



FUSN*ews*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

June 16 - June 29, 2013

SUMMER SERVICES 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall

June 16 - "Stories of Where We're From: A Nation of Immigrants" - Does your family have stories you tell about how your grandparents or other ancestors immigrated to America? Three tellers from the congregation will relate short stories from their family's heritage -- where they're from, how they got here or how they adjusted. Next, everyone's invited to share stories from their own family history in brief story exchanges with a partner. Then, volunteers are invited to come up and share the story they've just told, with all of us.

June 23 - "Asking for Help" - Wendy Schwartz - Do you find it difficult to ask for help? Is there anything to learn about the process? Join Wendy Schwartz as she tells of her recent journey, asking for and getting help in a caring community. Plus, share your own experiences. Perhaps everyone will grow their skills for getting the help they need.

June 30 - "Unitarian Yoga" - Experienced Yoga guide, Helaine Golann, will share some of both the philosophy and the experience of yoga. Often misunderstood as only about body poses and movements, yoga is equally, or more about opening the mind, heart, and spirit. In other words, yoga is very Unitarian!

July 7 - No Service

July 14 - "Poems That Have Changed Our Lives" - Come and hear a wide variety of FUSNites talk from the heart about the role specific poems and poetry have played in their lives. Come and be surprised! Not the usual suspects!

July 21 - "Granny Wears Combat Boots" - GERALYN HORTON - How ought we to live? If sermons are the Lectures, Theatre is a sort of Lab. "Granny Wears Combat Boots" looks at a group of Senior Citizen activists. Through songs and skits they celebrate the communal and the amateur, and a vision that widens as time grows short.

July 28 - "The Way We Were: FUSN in the 70's" - Observations about FUSN and life from our longest-time members

Aug. 4 - "The Ecology of Food" - Eric Olson will lead a biological reflection on what we grow, what we eat, and how we decide, with bread and summer salad served after the service.

Aug. 11 - "Environmental Justice" - Ann Woodbury and friends

Aug. 18 - "The Joys of Everyday Living" - Lois Shapiro

Aug. 25 - "Brain Science and Human Nature" - John Lisman, a Brandeis professor will speak on the field of neuroscience and his work in it. Curt Lamb will reflect on the values questions such work raises.

THANK YOU FROM KRISTIN

As I put away the banner from last Saturday's Boston Pride Parade and write a welcome note to a couple who first visited FUSN last Sunday, I find myself smiling at the flurry of images that fill my head, a mental photo album of many beautiful moments from my two-plus years at FUSN.

I am grateful for the warmth and support you have shared with me, and for the excitement that is contagious when this community is together.



Whenever I set my table with the gorgeous crystal candlesticks you have given me, I will think of FUSN's welcome table in the Parish Hall, and the welcome I received from my FUSN family. I look forward to hearing about FUSN when I visit Boston, and I will always hold you in my heart.

Thanks to all of you, Kristin

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: Cathy Morocco, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, Strom Thacker, Charlie Watts, Ann Woodbury, Alan Cody, *Treasurer*, Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Laurel Farnsworth, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

With our recent Annual Meeting, my three-year term as a member of FUSN's Board of Trustees has now officially come to a close. Allow me to share with you a handful of reflections on the experience that perhaps may relate to your own FUSN experiences.

Being on the Board can be fun! This is not meant as an advertisement for joining the Board, but, for those who might consider it in the future, I will attest to the fact that being on the Board does have its lighter moments, its laughter and its shared joys. Yes, there are plenty of meetings and serious issues to work on, but, overall, I genuinely enjoyed the experience more than I had expected.

The work of the Board can be a spiritual experience. Unlike any other board I have served, FUSN's Board is encouraged to think of its work together as a spiritual experience. From the readings and covenant we shared at the start of meetings to the manner in which we strived to treat each other in our dialogue, there was an undercurrent of connection, respect and higher purpose. Did we achieve this at every moment? No, but I was surprised at how often we did.

