



# FUSN*ews*

## First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

January 27 - February 9, 2013

### SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

**Jan. 27** - Rev. Erin Splaine - Second Collection

**Feb. 3** - "We Know Within" - Perry Montrose

**Feb. 16** - Lay led Service

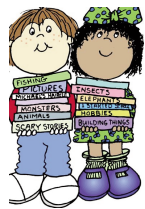
### FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This newsletter note from the Board has less to do with a broad view of FUSN and its goals and it is instead a much more practical reminder. This Sunday, Jan. 27, following coffee hour, there will be a meeting for the purpose of reviewing proposed By-Laws amendments. The amendments were recently sent out to the FUSN Business email list. The By-Laws Committee will present the historical context for these amendments and will provide an overview of why we believe these changes are a necessary step towards fully implementing our current governance structure. A special meeting of the Society will take place on Sunday, March 17 for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendments.

While this reminder is all business, it is important to consider that Sunday's meeting and the vote in March are part of implementing the vision of growth identified by many of our members years ago. We are excited to continue along the path laid out for us by their hard work and dedication.

*-Gordon Moriarty, Chair, Board of Trustees*

### Mather School Children's Book Drive



In February, 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.

### PERRY'S PONDERINGS

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke out about the broad range of societal issues that we still struggle with today. On hunger, he said, "Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources...to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources. The deficit is in human will."

After learning about MLK's persistent efforts to create the world he dreamed about, the K-4th graders drew food items to go on signs for the monthly Newton Food Pantry collection at FUSN. Every second Sunday of the month, beginning on Feb. 10, we are asking you to bring in items for the Pantry. Regular-sized jars of peanut butter and cans of vegetables, tuna, and fruit are needed, in addition to standard-size shampoo. We will be doing our small part to provide the basic necessities to those who face deprivation.

The 5th-7th graders learned about the Supreme Court moving from "separate but equal" to school integration. Then the RE group talked about inequalities remaining today. Cheryl Lloyd, our Community Minister, spoke to them about the Mather School in Dorchester. The first public elementary school in America struggles to have enough supplies due to budget cuts. During the month of February, FUSN RE will be having a children's book collection for the Mather School. Please bring in gently used or new books for K-5th graders. You can also make an impact in the Mather School by volunteering to read, tutor, or mentor.

*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, 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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Unitarian Universalists continually demonstrate that there is not a deficit in the human will to address societal issues. Social justice and action is a core element of our faith. It is a spiritual practice that transforms the world one can and one book at a time, at the same time as we speak out about systemic change. Staying informed and educating others is at the heart of UU Religious Education. We are forming a Justice RE Leadership Circle to further integrate this component of our faith into our Religious Education ministry. Please let me know if you would like to join the effort.

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## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

“Our Unitarian Universalist Faith Calls Us to Change the World.” Through FUSN there are lots of ways to turn that belief into reality. 27 different Social Action projects are going on at FUSN, divided into 5 different Task Forces: Hunger & Homelessness, Criminal Justice, International Partnerships, Advocacy, and Allies for Economic & Racial Justice. In any given week you can join others FUSNites to:

- Help AIDS orphans in Zambia
  - Sort food at the Greater Boston Food Bank
  - Plan UU Advocacy Day at the State House on immigration, homelessness and gun control
  - Volunteer at the Mather School in Dorchester
  - Mentor an inmate going to college while in prison
- ...and much, much more. Just go to the newly updated Social Action portion of FUSN’s website at <http://www.fusn.org/content/social-action-and-council-social-action> and you’ll find a complete list of the Task Forces and all 27 of the projects they are engaged in. What interests you and how much time do you have? Call any of the contact people and they will help you figure out where to plug in.

