



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 9 - March 22, 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

3/9 - "Yes, And...!" - Catie Scudera

Catie Scudera is currently serving as the intern minister of Arlington Street Church in downtown Boston. She graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 2012, during which time she served as the student minister of the Winchester Unitarian Society. Her other Unitarian Universalist connections include the Church of the Larger Fellowship's Prison Letter-Writing Ministry and the Partner Church Council's work in India. Before attending seminary, Catie lived in the Khasi Hills of northeast India for a year, working with local Unitarian leaders to found the A. Margaret Barr Children's Village.

3/16 - Rev. Meghan Cefalu

3/23 - Music Sunday: Visions

NEW TO UU

If you are considering becoming a member of FUSN or would like to know more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism you are invited to attend the "New to UU" retreat on March 22 held here at FUSN from 8:30 to 1pm. This will be an opportunity to get to know others, share some of your own story and learn a little about UUism. We'll start by breaking bread together (bagels), we'll have a tour of the historic building and learn a little about how the congregation functions. Childcare will be provided. RSVP to Fran Clancy in the church office (office@fusn.org) or contact Meghan (Meghan@fusn.org) for more information.

A NOTE FROM MEGHAN

Greetings Friends,

I've been so enjoying getting to know more and more FUSNites over the course of the last couple of months. I've spoken to members who have been coming for over 40 years and people who first walked in our doors in the last few weeks. Over and over I heard people voice a longing to get to know more of our community members, to deepen their connection with others here. Long time members say they don't know some of the more recent additions to our community and newer people are asking how they can become more involved in the life of the community.

I am glad to say that helping us forge deeper connections with one another is one of the main focuses of my new role here. In the coming weeks I will be working with the Member Services Committee to help create new opportunities as well as make it easier to discover and connect up with some of the already established programs. In the meantime events are listed in the weekly insert in the order of service, and meetings and events are listed on our FUSN website. If you haven't already done so I highly recommend you sign up to receive emails from the FUSN business and/or general email list. To get yourself connected contact Jud Leonard.

If you have an idea for an event or program, please come and talk to me about it. I would love to hear your thoughts. In fact, come talk to me (or email or call) even if you don't think you have any ideas. I'd love to have a chance just to talk with you!

Blessings and love,

-Meghan

Deadline for next Newsletter is March 18 at 9:00

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Meghan Cefalu, *Assistant Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, 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, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, Charlie Watts, *Chair*, Ann Woodbury, Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley
First Unitarian Society in Newton • 1326 Washington Street • West Newton, MA 02465 • <http://www.fusn.org>

office tel: 617-527-3203 • fax:617-964-5409 • Religious Education: 617-332-3438 • e-mail address: office@fusn.org

FROM THE BOARD

Upcoming Review of Erin's Ministry

Our First Unitarian Society's (FUSN) written covenant with our minister, Erin, promises that we will conduct a review of her ministry in her third year at FUSN, which is this year 2014. A Ministry Review Committee (MRC), selected by the Board to conduct the review, includes Elli Crocker Morse (chair), Sheila Ardery, Phil Davis, Anne Hess-Mahan, Jud Leonard, and Alice Nichols. Ministry at FUSN is shared by the minister, staff, leadership and congregation in FUSN. We work together and share responsibility with Erin for building a caring and just society. The review will provide all members of the congregation opportunities to contribute ideas in open "listening circles" or in writing. The review will focus on how we have developed as a society over the past three years; how Erin has contributed to and inspired that growth, and how we can strengthen the ways we work with Erin to create a vital, spiritual community for individuals and families.

The Ministry Review Committee has met four times, including once with Erin, and is now prepared to publicize dates and times of the congregational meetings that will be held at the end of March. The MRC will hold two open congregational meetings after the Sunday service on March 23 and 30 at 11:45 a.m. All FUSN members and friends are invited. Three smaller meetings will be held with FUSN leadership—committee chairs and members—in March:

Saturday the 22 at 10:00 a.m.
Thursday the 27 at 7:00 p.m. and
Saturday the 29 at 10:00 a.m.

If members of the congregation or leadership are unable to attend a meeting, the MRC will accept written responses that follow specific guidelines provided by the MRC. Committee members will interview FUSN staff in individual conversations.

Following this information gathering, the MRC will develop a written report and make it available to the FUSN community. The MRC and the Board view this process as a beneficial learning opportunity, one in which we work together toward positive outcomes for our collective mission with Erin and the entire FUSN community.

Catherine Morocco, Board of Trustees and Elli Crocker Morse, Chair, Ministry Review Committee

Spring is here....

at the FUSN Community Garden



Doing good for the community! Being outside!

Feed your soul, while feeding others.

Flexible time commitment.

Save the Dates. Join us at the garden...

Paul Antonucci and Lois Shapiro, in coordination with the Justice RE Support Circle, are leading the FUSN cultivation of a community garden plot in Waltham to provide for the Newton Food Pantry and families in need.

