



FUSN*ews*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 18 - March 31, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

March 18 - "Amazing Grace — A Celebration of Good News" - Music Sunday

March 25 - Youth Group Service

April 1 - "Questions and Answer Sunday"
Rev. Erin Splaine and the entire staff

This is no April Fools joke! Many UU congregations have their version of Question and Answer Sunday where everyone in attendance has a chance to pose a question (almost any question) to the minister. Once again your intrepid staff takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary. Our Sunday morning worship service on April 1 will be our first (hopefully not our last) Question and Answer Sunday starring your entire staff. Yes, your entire staff! Anne, Barb, Beth, Carson, Erin, Fran, Kristin, and Rebecca will be there and ready to answer your questions. At the service each person will be given a card on which to pose one question for any one or all of the staff to answer. The cards will be collected some time in the middle of the service and then in place of a sermon your staff will gather in front and attempt to give voice to your questions. Of course the staff knows that the questions you pose will be appropriate to the setting of the sacred space of our Sanctuary (uh hum...). We are looking forward to addressing as best we can with humor and passion.

April 8 - "Easter and Passover Celebration"
Rev. Erin Splaine

GOOD WORK!

My brother gave me a book for Christmas, entitled, "8,789 Words of Wisdom," by Barbara Ann Kipfer. Surely, I thought, SURELY there will be a string, a collection, a segment of wisdom words included that would be sufficient to the task of thanking you all for the *most lovely, powerful, and unforgettable ordination service and reception in the universe*. I don't think that's an exaggeration, do you?! But, I didn't find them, though I read the book cover-to-cover . . . well, almost. My guess is that words from anywhere would fall short. Please know that my heart is filled to the brim with gratitude and love for all that you provided on March 4, and all that you have been and will be on my ministerial journey going forward. I carry your encouragement, your lessons, your generous spirits and curiosity with me wherever I go. I utilize all that I learned from you, your children, and your youth every day.

I asked the Rev. Jory Agate to be sure to thank you during the service, from the greater Unitarian Universalist world, for your responsible attention to one of the most important tasks of our congregational polity, which is to grow leadership, and send it forth – even when that means losing it for yourselves. It is a bittersweet reality for us both. I may never experience quite the fullness of that day ever again, but it is with me for good, every sense awake: the look and smell, the words, the music (oh, my goodness – the music!), the palpable and vibrant love we all shared. Thank you, my dear friends. You are forever embedded in my heart.

And, now . . . off we all go, to do *more* good work, right?

Blessed be.

-the Reverend Anne Bancroft

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Kristin Cleveland, *Coordinator of Member Services and Development*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Mr. Barb Greve, *Consulting 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*, Corey Hess Mahan, and Dylan O'Brien *CoBeadles*.

Board of Trustees: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Margaret Costello, Barney Freiberg-Dale, Bruce Henderson, Pamela McA'Nulty, Carl Metzger, Gordon Moriarty, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, 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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OPEN QUESTIONS MEETING

The Board of Trustees invites you to the first “Open Questions” forum in the Parish Hall from 12:00-1:30 on Sunday March 18. We will consider:

What do we see as FUSN’s role in our larger community?

What is our brand in the larger community?

What is our stand with spreading the UU word?

Is it desirable for FUSN to be taking position on public policy?

Everyone is invited to share their thoughts in a spirit of community-building that can help to guide FUSN toward future action. Come and join us for conversation and a light lunch. Feel free to contact Ann Woodbury, [see contact info in online directory] with questions.

FILM & DISCUSSION

3 Sundays after Coffee Hour, March 25, April 8 and April 15, 11:45-12:30 p.m.

In *Barber To the Stars* we watch a Yankee barber in Heaven cut a newcomer’s hair while discussing generosity and hairstyles of the immortals.

Taxing Weekend portrays a couple weighing charitable contributions against tax deadlines. Does it matter whether they pledge on time as long as they plan to eventually?

These are just two of six humorous skits highlighted in the 30 minute DVD “*Dramas to Provoke Generosity*” that the Eno River UU Fellowship used to provoke conversation and generosity during their annual budget drive. How? By naming the elephant in the room when it comes to pledging, the canvass, and financial support for your church. And by making the elephant tell jokes at the same time. Come watch the DVD and join in the conversation!

WE NEED YOU!

April 8 is our Passover and Easter celebration, and we’re looking for musicians to sing with us, play some klezmer, and play with the orchestra on the Hallelujah Chorus. See Anne Watson Born for details.

THE NEW UU IS THIS SATURDAY!

Saturday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon in the Children’s Chapel.

