



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 10 - March 23, 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

March 10 - "This I Believe" - Rev. Evin Splaine

March 17 - Music Sunday: Sacred Service

March 24 - "Once We've Started" - Rev. Erin Splaine

MONTHLY LUNCH WITH ERIN

Wednesday, March 13, 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 13th 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.

Children's Book Drive for the Mather School!

(through March 23) 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 on Sundays.

Then multigenerational social action for everyone at FUSN...

Bagels and Books - Saturday, March 23 from 9-11 a.m.

- Learn about the Mather School (the first public elementary school in North America!)
- Help us sort the books by reading level for the school and add gift labels
- Save your favorite children's book to bring on this day and share with the group, then write a letter to a child at Mather to include with the book
- Bagel breakfast

PERRY'S PONDERINGS

Last week, Allan Hartman hosted an Adult RE program called "Honoring Our Religious Heritage" where Mindy Scharlin, Barbara Deck, and Jud Leonard shared their religious backgrounds. It was fascinating to get a sense of how their religions of origin influenced them, but also how unique their experiences were within the context of each religion.

After the three stories, each person in the room had an opportunity to share part of his or her childhood and adult religious path. Amazing memories illustrated the varying ways people were struck by words, rituals, food, ideologies, or community. The forceful influences in their lives were not restricted to stereotypes or what we think is typical in a particular religion. Often a myriad of life circumstances determined the direction of their religious life. Jackie Colby shared that the small congregation where they lived decided they wanted to have a religious education program but didn't have any children, so they asked to borrow the Colby's. Thus began their children's RE experience.

In my September sermon, I shared the Jewish part of my family background, which is how I was raised. However, I think other parts of my family heritage have seeped through. When my uncle passed away, my mother received the old family bible. In it were some incredible historical documents, including a Quaker marriage certificate from generations ago. Maybe there was something passed down. When I had previously taken the Belief-O-Matic quiz at beliefnet.com it labeled me foremost as a liberal Quaker. You might find the twenty-question quiz fun. It suggests religions you might identify with after you answer questions about God, the afterlife, and human nature.

This Sunday we will hear about two more individual religious journeys at the "This I Believe" service. The 8th grade Coming of Age class will be attending

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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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the service as they start the Comparative Religion part of the program and their own credo writing process. After finding their personal spiritual touchpoints and conscious reflections, they will delve into expressing where they stand now. Their credo process culminates at the service on May 12. Both this Sunday and on May 12, we may be inspired to reflect on our own winding paths and what we believe as we look inside and around us today, knowing it will likely change for us as life continues to unfold.

LAY MINISTERS

Who are the lay ministers, and where do they get all the candles?

For more than 27 years, FUSN has called on a small group of congregants to assist Erin and other members of the staff in extending pastoral support to the whole congregation. In reality, of course, the lay ministers merely facilitate the ministry that our very generous members offer to each other. In many cases, we only hear about a need after it has been met. We do keep a list of members of the community (the "Care Crew") who have volunteered to cook a meal, or drive someone to a medical appointment, or help out in other ways, and we can make the calls that may be necessary to find a volunteer who can be available at a particular time and place. And of course, the lay ministers are also available to offer comfort, and to help find solutions to other problems.

If we can be of help, please call or email any of us. The following list is also on the FUSN web site:

Jay W. Flynn, [see the FUSN online directory]
Judy Friedman, [ditto]
Cris Goldsmith, [ditto]
Kathy Hearn, [ditto]
Jud Leonard, [ditto]
Cindy Orrell, [ditto]
Greg Sullivan, [ditto]
Gail Yeo, [ditto]

And if you'd like to be on the Care Crew, so that we can call you when someone else needs a ride or a meal, please send an email to one of us, and indicate whether you would like to provide meals and/or drive, and whether you're available during the work day. When we call, we'll ask whether you can help, and it's perfectly OK to say no.

The source of the candles, though, is a mystery to us all. Only Fran knows for sure.

SERVING WITH GRACE

Have you read "Serving with Grace" by Erik Walker Wikstrom? It is available through the UUA book store. Erin gave a copy to each of the Board members last year. For me, this small book changed how I view my service to this congregation and I highly recommend it.

Common wisdom teaches us that many people come to a religious community for a sense of belonging, and serving on a committee helps us meet people and feel connected, according to Wikstrom. Yet, he argues, that what really drives people to a church is something deeper - a need for a transformed life. "If so," he states, "then no amount of encouragement will get [a person] to sign up for one more thing in their already busy lives."

"What if," Wikstrom asks, "lay leadership were not a means to an end but an end in itself?" "Imagine if the practical and administrative work of the church - meetings, planning, teaching, etc. - was understood not as a necessary evil but as an integral part of the mission of the church to spiritually nurture us.... Imagine church not as a place led by a few overly taxed people but one where leadership is a broadly shared ministry that members of the community undertake for the deep joy of it."

It's hard to believe, but soon it will be time to begin planning for FUSN's Fiscal Year 2014. Have you considered serving on a particular committee but have been reluctant to raise your hand, thinking that you're just not ready to make a sacrifice in terms of time and energy? Perhaps this quick read will give you a new perspective on stepping into one of the many leadership roles here in FUSN. You might be surprised, as I was, at how deeply rewarding service can be.

