



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 24 - April 6, 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

March 24 - "Once We've Started..."

Rev. Erin Splaine

March 31 - Easter Intergenerational Service

April 7 - Youth Service

April 14 - "Mercy Now" - Rev. Erin Splaine

THE JOY OF JOINING

FUSN will hold its spring Welcome New Members Celebration on Sunday, May 19, with a breakfast for new members from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., followed by an introduction of new members during a brief ceremony at the beginning of the worship service. If you have been coming to FUSN long enough that you now consider this place to be your faith community, it may be time to make your membership official. To become a member, sign an "Intent to Join" card, available at the Welcome Table or from Fran or Kristin, and submit that card, along with a brief biography of yourself, to Kristin.

The New UU: A Workshop for Newcomers and Others Interested in Membership at FUSN

Facilitated by the Rev. Erin Splaine, Perry Montrose, and Kristin Cleveland

Come meet other people who are relatively new to FUSN, explore UU values and questions, learn about FUSN's history and current activities, tour our fascinating building with FUSN expert Gayle Smalley, and have an opportunity to chat further with Erin, Perry, and Kristin.

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon. (Coffee, juice, bagels, and fruit available at 8:30 a.m.) Childcare provided. Please RSVP to Fran at office@fusun.org or 617-527-3203. Let Fran know if you will be bringing children for childcare.

A NOTE FROM ERIN

It's been a wonderful first few weeks of our Annual Budget Drive. The Fellowship Dinner was lively, fun and engaging. So many worked so hard to transform the entire building, prepare such a wonderful meal and oversee every detail to make all 240 plus feel so cared for. Thank you to all who made the dinner such a success.

The Pledge Parties, all 19 of them, begin this Friday night. The parties offer a chance to meet in small groups for connection and sharing thoughts and hopes about our beloved community. I'm looking forward to getting to as many of them as I can. If you haven't yet signed up the boards will be in the Parish Hall on Sunday or you can register on our FUSN website.

There is so much that makes FUSN the wonderful place that it is. I am honored to be a part of this community, a community so infused with enthusiasm, openness, good heartedness, and a generosity of spirit. The FUSN we create together is where isolation becomes community where we have a chance to join our lives—our hopes—our fears—our joys—our sorrows—all parts of us together so that we may feel the strength, the care and the support of many.

As I said in the Budget Drive Kickoff Sermon we are indeed onto something very good and the decision to hire an Assistant Minister for Congregational Engagement and Pastoral Care is one way we are committed to continuing what is so nourishing about FUSN. Our goal of hiring our new Assistant Minister is not so that we might do more, but rather that we might do better—more deeply—less frenetically. Our goal is to have the right staff in place so that we might preserve what is and has been so sustaining about FUSN for generations. This is an exciting moment in the life of our congregation.

We are moving closer to that goal as we move closer to our ABD goal. During the next few months the Assistant Minister Search Committee and I will be working to find the right Assistant Minister for our

Continued on next page

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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congregation. I am so thankful that Bill Duset, Rich Bryden, Lisa Gresser, Tony James and Judy Zacek have agreed to serve on the Search Committee. As we move forward please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions

A UNIQUE WORLD

During a 2010 sermon to her UU congregation, the Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz observed, “you came here not so you could make this church into a mirror of some other institution in your world. You came here out of some wild hope that you might find a way to be in the world that wasn’t like anywhere else.”

Some things that already make FUSN like nowhere else are the amazingly diverse and creative opportunities to interact with others in our religious community. Below is a quick look at the upcoming month’s activities. Join in to discover what new and beautiful ways of being arise.

Sunday, March 24: 9:00 a.m. The New Jim Crow book discussion; 10:15 a.m. Worship Service (“Once We’ve Started ...” by Rev. Erin Splaine); 11:45 a.m. Conversation with the Minister

Tuesday, March 26: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Passover Seder; 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Deep Rivers Adult Ed Class

Thursday, March 28: 7:15 - 9 p.m. Green Sanctuary Actions to Stop Climate Change

Friday, March 29: Evening: Tenebrae Service

Sunday, March 31: 10:15 a.m. Multigenerational Easter Service

Tuesday, April 2: 7:30 -9:00 p.m. Deep Rivers

Saturday, April 6: 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon The New UU Workshop

Sunday, April 7: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service (annual Youth-Led Service)