Come to a morning workshop facilitated by the Rev. Erin Splaine, Mr. Barb Greve, and Kristin Cleveland. We’ll discuss what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of the First Unitarian Society in Newton, we’ll go on a tour through FUSN’s nooks and crannies, and we’ll meet the chairs of FUSN’s Board of Trustees and Operations Councils and members from the Religious Education Committee, the Music Committee, the Social Action Committee, and other FUSN groups. Child care will be provided.

Please RSVP to Kristin, member_services@fusn.org, by Friday night, so she can have plenty of coffee and bagels available on Saturday morning. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Children’s Chapel. Workshop will be done by 12 noon.

SPRING FUSN FUN NIGHTS

May 4 and June 1 - There will not be a FUSN Fun Night in April, but there **will** be FUSN Fun Nights in May and June. What’s a FUSN Fun Night? A night when you can show up at FUSN any time between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m., have some pizza, play some games, enjoy music, and just have an opportunity to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere with other FUSN friends.

How it works: Bring a few dollars for pizza (approx. \$4 per person, a little more or less depending on appetite), or bring an item to share pot-luck style (veggie sticks, salad, fruit, dessert, etc.).

If you’d like, you may also bring a favorite game, a musical instrument, and/or a copy of Rise Up Singing. We meet & eat in the Parish Hall, and if the weather is pleasant, we’ll also hang out at the playground. If it rains, we have crafts or other indoor activities for the little ones.

So come to FUSN on Friday, May 4, and Friday, June 1 to catch up with long-time FUSN friends and meet new ones.

No reservations are necessary, but if you have questions, feel free to contact Kristin at member_services@fusn.org.

SECOND COLLECTION

On Sunday April 1 we will have a second collection for **East Boston Ecumenical Community Council**. Questions and Answers in the Alliance Room at 11:45



Founded in 1978 to promote racial harmony in response to the Boston school busing crisis, the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) is a neighborhood-based organization that today promotes the advancement of Latino immigrants of all ages through education, services, advocacy, community organizing, and leadership development. Latinos constitute approximately 50% of the residents of East Boston. EBECC's programs include:

- helping immigrants to secure work permits, documented immigration status, green cards and citizenship;
- providing students at the East Boston High School with homework assistance, computer access, counseling and field trips;
- providing leadership opportunities for young people to advocate for immigrants' rights such as the passage of the Dream Act;
- conducting ESL classes for adults, especially Latinas, by providing child care;
- conducting voter registration drives; and
- helping parents advocate for the needs of their children attending the Boston Public Schools.

More information about EBECC can be found at www.ebecc.org/english/about.htm.

CONNECTIONS

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Greater Boston Food Bank. Join our group of FUSN members and friends for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank on Saturday, March 17. We carpool from the FUSN parking lot at 8:45 a.m., back before 1:00 p.m. You don't have to be a leprechaun to join us -- just someone who wants to do something concrete about hunger and malnutrition in Massachusetts. Please let Judy Zacek know if you plan to come this month, [see contact info in online directory].

Congregational Discussion of a critical spiritual/legal issue. The Death with Dignity group at FUSN, part of our social action program, is hosting a discussion on Sunday, April 1, in the Chapel at 11:45, concerning the upcoming ballot initiative to legalize physician-assisted suicide. We hope to place a resolution before the congregation at this year's Annual Meeting, and we want to prepare everyone for a thoughtful consideration of that proposal. Be part of it - be there!

-Barney & Eileen Freiberg-Dale & Kate Mason

UU United Nations Office Spring Seminar. High school students and adults from Canada and all 50 states (typically 150 each) attend this exciting event dealing with international issues. Attendees go to tour the United Nations and attend sessions of one of the agencies at the UN. Each year students typically offer provocative resolutions and actions, which are proposed and voted. Youth and youth advisors stay at one of the Manhattan-based UU congregations while learning, connecting with others, organizing and mobilizing. Not only do youth attend the conference, but many also take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. The April 12-14, 2012 UU-UNO Spring Seminar will be on the topic of "Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers of Race and Immigration."

Contact Peter Smith [see contact info in online directory] if you are interested in attending or getting more information.

Save the Date: Saturday, June 9, FUSN Marches in the Boston Pride Parade. Parade begins at Noon (finishes by 3:00). Marchers often attend the worship service at the Arlington Street Church at 11:00 a.m., and then meet the rest of the FUSN marchers by noon at the start of the parade. Marshals for this year's parade are Amy Konary, Marcia Cruz, and Bobbie Sproat. Kristin Cleveland can also answer questions (email her at member_services@fusn.org). The theme for the 2012 Pride Parade & Festival is "Celebrating 30 Years of Worldwide Pride Movement."

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on March 18 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. Mark your calendars for the Next Breakfast Dates: April 8; May 20.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly **Vespers service** with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday April 8 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. Upcoming service: May 13.

Deadline for next Newsletter is March 27 at 9:00 a.m.

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