**The FUSN Council for Social Action** is accepting nominations/applications for Second Collections to be held in 2013. Any organization with FUSN volunteers is welcome to submit an application, including those groups that receive funds from the Social Action Budget. If you have access to e-mail, please e-mail [see FUSN directory] to request an electronic application/guideline. Please submit your application to: [see FUSN directory] by Friday, Feb. 8. If you do not have access to e-mail, please call Peter Smith, [see FUSN directory] and he will get you a paper application/guidelines.

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## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Hello FUSN. We are delighted to be co-chairing the Annual Budget Drive again this year. We had a blast last year and intend to do so again. Will you join us? There are many ways to get involved.

In a vibrant faith community like FUSN, everyone is a steward, actively concerned with the direction of our organization. The Budget Drive is not just about realizing a financial goal; it deepens the connections among all of us, in so many ways.

Remember the fun of last year’s pledge parties? We’re looking for volunteers to host pledge parties during the months of March and April. These parties can be large or small and can be held on a weeknight or during a weekend. They can have a theme based on a particular interest of the host (RE, ethical eating, neighborhood) OR have no theme except to meet and connect with fellow congregants.

We’re also looking for Steward Callers to reach out to about 4 to 6 people each to invite them to a pledge gathering or meet to discuss a pledge. We hope that all of last year’s Steward Callers will return to join us.

What about serving on our Hospitality Team to help provide food and drink for one of three orientation sessions we will be holding for Party Hosts and Steward Callers, or to help with refreshments for the Annual Budget Drive table during coffee hour? There are so many easy ways to join in and help!

To volunteer for any of these roles, or to help in any way, please contact Josie and Bruce at [budgetdrive@fusn.org](mailto:budgetdrive@fusn.org) or, [see the FUSN directory].

We can’t do it without you, and with your help, it will be much more fun!

Thanks in advance for your support! -*Josie and Bruce*

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## A LEGACY FOR FUSN

FUSN’s Planned Giving Committee encourages you to consider having FUSN a part of your estate plan. Join the nearly two dozen FUSNites who have joined our Legacy Circle and are working to sustain our vision for future generations with bequests to FUSN. If you wish to discuss ways to include FUSN in your estate plans please contact Fran Clancy or Committee members: Bill Dusett, Chair, [see FUSN directory], Adrian Bishop, Bev Droz, Peter Farago or any member of FUSN’s Legacy Circle.

## MUSING

On Sunday, Feb. 10 at 4:00 p.m., our UU Urban Ministry will host **HOPE OUT LOUD 2**, a midwinter celebration of song, dance and spoken word, sharing the hopes that unite us across communities. Several UU musicians will be bringing singers from their congregations to sing with Dennis Slaughter and his gospel group, the Boston Community Choir. There will be a brief rehearsal at 3:15 to learn a few songs - we're hoping to reprise "Love Train"! Contact me if you're interested in coming ([music@fusun.org](mailto:music@fusun.org)).

At this year's Hope Out Loud, we remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s prophetic words from his World House speech: "The large house in which we live demands that we transform this world-wide neighborhood into a world-wide family-hood." Other performers in addition to the gospel choir include children from Union United Methodist Church's Liturgical Dance Team, and Radical Praise children's choir; the Roxbury Youth Program children. UU multi-percussionist Matt Meyer will be drumming us together; and the UU Urban Ministry's Sam Williams will be contributing spoken word along with guest artist, Kemi Alabi. **Put it on your calendar, and plan to join us at 3:00 for a Children and Family banner-making; 3:15 for a brief rehearsal; and 4:00 for the concert!** There will be lots of group singing as well, so bring your voice and help us make HOPE come alive!

**Why we choose to celebrate MLK's World House Speech** - In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974, Dr. King challenged world leaders to embrace the vision of World House, creating an interconnected society "transcending tribe, race, class, nation and religion."

Celebrating the inherent worth and dignity of every person has been the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry's mission since it was founded in 1826. Through education, advocacy and outreach, generations of our Urban Ministry congregations have worked tirelessly to empower Boston's underprivileged citizens through programs that address social issues, including settlement houses and chapels, affordable housing, community centers and service programs.

