



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

January 13 - January 26, 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

Jan. 13 - "Association Sunday" - Rev. Erin Splaine and Rev. Sarah Lammert

Jan. 20 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Jan. 27 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Second Collection

MONTHLY LUNCH WITH ERIN

Thursday Jan. 17, 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 17th 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.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be serving breakfast at the UU Urban Ministry on Monday, Jan. 21 at 9:30 a.m. We will gather and leave FUSN at 8:15 a.m. Following breakfast we will stay for a program on Restorative Justice as a way to build Martin Luther King's vision of the beloved community. Contact Rebecca for more information - ypc@fusn.org

Start the New Year Right by volunteering for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank, on Saturday, Jan. 12. Carpool from the FUSN parking lot, leaving at 8:45 a.m., back by 1:00 p.m. Youth are encouraged to join us, but the minimum age is 14. If you plan to come, please contact Judy Zacek, "jeqpvcevlph"lp"fkgevt{"_by Jan. 11.

BY-LAWS & GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

In early 2006, the FUSN Board of Trustees began an examination of the Society's governance structure. This examination led to the formation of a Governance Committee that undertook a thorough analysis of our membership, how we govern ourselves, and how our staff performs its work. This involved interviews with congregants, the staff and other area UU congregations, studies of various governance models, and the identification of three models for the Board to consider. The FY2009 Board analyzed this invaluable body of work and ultimately defined our current governance structure, including a policy-focused Board of Trustees and an Operations Council.

We are now in our fourth year of operation under this model and are seeing positive benefits. A By-Laws Committee was formed in FY12 and has developed a proposed set of amendments specifically focused on amending the By-Laws to reflect the current structure.

On Sunday, Jan. 27, following Coffee Hour, there will be a congregational meeting to introduce these amendments and to receive feedback. A copy of the proposed amendments will be circulated in advance. An evening meeting will also take place on a date to be determined in February. Then, on March 17, there will be a special meeting of the Society for the purpose of voting on the proposed By-Laws amendments.

We look forward to your participation in culminating the hard work of so many over the past six years.

-Gordon Moriarty, Chair, Board of Trustees

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

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FUSN TREASURES

For over 40 years, Anne and Allan Hartman have brought treasures to the First Unitarian Society in Newton. In her decades-long role as co-coordinator of FUSN's Silent Auction, Anne has spent numerous Saturdays exploring estate sales to find special items for the Auction. For years at Ferry Beach, Allan created elaborate Treasure Hunts with riddles leading to hidden items. Once he even hid a watermelon in a mailbox! (After a little persuasion, the winning team agreed to share their fruity prize with the other team.)

In addition to such tangible treasures, Anne and Allan have contributed countless hours of creativity and hard work to help the FUSN community grow as a spiritual home for themselves and others. Allan recalls, "Back in the early 1970s RE was a one-room-schoolhouse style program with only about 8 – 10 kids sitting all together. As RE grew, Dick Mezger and Newton Teixeira and I worked on a curriculum that grew over time." Allan also observes how much the annual stewardship drive has changed since he first started working on it. "Back then it was all done on one day; we'd ask people to stay home on the Sunday afternoon that was 'Canvass Sunday,' and members of the team would knock on doors to visit. Once the team members finished meeting with people, they'd come to the Alliance Room where Peter Witt and I would sit with our calculators, tallying up the pledges to see if we'd reached the proposed budget. There would be some sweep during the following week, but it was pretty much all done on one day."

Anne and Allan have also participated in Social Justice activities, Adult RE classes, and a variety of social and task groups. As part of a social events group, Anne sponsored a visit to an American Opera. Allan has served on several ministerial search committees. Along with their children, Stephan and Laurie, they participated in Progressive Dinners and in monthly Family Group gatherings (where groups would meet for dinner at a special restaurant, go strawberry picking after Sunday morning worship services, or meet in each others' homes for meals). Drawing on their musical and theatrical experience, the Hartmans collaborated on a special summer worship service, with Anne playing the beautiful "Ashokan Farewell" and Allan reading a letter from a Civil War soldier. Allan also created the First Unitarian Dramatic Society and helped put on plays at FUSN and during the retreat weekends. Anne has been part of FUSN's longest running womens group, and Allan has been part of the informal Saturday morning tennis group that he and a few friends started 31 years ago. Allan also enjoys being a part of the chiming group that was started by Roberta Humez in 1982.

