



FUSN *News*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

June 14 - June 27, 2015

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for June is Play

6/14 - Flower Sunday - Bridging Ceremony
Child Dedication

SUMMER SERVICES - 9:30 A.M

6/21 - "Experiencing Memory and Aging through
Poetry and Song, We are Wacking Aging!"

Consider poetry and song - a weaving of words and images. Consider Aging and Memory through a blend of listening, singing and reading. Cindy Mapes, Kate Mason, Betsy Simmons, and Holly Zeeb.

6/28 - "Stories of Risky Business"

We've all taken risks, challenged rules, lived courageously at times. Sometimes we tell stories of those times - not always what literally happened, but how we interpret our experience, through story. Hear a few such stories, exchange your own with a neighbor, and if there's time, volunteer to tell it to everyone. Led by Kate Carney.

7/5 - No Service

7/12 - "Supporting Families Following Abuse: It Takes a Village"

One in four women and one in seven men will experience violence in an intimate relationship in their lifetime. Renewal House in Roxbury and The Second Step in Newton work with individuals and families following abuse. Members of these groups will join us in talking about supporting those who have experienced domestic violence and best practices in prevention. Catie Curtis will provide music.

7/19 - "A Foreign Policy for All"

Continued on next page

A NOTE FROM ERIN

As I write this we are two days past our Annual Meeting and I find there is much I am still processing. I am so grateful that we are moving forward together to renew our Welcoming Congregation status. Yet, I know there is much work still to do to address the many layers of feeling in and among us all and how we express our feelings.

I wrote these words at the conclusion of my annual report this year, "Yes, there is much to celebrate at the close of this year and yet there is a concern that I would like to lift up as well. Namely, that we have been a congregation in conflict for most of this year. The ways in which we have expressed conflict and tension have at times been visible and at other times more quiet - more separate. I have come to realize of late that although the issues at the heart of the concern this year are new the ways in which we as a community are dealing with them are not. Two recent emails to our list-serve by long-time members of FUSN, which highlighted the connection of past to present conflicts, confirmed for me that some of the patterns we have found ourselves in this year are old and familiar and definitely need to be addressed.

To that end, part of our work next year will be centered around what the larger UU world calls "Right Relations" work. We will be joined in this effort by UU leaders in our region and it will be done separately from but concurrently with the Welcoming Congregation renewal process that I hope will be ratified at Annual Meeting. It is my hope that we will find new and healthy ways to be with each other in times of concern as well as in times of celebration."

I look forward to continuing the journey together.

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

Board of Trustees: Brian Burba, Gregg DiBiasco, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Chair*, Lesley Sneddon, Julianna Lakomski and Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, John Brennan, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

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SUMMER SERVICES (continued)

The international scene can be distressing and discouraging. Cole Harrison, Executive Director of Massachusetts Peace Action, will discuss his response to such discouragement and present hopeful ideas about A Foreign Policy for All.

7/26 - "Ethical Conversations"

What do ethical conversations look like? This interactive service will explore how we approach ethical dilemmas and where we get the personal moral principles we bring to them.

8/2 - "Making Music, Making Community: a Family Friendly Music Service"

Bring your family and friends to make a joyful noise. No expertise needed, just bring your enthusiasm and an open heart!

8/9 - "Our Sacred Geography" (at Cathedral in the Pines)

Our sensory interactions with the earth leave many of us with vivid remembrances of times and places. We'll all gather with Erin who will conduct this participatory service at the Cathedral in the Pines in Rindge, N.H. (75 minutes). After the service, we'll picnic together on the grounds, walk the trails, marvel at the view of Mt. Monandack and relax on the spacious grounds. Details will follow.

8/16 - "I and Thou: The Art and Practice of Authentic Connection"

We connect easily through social media, but many of us feel alienated and alone. Is it possible to turn to each other and live in real relationships? Lois will explore philosopher Martin Buber's "I and Thou" exercises in authentic connection. Awaken and affirm the parts of our natures that yearn to be in "I AND THOU" relations to each other and the world.

8/23 - "Journey Toward Forgiveness" Tina Chery

Come learn how Tina has forged a new path to healing and reconciliation through the creation of innovative programs, programs anchored in restorative justice theory that teach and apply the seven core principles peace – love, unity, faith, hope, courage, justice and forgiveness.

8/30 - TBA

9/6 - No Service

FROM THE BOARD

Who Do We Want to Be When We Disagree?

The Board wishes to thank the 150 people who attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 6. A typical turnout for this meeting is 70. This culminating meeting of the year celebrates the work we do together and gives the community an opportunity to discuss and vote on issues and leadership roles that are vital to our ministry and our spiritual health.

The congregation discussed and voted on a General Resolution by the Board, sent earlier in the week on the FUSN list, that we pursue a congregation-wide program of renewal of our knowledge and dedication to be welcoming to all people. We will be guided in this program by the UUA's Welcoming Congregations staff. In her introduction, Bobbie Sproat acknowledged the "pain, hurt, anger, fear, frustration, and exhaustion in many corners of our community." She included FUSN leadership—"No one at FUSN has a monopoly on pain this year." Bobbie urged us as we move ahead "to keep our core values at the center of everything we do...love respect...justice beloved community. The essential questions before us as a congregation, coming out of the past year are,

"How do we treat each other when disagree? Who do we want to be?"

Several amendments to the resolution were introduced from the floor during discussion of the resolution. In response to a desire for more open participation in the committee overseeing the renewal process, Erin reiterated that the committee would steer an assessment and planning process that would engage the entire congregation. The General Resolution passed with wide support, and with one clarifying change and the addition of a call for openness in the process.