FUSN's Got Talent! Each year that I served on FUSN's Board I saw a change of faces, as a few "old" members would cycle off the Board and a few new members would start their terms. One characteristic, though, remained constant. I continually was impressed with the professional and interpersonal skills that each Trustee brought to the table. In a business environment, you would pay a lot for the collective professional talent represented on our Board. These individuals, however, were devoting their time and energies to FUSN for free out of their love and commitment to the organization and to each other. The diversity of skill sets represented by the Board as a whole allowed us to understand and process issues effectively. We're lucky to have a membership that offers not only their dedication to our Society but their professional abilities as well.

The Board process works well. Ever wonder if FUSN's Board does a good job? Before I joined the Board, I had little to no visibility on how well the Board at FUSN functioned. Was it inefficient, adversarial or at all dysfunctional? I am happy to report that it was none of those things. Rather, Board members with diverse views found ways to work together productively. The process of how our Board governs seemed strong and healthy. It was encouraging to me to see so many FUSNites contribute to the leadership of our congregation in such a collaborative and thoughtful manner.

FUSN only functions if many volunteer. Being on the Board allowed me to learn more about all of the various committees, groups, events, and activities that are a part of our congregation. The sheer amount of volunteer work involved to make FUSN hum is impressive. I felt inspired by it. Our congregation has many

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)

members who, year after year, work so hard (often behind the scenes) to support our community as a whole. We need to remember to seek these folks out and to recognize their contributions. Most importantly, though, we need to remember that each of us needs to play a part in the work of our congregation

-Carl Metzger

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us on Saturday June 15 for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank. (We won't be going again until Sept.) Carpool from the FUSN parking lot, at 8:30 a.m. (note: this is a new time, because they are starting our shift a bit earlier). You'll be back a little after 1:00 p.m. Youth are encouraged to join us, minimum age is 14. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers (no sandals or open-toed shoes are allowed, for safety reasons). Please contact Judy Zacek, [see directory] by Friday, June 14.

Vice President Al Gore's Climate Reality Project presents a discussion on Climate Reality at the First Unitarian Society of Newton, Thursday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. Please join our guest speaker, Richard Cutler, for a multi-media presentation on what the planet needs and what you can do on a national and local level. Please invite friends and family, including high school students. RSVP: ClimateRealityFUSN@gmail.com.

LAY MINISTERS

The FUSN lay ministers are available to help members and friends who are experiencing difficulties and could use a listening ear, help with meals in case of illness, rides to the doctor, and the like. If you would like to reach a lay minister, here is the list below. If you would like to be one of those who make up our Care Crew—the cadre of people the lay ministers call on to help—just e-mail Greg Sullivan at gregs@sullivanwood.org for more information or to sign up to be in the Care Crew database.

Name	Home	E-mail
Jay Flynn	[see directory for contact info]	
Judy Friedman	[ditto]	
Cris Goldsmith	[ditto]	
Kathy Hearn	[ditto]	
Jud Leonard	[ditto]	
Cindy Orrell	[ditto]	
Greg Sullivan	[ditto]	
Gail Yeo	[ditto]	

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Arndt & David Snieckus - Margaret and David first came into contact with FUSN over a decade ago when they participated in an Environmental Sustainability study group sponsored by the Green Decade Coalition. They soon began attending holiday services at FUSN. In April of 2010, their daughter Abigail was invited to join CreationDance, and has been dancing as the youngest member ever since.

Margaret and David explain, "We find that the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist congregations are in alignment with our beliefs and values, we agree with the FUSN membership statement, we are inspired by Rev. Erin Splaine and her sermons, the Social Action at FUSN, and the educational venues and community events. We look forward to becoming more involved."

Geoff Cohen and Susan Timberlake - Geoff and Susan live in Newton Highlands with their nine-year-old son Sawyer and almost-six-year-old daughter Iselle. Geoff is a computer scientist who currently works in technology litigation consulting and Susan is a science educator and writer/editor. Susan (raised Catholic) and Geoff (raised secular Jewish) first learned about Unitarian Universalism when they tried to get married in North Carolina, where, it turns out, you could not get married by a justice of the peace! "We were lucky enough to find a wonderful UU minister who helped us plan a ceremony that was true to our more humanist beliefs and yet comfortable for both sides of our family. When, earlier this year, Iselle began insisting on being taken to church, we knew that we would want to join a UU congregation. We feel so fortunate to have found FUSN, and attending Sunday services has become something our family looks forward to each week. We love the music and always find both comfort and food for thought in the services."