Tuesday, April 9: 7:30 - 9 p.m. Deep Rivers

Sunday, April 14: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service (“Mercy Now” with Rev. Erin Splaine & YPC Rebecca Hinds); 11:15 a.m. Conversation with the Ministers

Tuesday, April 16: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Deep Rivers

Saturday, April 20: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Sunday, April 21: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, April 23: 7:30 - 9 p.m. Deep Rivers

Friday, April 26: 5:30 - 9 p.m. FUSN Fun Night (Potluck & Games Night for All Ages)

Varied dates: Pledge parties

Ongoing activities: including choirs, youth group, tennis group, chalice circles, bible study, poetry groups, book groups, womens groups, mens groups, community breakfasts, vespers, and committees (see FUSN Calendar at www.fusn.org for more details)

FELLOWSHIP DINNER THANK-YOU’S

Almost 100 multi-generational volunteers and 230+ attendees made the Fellowship Dinner a great success. Once a year to get together for connecting, food, beverage, music, dance- all at no fee- WOW! We gratefully and exuberantly thank the following people for their help:

Dinner Party Configurations: Alice Wood
Decorations and Set-up: Barbara Deck, Nancy DuVergne Smith, Judy Friedman, Susan Haeseart, Clare Kastner, Bill Kelley, Betsy Leavitt, Nancy Mattei, Cindy Orrell, Kelly Robertson, Sharon Sisskind,

Lighting Design and Installation: Alex Robertson and Breezy Zhou

Name Tags: Angela Solet, Rachel Viscomi

Serving: Liam Axon, Caroline Bass, Michael Costello, Ruslan Crosby, Molly Devine, David Flynn, Will Goldsmith, Henry Groves, Will Groves, Julianna Lakomski, Matthew LaRosee, Maite Manthei and her friend Olivia, Ruby Mayer, SeanRoss McClinchy, Adela Miller, Theo Moore, Daniel Paydarfar, Andrew Riak, Alex Robertson, Rachel Shereda, Sam Shereda, Mei Smith Sirdevan, Mateen Taba, Ian Teare Thomas.

Serving Supervisors: Carol Reichert and Jerry Shereda

Party Hosts: Laurel Farnsworth, Meg Holland, Neil Klinman, Mindy Scharlin, Gayle Smalley and Judy Curby, Bobbie Sproat and Jud Leonard, Norm and Kate Thibeault,

Babysitting: Katie Asch, Margaret Beebe-Center, Sara MacGaffey

Music: Arthur Anderson and the rockin’ White Collar Crime band

Menu and Food: Alan Crosby designed the menu, provided most of the recipes, and served as Head Chef. Ron Margolin provided the other recipes and supervised the prep work. Sous chefs were Barbara Bates, Ruth Comstock, Judy Curby, Isatu Crosby, Madison Crosby, Nanah Crosby, Concetta Daurio, Dana Hanson, Dot Jacobson, Jacqui James, Jonathan Lilienfeld, Lili Margolin, Peter Margolin, Seth Margolin, Jim Matthiesen, Megan McA’Nulty, Pam McA’Nulty, Vanessa McClinchy, Krishna Rao, Sue Skoler, Nancy Wrenn, and Judy Zacek

Coffee Makers: Mike Arnott, Maura Hess-Mahan
Clean up: Jeannie Chaisson, Bill Kelley, Deborah Lawson, Jim Matthieson, Vanessa and Gavin McClinchy, Naomi and Eric Olson,

Enormous thanks go to the FUSN staff: Fran Clancy, Kristin Cleveland, Rebecca Hinds, Perry Montrose, Erin Splaine, and Beth Walton, who’s assistance was paramount and gracious. We hope we didn’t miss anyone because all the help was so appreciated and necessary. Above and beyond for everyone. With much gratitude, in fellowship,

Ruth Comstock and Andrea Kelley, Fellowship Dinner 2013 Co-Chairs

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I have been listening to the testimonials during services with great enthusiasm and have been inspired to share my story of how I came to find FUSN.

After years of city living I decided to move my growing family outside of Boston. Active UU's, we decided to church shop and find a UU community that was right for us. After visiting several UU congregations we discovered FUSN. The first service we attended was the Coming of Age Service, and I was so impressed with the articulate young people; I could never imagine getting up and speaking so eloquently about my spiritual beliefs in front of so many people when I was their age. I knew then that FUSN was on to something. I looked down at my small children, Alison, still a baby and Michael a toddler and thought that this is the place they need to be. The deal was sealed for me when I met Brenda Roberts, who kindly welcomed us during coffee hour. It was then that we decided to move to Newton.