FUSN TREASURES (CONTINUED)

Looking back over their 43 years at FUSN, Anne concludes, "So many of our friendships have come from people we got to know here. It's just always been a big part of our lives." Allan adds, "I never felt I had a spiritual home until I came here." As I hear about all of the Hartmans' efforts to help make FUSN a strong community, and as I delight in the stories of FUSN events nearly forgotten, I am reminded that our long-term members themselves are beautiful treasures for FUSN.

OPEN-MINDEDNESS

FUSN has 6 Core Values which guide our actions. They are: spiritual growth, community connection, the inherent worth of every individual, social justice, open-mindedness, and education. Today we turn our attention to Open-Mindedness. What might open mindedness mean for UUs at FUSN?

When my daughters were in the RE program, we'd say with them: "we are the church of the open mind, the listening ears, the helping hands, and the loving heart." We'd include hand gestures toward the head, hands, and heart. Sometimes, it seemed as if the kids were offering a variant on 'see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil'!

Open-mindedness means being open to change, maintaining an open mind aware of the fact of "many truths" rather than thinking we own the one and only truth. This can be seen at FUSN in matters spiritual and social.

In the spiritual realm, some people may think that being open to many truths can put one at risk of standing for nothing. I'd offer that there is much to gain in being open to the many spiritual perspectives that have emerged over thousands of years on earth. This diversity of perspectives offers a person a personalized set of spiritual viewpoints. Instead of having to accept one tradition in its entirety, by maintaining an open mind, we can each pick the elements that most resonate from the smorgasbord of traditions. By critically examining each element, we can create a unique fabric of threads drawn from various traditions. And when a person handpicks each thread, that person is more likely to find meaning in the whole fabric.

So, my sense is that while maintaining an open mind may take more work as one contemplates each element of his/her belief system, the composite and ever evolving set of views is more meaningful in relation to the realities of one's life.

Jon Reuman, Board of Trustees

WANT TO SAVE ENERGY?

On Sunday, Jan. 20, beginning at noon with lunch of Eric Olson's famous homemade bread and Laurel Farnsworth's excellent soup, the Green Sanctuary Committee and Adult RE will present Rachel White of Greener Every Day Consulting. Rachel is an energy expert who helps homeowners and architects get energy conservation right. She is knowledgeable about everything from better insulation coupled with better ventilation so noxious chemicals don't build up inside tightly sealed buildings, to better choices for energy efficient living. In her talk to us, Rachel will address the impact of behavior and personal choices on home energy consumption. How much of a difference can conservation efforts (such as turning off lights, shutting down computers and entertainment systems, and turning down the heat) make on home energy use? Which efforts make the most difference and which aren't worth bothering with? Is conservation ever counterproductive? What is the relationship between conservation and efficiency? She is very approachable and will take on questions about any home energy improvement project and point questioners to good sources of more information. For more information on Rachel, go to her web site, Greener Every Day Consulting.

THANK UU'S

Thank you to Norm Thibeault for his amazing work as the DJ for the FUSN New Year's party, and to Meg and Bill Holland, Rachel Yee, and Dede Vittori for all of their help making the party happen.

The Operations Council would like to thank the following folks: Sheila Ardery and Bonnie McDonald for all of their work to make the Holiday Fair the great success that it was and to all of you who contributed your efforts to the various activities at the Holiday Fair; the Tree Guys - Barney Freiberg-Dale, Eric Haas, Bill Horne, Bruce Kimball, Jonathan Lilienfeld, and Ron Mayville, for their work in running FUSN's Christmas tree sales; Geralyn Horton, Doris Lewis and the participants in the wonderful Solstice Service; Karen Lein for again organizing the Guest at Your Table collection as she has done for many years; Ted Hess-Mahan for all of his efforts to address our parking issues; Sharon Sisskind, Lynn Holbein and Wendy Haskell for organizing the Alternative Gift Fair.