Dr. King's call for the creation of a world-wide fellowship that "lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation..." a fellowship founded on an "all-embracing and unconditional love for all men" is at its core the fundamental vision of all we do at the Urban Ministry.

## CONNECTIONS

**Beach party services auction** - Well, the long anticipated big night is nearly here for the services auction this Saturday, Jan. 26 at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Our theme is Beach Party so we hope many of you will dress in your favorite beach attire. In addition to the great selection of items to bid on, we will have a raffle, music, beverages and light snacks, childcare, and a party for the kids who have outgrown the childcare scene. This is always a fun evening so don't miss it. And be sure to bring your checkbook as we collect from our lucky winning bidders that night. Even if you cannot attend in person, you can always ask a friend to bid on your behalf. We hope to see you there.

**Solicitations** - At last year's annual meeting, FUSN approved the establishment of a Council for Social Action to broaden and deepen our participation in social action programs. We encourage everyone to bring ideas to the Council for expanding our involvement in social action. The Council for Social Action also reviews and must approve all requests for solicitations, on site at FUSN and/or through use of the FUSN Business E-Mail, of donations such as clothing and food. Contact either Lynn Holbein or Barney Freiberg-Dale with your proposal for solicitations beforehand. Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated."

*-The Operations Council*

**The Operations Council** thanks Nancy Mattei and Neil MacGaffey for the Christmas Eve refreshments, and Bill and Meg Holland for leading in the creation of the wonderful Origami memorial to their son Matt.

**FUSN garden plans** - Its snowing now but soon it will be spring. We've been planning renovations to the Memorial Garden area for some time now and will bring plans for community review on Sunday, Feb. 10 before services. Enjoy the Community Breakfast and come look at what we plan to do this spring.

**Date for Youth Coffeehouse** - On Saturday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. FUSN is holding its Annual Youth Coffeehouse. All proceeds raised from this youth-produced event will be given to the Chawama Family Home for AIDS orphans in Lusaka, Zambia. For more information, [www.fusun.org/content/coffeehouse](http://www.fusun.org/content/coffeehouse)

## Newton Food Pantry Can Collection



Feb. 10, on the 2nd Sunday of the month please bring in regular-size tuna, veggies, fruit, peanut butter, and shampoo. Come for Community Breakfast, Leave a Can.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Feb. 10 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 17, April 7 and May 5.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**A Time To Dance.** Dance with your FUSN friends on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. DJ Bill Saunders will play a variety of music inspired by two approaching holidays (Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras), making it easy for both slow and fast dancing. Grab a friend, a group of friends, or come on your own and we'll fill up the dance floor together. The dance is free; please bring a dessert or beverage to share. **RSVP** to [member\\_services@fusn.org](mailto:member_services@fusn.org) so that we may plan accurately. Childcare will be available if it is requested by Feb. 2 (e-mail [member\\_services@fusn.org](mailto:member_services@fusn.org) to request childcare).



## FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Mark Saturday, March 9, on your calendar for the FUSN Annual Fellowship Dinner. Come for appetizers and music at 6:00 p.m.; dinner at 7:00 p.m.; and dessert, coffee, music, dancing and relaxation starting about 8:30 p.m. This is a time for old and new friends to gather for fellowship and celebration of the FUSN community. All are invited. Online invitations and more information in the newsletter will be arriving in February.

## VESPERS

Join us for a Vespers service on this month's theme of surrender. Vermilion will sing Renaissance and early Baroque pieces from Italy, Germany, England, and Denmark. The guest this month will be harpist, Susan Miron, formerly of the Melisande Trio. FUSN members will read poems they've selected. Vespers offers quiet music and reflection to ease us into the week ahead, and into our ever busier lives.

**Deadline** for next newsletter is Feb. 5, 9:00 a.m.

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