Erin and the Board will count on the trust of the congregation as we work together as a community, with UUA colleagues, in this program of renewal tailored to our FUSN history and needs.

Neil MacGaffey, chair of this year's FUSN Nominating Committee, introduced nominees for several leadership roles, including Trustees. As our By-laws support, a third Trustee nomination was made from the floor. During discussion of the candidates, the Nominating Committee expressed frustration about the low rate of response to their original call for nominations for 18 positions—they received only two responses. Recruiting nominees for some of our elected volunteer positions was quite challenging for them to. After that experience and their many volunteer hours spent, it was disheartening to see a last minute Trustee nomination challenge their work. This experience emphatically demonstrates the need for the Board's ongoing work in revamping our development of leadership at FUSN. *continued on next page*

FROM THE BOARD (continued)

After some difficult and sometimes unfortunate discussion, followed by an unusual written balloting process, the two Trustee nominations put forth by the Nominating Committee were elected as our two new adult Trustees. What is left after the meeting is a clear need for our congregation to do some work on our communication skills, our handling of conflict, and how to be and remain in right relationship with each other.

As we move forward with a new Board, we want to express our love for and appreciation to our two outgoing members. Jacki Rohan stepped in to take over Charlie Watts' third year. In addition to bringing wisdom and strong ideas to Board discussions, Jacki brought a detailed knowledge of FUSN and UUA Bylaws and governance history. Jon Reuman brought his professional knowledge of personnel issues to several crises over his three years on the Board and helped to design our listening circles and mediation efforts this year. He also worked hard and patiently to advance our congregation's skills in handling conflict generally, and our need to become more strategic and mission-driven in our planning. Always, Jon pushed us to think deeply in making difficult decisions.

We are delighted to introduce our two new adult trustees, Eric Hass and Brian Burba. Eric taught marine science, built boats and farmed salmon before moving to the Boston area and beginning a new career as a physician assistant. Eric has contributed his leadership skills to the Greater Boston Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity and at FUSN to our Christmas Tree sales. Brian Burba and his wife Dana and sons, Theo and Bruce, are mildly fanatical about their island in Plymouth Harbor and the New Hampshire ski slopes. Brian's days and travel center on a fortune 500 software company. Brian has been a member of FUSN for 15 years and served a three-year term on the Board. He has been a mentor, RE teacher and youth advisor. Please welcome Eric and Brian as we begin a new year at FUSN.

Finally, but hardly least, we are thrilled that Becca Lozinsky has chosen to spend another year as youth member of the Board. And we welcome her colleague-in-Youth-Group, Julianna Lakomski, who joins us as well, to share the one youth-member position called for in our Bylaws.

-Cathy Morocco, Board of Trustees

SUMMER PICNICS



Save the Dates for 2 Summer Picnics. The Member Services Committee will once again host two informal summer picnics for the FUSN community at Auburndale Cove.

The first one will take place on Thursday, July 16 and the second on Saturday, August 22. Both are from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Auburndale Cove is a terrific park along the Charles River, with lots of parking, grills, picnic tables, bathrooms, a playground, and fields for all sorts of games. In case of rain, we've also reserved the FUSN Parish Hall for an indoor picnic. Please bring your choice of meat/fish/veggie burgers, etc. to grill, plus a dish to share. We'll provide the paper goods, cutlery and condiments.

If you'd like to help with set-up, please contact Judy Zacek, jczacek@comcast.net.

VESPERS

The monthly **Vespers service** with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, June 14 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.

SUMMER CHIME CONCERTS

Don't miss this fun FUSN tradition... Mark your calendar for:

Friday, June 19
Friday, July 24
Friday, August 28

Free concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. Old fashioned summer concerts suitable for all ages. All are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets for a relaxing summer evening. Indoor seating will be provided in case of rain.

THANK US

The Lay Ministers extend their thanks and gratitude to the following care crew members who provided rides, meals, visits, and other help during the months of April and May: Lynne Bail, Barbara Bates, Marion Bullitt, Kate Carney, Laurette Fine-Genest, Judy Friedman, Cris Goldsmith, Allan Hartman, Jud Leonard, Chris O'Donnell, Cindy Orrell, Brenda Roberts, Pat Rohan, Kit Ryan, Sue Skoler, Bobbie Sproat, Thom Theara, Carrie van der Laan.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

There will be one more Newsletter going out in June. Deadline for the June newsletter is June 23 at 9:00 a.m. Our next newsletter deadline will be August 18. We return to our regular two week schedule in September. Deadline for the first newsletter is Sept. 8.

GUEST SPEAKER

On Monday, July 13, at 6:00 p.m., the New Jim Crow discussion group will host Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, who will speak about his vision for a multi-purpose complex in Middlesex County. We invite anyone with an interest in criminal justice to attend. Snacks will be provided and we will meet in the Alliance room. For more information, contact Nancy Wrenn, wrennnancy@gmail.com.

STAFF SUMMER SCHEDULE

Erin - GA end of June. In and around most of July. Vacation end of July to late August.

Anne Watson Born is out of the Office:

June 17-20
June 23-28 (GA)
July 15-26
August 2-9
August 16-21

Rowan - out of the office:

June 20 - July 8
July 19 - 26
August 12 -18

Fran - out of the office:

July 5 - 20
August 16 - 31

Beth - Out of the office July and August

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