Vespers. Come to the Vespers Service, Jan. 13 in the Sanctuary from 7:30-8:00 p.m., for music, poetry, and reflection. On this month's theme of Faith, Vermilion offers epiphanies: three settings of the story of wise men following a star, not knowing where it would lead them. Hear poems chosen and read by FUSN members. Enjoy a time of quiet contemplation.

CONNECTIONS

The FUSN community offers their sympathy to Judy Ryde and Ron Mayville on the death of Judy's father on Jan. 4.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMM

You know us for our twice-yearly catalogs (new one available on Jan. 13) and you may have attended some of our classes and events. But do you know about our Lending Library? Starting two years ago, we decided to get out of the business of selling books and into the business of choosing one or two copies, on a wide range of topics, which we could lend out. We also developed a collection of DVDs, initially related to Food Matters, but now branching out into other areas, such as immigration, class in America, and climate change.

Stop by the Adult R.E. table and look over our collection. Books circulate for three weeks and DVDs for one week. Check out the catalog for this year's Common Read, *The New Jim Crow*, as well as Tai Chi, *The Deep River Within*, *Parents of High School Teens Support Group*, *Hot Coffee*, and four other new programs - in addition to five or six on-going offerings.

*Alice Wood and Jacqui James
Co-Chairs, Adult Religious Education*

FUSN Book group Selections Winter/Spring 2013
Email the hostess and meet at 7:30 p.m. [See directory]

Jan. 17 - *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa at Patricia Stedry's home
Feb. 21 - *Piano Shop on the Left Bank* by Thad Carhart at Fiora Houghteling's home
Mar. 21 *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks at Brenda Roberts' home
April 18 - *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed at Karen Edwards' or Ros Winsor's home
May 16 - *Canada* by Richard Ford at Kay Sachs' home
June 20 - *The Warmth of other Suns* by Isobel Wilkerson at Kate Carney's home

COA FROZEN FOOD EXTRAVAGANZA!

to benefit the work of Ecclesia Ministries for the Homeless. Stock your freezers with delicious frozen meals lovingly prepared by COA candidates and mentors. Chili's, stews, soups and more! Great for Super Bowl Sunday! For Sale by COA Candidates during coffee hour on Sunday, Jan. 27. Cash or checks accepted. Thanks for your support!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Jan. 13 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: Feb. 10, March 17, April 7 and May 5.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hope Out Loud 2. Want to sing some gospel music and support the good works of the UU Urban Ministry? On February 10, Hope Out Loud 2 will be held at 4pm at First Church in Roxbury. The performance at the UUUM will feature the Boston Community Choir, young dancers and singers from Union United Methodist Church, spoken word artists from the UUUM's Roxbury Youth Program, along with a parade, drumming, and much group singing. Those of you who came last year remember "Total Praise" and "Love Train" - we're looking forward to raising the roof again. Contact Anne Watson-Born for more information: music@fusn.org

Deadline for next newsletter is Jan. 22, 9:00 a.m.

BEACH PARTY SERVICES AUCTION

Want to get away from the cold weather and snow? The Beach Party Services Auction is just what you need. Save the date, Saturday, Jan. 26, in the Parish Hall. You can dress up in your favorite beach or sun clothes, and come and enjoy the evening. We will be auctioning off some great services, and there will be parties for children. In addition to the Auction itself, we are also selling raffle tickets for six great services.

The Services Auction table will be open the next two Sundays after services. We will be selling raffle tickets and/or you can sign up to donate a service. Or if you just want to learn about the Services Auction, this is the place to come. In particular, if you are wondering if you can provide a service, but are not sure, stop by and talk to us. We will be more than happy to help.

For those of you who are new to FUSN, the Services Auction is an annual event where we auction services mostly donated by FUSN members to raise funds for FUSN. We always have some enticing offerings - weekends at vacation homes, fine meals, handyman services, computer help, child care, and a variety of others. And the event itself is always an entertaining evening.

How can things get any better? You have a fun night out, get to bid on some great offerings, and help to raise funds for our beloved FUSN.

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