That was a very long time ago; we never left. Michael and Alison both went on to graduate from the Coming of Age program, making me a very proud parent. They are both now very active in the Youth group and help out in the RE program. Over the years I have been involved in various committees, taught in the R.E. program, and served as a lay minister and most recently as a Board Member. FUSN has become an integral part of our lives. In giving to our community, we have received so much as our lives have been graced with community support, connection, and most especially love. As Erin says, "it is good to be together"... and I am ever so grateful for this community.

-Margaret Costello

UPCOMING EVENTS

Understanding Climate Change. In our final series "Actions to Stop Accelerating Climate Change" Bill Moyers interviews Naomi Klein, author of the international best seller *The Shock Doctrine*. She explains how the destruction of Sandy and other storms can be a catalyst for the transformation of our politics and economy. Join us on March 28 at 7:15 p.m. in the Children's Chapel to reframe our thinking so that effective actions to address this problem become clearer to us. The discussion following the video will be led by Eric Olson. *-The Green Sanctuary Committee*

Spring seed exchange: Vanessa McClinchy and Gayle Smalley invite FUSN's gardeners to a Seed Exchange on March 31. Following the Easter service we'll come together in the Alliance Room for a very casual event, as we share our extra vegetable and flower seeds. All are welcome -- Bring a few seeds, or maybe more, or perhaps none at all, and come away with something new that inspires you. We want to keep this Easter Day event simple and satisfying as we appreciate the new season and share the wonder of planting seeds and watching them grow.

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

April 7, 4:00 p.m., Hope Out Loud 2 celebration at the UU Urban Ministry. Contact Anne Watson-Born if you want to sing some great gospel tunes with the Boston Community Choir (3:00 p.m. rehearsal on the 7th).
music@fusn.org

May 5, 1:00 p.m. Concert to dedicate the new Chapel piano, generously donated by Jackie Colby. Featuring Deborah Selig, Jorgeandres Camargo, and Carson Cooman.

FUSN.ORG

Why Are Some Pages Invisible? Can't see a page you know exists on the FUSN website? Maybe you are not logged in. On fusn.org and other Drupal-based websites, pages that are password protected are invisible if you are not logged in. So log in to your account to see pages that have contact information, such as the Leadership List, and pages that contain financial and other sensitive information. – *Communications team*

VESPERS

Come to a Vespers service April 14 from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. You'll hear music by the Vermilion quartet and poetry chosen and read by FUSN members on the month's theme of mercy. FUSN's Vespers is designed specifically for the diversity of spirit and thoughtful meditation that First Unitarian Society in Newton represents.

THANK UU'S

Thanks to Laura Bishop and Carol Reichert for organizing the Annual Youth Coffee House. Once again, it was a big success and raised significant funds for Project Zambia. Also thanks to Ruth Comstock and Andrea Kelley for organizing the Annual Fellowship Dinner, to Alan Crosby and Ron Margolin for their usual superb meal preparation and a special thanks to the Coming of Age class for their excellent service. It truly was an enjoyable and memorable event.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS MEETING

The semi-annual meeting of Committee Chairs is scheduled for Saturday, March 30 in the Alliance Room at 9:00 a.m. If you want to hear directly from Committee Chairs what their respective committees are doing, why not stop in. The meeting is open to everyone in the congregation.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on April 7 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: May 5.

Deadline for next newsletter is April 2, 9:00 a.m.

UU MASS ACTION ADVOCACY DAY

& Acts of Faith Breakfast – April 23

Should Massachusetts lead the country on reforms of Gun Control, Climate Change and Immigration? On Tuesday, April 23, you can help make it happen. Join fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the state for UU Advocacy Day in Boston. You can choose to start your day with a breakfast with Sister Simone Campbell of “The Nuns on the Bus.” Then you will be trained with background and talking points on key legislation for this year's three top issues. Afterwards you and others from your area will go to the State House to visit your Senator and Representative. Get details and register at www.uumassaction.org/advocacy-day2013.

MONTHLY LUNCH WITH ERIN

Friday, April 19, 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.

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