The DiBiaso Family - Valerie Miller, Gregg DiBiaso, and their daughters Maritza and Dayana have been visiting FUSN over the past two years and started attending services and RE classes regularly last September. Their family lives in West Newton, and owns Artitudes, an American craft gallery in West Newton Square. "Both Gregg and I were raised Catholic but feel we have found our spiritual home at FUSN. We look forward to having our children grow up in this tolerant, compassionate and supportive community."

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Thom Theara - Thom grew up in Connecticut as a United Methodist, but began his "leftward denominational migration" as a member of the United Church of Christ (Congregational). As a gay man, Thom has found it critical that a congregation be welcoming to all people as a primary focus of their spiritual life. Thus, since moving to Newton Center 7 years ago, he has found a home here at FUSN.

Thom is a molecular biologist and currently works as a "Field Applications Scientist" for a DNA sequencing company, where he teaches lab folks how to use his company's equipment. At FUSN he's also enjoyed teaching his son's Sunday school class at various points over the last few years, and is now a mentor for the second year in the Coming of Age program. Thom's son Chris is now in the sixth grade at Brown Middle School and is a regular participant in the RE program.

Krystyna Wamboldt - Krystyna grew up in Denver and spent her childhood using the glorious Rocky Mountains as her backyard. She arrived in Waltham after living in California, France, Uganda, Washington DC, and most recently, Cambridge, where she attended Harvard Law School.

Krystyna loves to explore, and has hiked in Colombia and Syria as well as many other memorable spots closer to home. When she's not out and about, she is likely knitting, sewing, making cheese, cooking curries from scratch, or just playing fetch with her dog Mishka.

Krystyna says, "My mother always told me: 'there are many paths up the mountain.' After dabbling in several spiritual traditions -- Catholic, Quaker, Jewish, UCC, yoga, hiking, and watching sunrises -- I am delighted to find a community that embraces elements of each of these practices (and more), while pushing its members to think and evaluate for themselves. From the first moment I stepped inside FUSN, I found myself nodding along in agreement to the seven principles, and have continually experienced a strong sense of 'coming home.'"

Alyce Gowdy Wright - Alyce is a former marathoner and current law student living in Auburndale. She was born into a UU family and attended Coming of Age and About Your Sexuality (the precursor to OWL). She was the young adult member of the UUA Anti-Racism Task Force and served alongside her mother, the Rev. Nannene Gowdy. She loves to cook and hopes to tame her sewing machine in the near future. FUSN is her first UU home after 15 years in the Southeast.

MUSING

Upcoming Benefit Concert

The 8th annual Pan Mass Challenge chamber music concert will be held on Saturday, June 29, at 8:00 p.m. here at FUSN. The purpose is to share great music while raising funds for the Pan-Mass Challenge, the annual bike-a-thon to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in which concert organizer and oboist Joel Bard participates as a rider.

Joel writes, "For this year's concert, we are very fortunate to be joined by a large contingent of wonderful musicians, including our fellow Newton resident Rick Ranti, bassoonist in the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Newton North High School alumnus Jun-Ching Lin, who is currently assistant concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; and cellist Josh Gordon of the Lydian String Quartet, in residence at Brandeis. The program will include works by Dvorak, Britten, Debussy, Faure, and Mozart's beloved Serenade for 13 winds, which is featured in the play and movie Amadeus."

For all the details and to reserve tickets, please go to:
<https://sites.google.com/site/pmconcert2013/>

SUMMER CHIME CONCERTS....

a FUSN tradition. Mark your calendar for 2013:

Thursday, June 27

Thursday, July 25

Tuesday, August 20

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. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Free.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

There will be one more Newsletters going out in June. Deadlines for the June newsletter is June 25. 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

Non-profit
Organization
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PAID
Boston
Massachusetts
Permit No. 8900

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