We are hoping to have an early spring crop of peas, spinach, and lettuce to donate to the Newton Food Pantry. Come join us for **garden preparation and seed planting on Sunday March 23 at the garden any time from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

In case of inclement weather, we will meet on Saturday the 29 from 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Check FUSN's Facebook page for an announcement or contact Paul Antonucci. The garden is located at 240 Beaver St in Waltham at the UMASS Agricultural Extension property, which is also the home of Waltham Community Fields.

Do you have a green thumb? Consider fostering Garden Project seedlings at your home. We are looking for folks with grow lights and space who can grow seedlings at home during the late winter and early spring. Please contact Paul Antonucci or Lois Shapiro.

If you are interested in making an on-going commitment to this project and/or helping to organize it, contact Dede Vittori.

See you in the garden!

MUSINGS

A year ago our choir sang the gorgeous *Avodath Hakodesh* (Sacred Service) by Ernest Bloch for the March Music Sunday. You can hear it again, sung by the Newton Choral Society, on March 16 at 3:00 p.m., right up the street at The Second Church in Newton.

Also coming up: Newton North is presenting the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on March 13-16; details here: <http://www.theatreink.net/shows/2013/Millie/index.html>

The second Music Sunday of our worship year will be March 23. CreationDance will be dancing to Maurice Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, which will be played by our intergenerational orchestra. Here are notes on the piece, by Phillip Huscher, the program annotator for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra:

Maurice Ravel was born in the French Pyrenees, only a few miles from the Spanish border, a geographical boundary he often crossed in his music. Even though his family moved to Paris while he was still a baby, Ravel came by his fascination with Spain naturally, for his mother was Basque and grew up in Madrid. (His Swiss father inspired in his son a love for things precise and mechanical that carried over into his impeccable music, provoking Stravinsky to dismiss him as a "Swiss watchmaker.")

One of Ravel's earliest pieces—written just after he left the Paris Conservatory in 1895—was a habanera for two pianos, the first indication that he would join that group of French composers, which includes Bizet, Lalo, and Chabrier, who have written some of our best Spanish music. The habanera was Ravel's first music to be performed publicly, in March 1898, and, despite the two pianists' inability to stay together, it made a strong impression on Claude Debussy, who was in the audience. (He hadn't yet met the composer whose name would one day be linked with his own.) Debussy asked to borrow the score, and his *La soirée dans Grenade* (Night in Grenada), written five years later, suggests that he studied it carefully. (The suspicious similarity of the two pieces contributed to the eventual falling-out between the composers.)

Like the Habanera, the *Pavane pour une infante défunte* (Pavane for a dead princess) was conceived as piano music and benefited greatly from the translation to a full orchestral score. The piano piece was an instant success. Ravel later realized that music of such apparent ease—a simple melody over broken chords—is doomed to a life at the hands of amateur pianists, and so eleven years later he rescued the Pavane and rescored it for the modern virtuoso orchestra. A pavane is a slow processional dance from Padua (Pava is a dialect name for Padua). According to an old Spanish tradition, however, it was performed in church

MUSINGS (continued)

as a stylish gesture of farewell to the dead. As to the identity of the dead princess, Ravel finally admitted he picked the title because he liked the sound of the words.

-Anne Watson Born

URGENT REMINDERS FROM THE BUDGET TEAM

Pledge before March 16, and you will be entered into the Pot o'Gold early pledgers raffle. The grand prize is a weekend at a house on the coast of Maine during the fall. And there are other many other wonderful prizes too! Come to the potluck dinner on March 16 from 6:00-8:30 p.m., and pledge there, even if you have another party to go to...have fun, corned beef and cabbage, a little music, and participate in the drawing. Contact Barbara, Jonathan, or Sharon to make other arrangements to pledge early.

Sign up for a Pledging Party! Anyone who has not signed up for a pledging party by March 9 at 5:00 p.m. will be assigned to a steward. And the sooner you sign up for a pledging party, the more choices that are available to you. Don't delay, do it today!!

CONNECTIONS

Do the Math. Newton North High School teens associated with Students for a Just and Stable Future will join FUSNites on Friday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m., for a showing of Bill McKibben's documentary *Do the Math*. The 350.org website describes this film as "a 42-minute documentary film about the rising movement to change the terrifying math of climate crisis and challenge the fossil fuel industry." Adults as well as teens from FUSN are invited to join the viewing. Sponsored by Green Sanctuary Committee.

THANK UUS

The Care Crew thanks the following people who helped out in February: Cris Goldsmith, Allan Hartman, Jonathan Lilienfeld, Rachel Sarvey and Bart Wright. **Thank you** to all the families who delivered "gift bags" to our homebound members. Your visits were greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on March 9 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 13, May 18.

LUNCH WITH ERIN AND MEGHAN

Thursday, 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 and Meghan 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 so we will know how much soup to prepare. Also, let us know if you need a ride.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, April 13 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.

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First Unitarian Society in Newton
1326 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02465