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You've Got Mail! (Well, if you haven't got it yet, you will!) A warrant for a special meeting of FUSN has been mailed to each member household. On Sunday, March 17, after service, there will be a meeting of the membership to vote on proposed amendments to the FUSN By-Laws. Included with the warrant is a copy of the amended By-Laws we will be voting on. The warrant will also be physically posted at FUSN as required by the By-Laws and will be made available on our Web site.

As an added bonus, the Youth Group will be selling soup as a fundraiser immediately before the meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has given us feedback during our two congregational meetings and via email. Please mark your calendars and make an effort to attend! We look forward to your participation in this important vote. The By-Laws Committee: *Susan Bartlett, Pamela McA'Nulty, Gordon Moriarty, Pat Rohan*

MUSING

As we move into spring, there is wonderful music happening here at FUSN. On March 10 our Flute Choir will play Gabriel Fauré's *Pavane*, with Paul Antonucci collaborating with them on the piano. At that service as well our Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra will play selections from the beautiful and well-known Nutcracker ballet by Tchaikovsky.

Our second Music Sunday of the year on March 17 will be a different worship experience from our last two Music Sundays: our choir, joined by the choir from the First Church and Parish in Dedham, will present *Avodath Hakodesh* (Sacred Service) by Ernest Bloch. This is a musical setting of the daily Reformed Jewish service. Bloch was commissioned in 1929 to compose a setting of the Sabbath morning service as it appeared in the Union Prayer Book, which had been created for the American Reform movement. But, as Bloch wrote, he composed an oratorio, with a libretto based on the Union Prayer Book.

It far surpasses a Hebrew Service now. It has become a cosmic poem, a glorification of the laws of the Universe ... the very text I was after since the age of ten ... a dream of stars, of forces ... the Primordial Element ... before the worlds existed. ... It has become a 'private affair' between God and me. [Bloch, writing to Ada Clement, the founder of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music]

We will intersperse the movements of this gorgeous work with readings and meditation on what is sacred in our lives. Jonathan Roberts will return to FUSN to sing the role of the cantor, and Carson Cooman will be playing the vast and expressive accompaniment on our beautiful Steinway.

Also on the 17th, the FUSN Music Committee is producing a concert featuring Mary Gauthier with our own Catie Curtis. These fabulous singer-songwriters will perform in the Parish Hall on Sunday March 17 at 7:30 PM. We will be selling tickets at coffee hour on 3/10 and 3/17. This concert is open to FUSN members and their friends.

The choir will be on a road trip to the Dedham congregation on March 24, to sing the Bloch *Sacred Service* there. We are so fortunate to be able to experience singing this monumental piece twice. Carson will be at FUSN that day, as will Ted Hass-Mahan, who will complement Erin's sermon with his renditions of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" and Bob Dylan's "Hard Rain."

The close of our very full and busy March will be our intergenerational Easter service, when we will all join together in singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" with our orchestra.

-Anne Watson Born

PLEDGE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

A message from Bruce Henderson & Henrietta Hen. We know it's hard to get anything done when you have young children scampering about- we've been there! For those of you who would like to make a pledge to support FUSN and have a hard time finding a minute to sit still yourself, we have a pledge gathering with you in mind!

On Sunday April 7 there is a Pledge Breakfast at FUSN from 8:45-10:00 a.m. before Sunday Service which you can enjoy. You can come and sit down with fellow parents and others from the FUSN community to enjoy a cup of coffee, some breakfast and engage in a small group conversation and make your annual pledge.

As a special treat for your children, Henrietta the Hen will be on hand to provide childcare and entertainment!

We hope you will avail yourselves of this fun opportunity to meet some new folks and to "pledge in peace" while we entertain your children! RSVP to Josie or Bruce at budgetdrive@fusn.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Buy your tickets now for the Mary Gauthier/Catie Curtis concert on March 17 – on sale in the Parish Hall after the service March 10.

Understanding Climate Change Series

The second of three evenings of Understanding Climate Change will be on March 21 at 7:15 p.m. in the Children's Chapel. We will view a Frontline video titled *Climate of Doubt* which reveals the people and movement behind climate denial. This startling information explains how Nancy Pelosi and Newt Gingrich once stood shoulder to shoulder declaring the importance of addressing climate change but the momentum was cut short by a planned movement. Join us for the video and the discussion led by Jeff Baker.

-The Green Sanctuary Committee

Are you relatively new to FUSN? Come get to know other newcomers and some long-time FUSN members at a potluck dinner on Saturday, March 23 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Email Kristin at member_services@fusn.org for details and to RSVP.

FUSN's Passover Seder will be Tuesday, March 26. It takes many hands to put on an event like this. Please email Kristin at member_services@fusn.org if you would like to help with planning, bringing a food item, or set up or clean up on the 26th.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on March 17 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: April 7 and May 5.

VESPERS

Join us for FUSN's Vespers, on March 10. At this month's theme of Trust, Vermilion sings works of Gibbons, Tallis, and Gesualdo that ask the questions to which Trust might just be the answer. Our poems this month include: Susan Kinsolving's *Trust*, Li-Young Lee's *The Gift*, and John Ciardi's *Most Like an Arch This Marriage*. And we loved her so much, this month Susan Miron returns to play her beautiful Celtic harp again. Join us - even at the end of a full day at FUSN - for a bit of quiet music, reflection, and free floating sound to ease into the week ahead, and into our ever busier lives.

Deadline for next newsletter is March 19, 9:00 a.m.

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