentors report life-changing experiences both for themselves and the mentees. Three teams have seen the release of three individuals who are successfully moving on with their lives and are themselves mentors. A fourth FUSN team is currently supporting a young woman who has a number of years left in her sentence. This individual is enthusiastically pursuing her studies and working on personal goals to better her life at her release. Her passionate wish for new experiences that will help her now and in the future is admirable and we humbly work with her to help her be successful. One of Partaker’s missions is to “bridge the divide that separates those inside and outside prison.” Feel free to talk to mentors who are currently participating and hear more the powerful experiences we share. *Ann Woodbury, Linda Rinearson, Elizabeth Godrick, Christy Harms and Mary Larosee*

YOUTH COFFEEHOUSE

Melt the Freeze at the FUSN Youth Coffee House.

The 2014 Youth Coffee House will be held in the Parish Hall on March 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. See Newton North and Newton South students, many from FUSN, performing music, dance, and comedy from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Then three live student bands will rock your souls from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for kids and \$10 for adults, on sale at the door or during Coffee Hour, Feb. 16 and 23.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Feb. 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: March 23, April 13, and May 18.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Feb. 9 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.

LUNCH WITH ERIN AND MEGHAN

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

New to Unitarian Universalism or FUSN? Got Questions? Want to meet other newcomers? Come to The New UU on Saturday morning, March 22. Facilitators: The Rev. Erin Splaine, The Rev. Meghan Cefalu, and Director of Lifespan Religious Education Perry Montrose. We’ll discuss what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of the First Unitarian Society in Newton, we’ll go on a tour through FUSN’s nooks and crannies, and we’ll get to know people who run many of FUSN’s activities and committees. Bagels and coffee at 8:30 a.m., class begins at 9:00 a.m. Childcare is provided. RSVP by emailing Fran, office@fusn.org or by clicking on The New UU option at <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com>

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