



FUSN*ews*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 4 - March 17, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

March 4 - "March 4" - Rev. Erin Splaine

March 4, 4:00 p.m. - Anne Bancroft's Ordination
"In our Unitarian Universalist tradition the act that confers the title and authority of minister upon a person is a profound and joyful responsibility that is also a distinct symbol of congregational polity. When we gather at 4:00 p.m., on Sunday and you confer on Anne the title of minister thus affirming all of her hard work — all of her many gifts for her new role as minister you will be continuing a sacred tradition as old as both our Unitarian and Universalist heritages."

March 11- Rev. Erin Splaine

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

March 25 - Youth Group Service

THE NEW UU

Would you like a chance to spend a Saturday morning with FUSN's minister, director of Religious Education, and some other FUSN folks, learning what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of the First Unitarian Society in Newton? Come to The New UU, a half-day workshop on Saturday, March 17, from 8:30 - 12 noon in the Children's Chapel. Childcare provided. Please RSVP to Kristin at member_services@fusn.org so she can have plenty of bagels & coffee ready.

SOCIAL ACTION MEETING

At the Council on Social Action meeting on March 11 at 11:45 a.m., Bill Horne will make a short presentation about the work done by East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) on behalf of Latino immigrants. Latinos constitute approximately 50% of the residents of East Boston. EBECC is a neighborhood-based organization that:

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

EBECC was founded in 1978 in response to the Boston school busing crisis to promote racial harmony. Bill Horne has served on EBECC's Board of Directors for the past twenty years. More information about EBECC can be found at <http://www.ebecc.org/english/about.htm>.

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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FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Saturday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. This year's dinner is going to be according to tradition in many ways, yet there is one additional, fellowship-oriented twist. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. for drinks and appetizers, in the Parish Hall. 7:00-8:30 p.m. Dinner Parties will be pre-arranged in various FUSN rooms. The food will be prepared, as usual, by Ron Margolin and the Chefs.

It is very important to RSVP as soon as possible.

Here is the link to the Punchbowl invitation, if you have not replied yet: <http://www.punchbowl.com/parties/3486756-fusn-annual-fellowship-dinner?2986525>. The invitation asks what you will bring for cocktail hour, and if there is any person or persons with whom you would like to sit. Also let us know if you need special accommodations, such as no stairs. 8:30 p.m. - coffee, tea and dessert in the Parish Hall 9:15 p.m. - music and dancing with White Collar Crime. **Note** on your rsvp if you need babysitting and dinner, available for children 6+ under. Contact either Co-Chair with questions or if you would like to help. We need COA, Youth Group and other teens to be the waitstaff. Ruth Comstock, [contact info in the online directory]

Andrea Kelley [ditto.] This

dinner is for all FUSNites - member or not - whether you are new or have been here for years! We look forward to a fun and successful Fellowship Dinner!

THANK YOUS

The Operations Council would like to thank: **The Services Auction Team** for all of their work in organizing and conducting the Services Auction, which was a big success: Leslie Barrows, Karen Bottar, Bill and Sandy Horne, Naomi Olson, Chris Reusser, Pat and Jacki Rohan, Greg Sullivan, Kate Thibeault and Judy Zacek. Thanks also to the terrific auctioneers Denise Bousquet, Dana Hanson and Norm Thibeault; the cheerful bartenders Don Buonagurio and David Morocco; and the other helpers the night of the auction, Jeannie Chaisson, Betsy Leavitt, Bob Persons, Jon Reusser, and Mindy Scharlin. A special thanks to Paul Estin and Kate Farb-Johnson for their lively and fun entertainment. **Other Thanks:** Ron Margolin and Dwight Golann for all of their work in removing some of the old wooden cabinets from the kitchen and installing shiny new metal ones. JourneySongs for organizing and providing wonderful music at the lay led service "How We Die." Wendy Schwartz for her efforts in collecting unpaid pledges from last year.

BARB'S BANTERING

Grace Happens

Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists have long been uncomfortable with, and even adversarial towards, the concept of grace. In the European Christianity from which both Unitarianism and Universalism emerged, grace is traditionally understood as an expression of love from an infinitely kind deity towards a fallen and undeserving humanity. Such grace is the source of salvation, whether in life or after it.

For some of us, grace can be a difficult word to use and a challenging concept to accept. Our Universalist heritage was all about grace. Our Universalist heritage taught that God had unconditional love for humanity, and this love was described as grace.

Grace is sometimes present in the moments when our gratitude fails us or when we reflect upon our experiences and realize that we are not living up to our ideals. Grace is present when we feel like life is giving us an unfair challenge but we handle ourselves well despite (or because of) the stress. Grace holds us up when we can't go on. And sometimes grace is a personal extension of the power of a church community.

In the Children's Religious Education program we have created a new volunteer position, titled "Sunday Supervisor," though there are Sundays when this position might better be titled "Bringer of Grace." Imagine a Sunday when several teachers called in sick, last-minute subs needed to be prepped on lesson plans, special projects were aplenty and visiting families were attending for the first time.

With the help of the Sunday Supervisor, all classrooms were prepared for classes, teachers were prepped, projects were explained and most importantly, everyone who entered the building was warmly greeted.

This display of grace reminds us that we can live out an unconditional love in the world. And we can help to bring it into being for others.

In Faith,

-Barb

MUSINGS

"I want, of course, peace, grace, and beauty. How do you do that? You work for it." –Studs Terkel

The worship service theme for March is grace. Barb's column, "Grace Happens," gives us some thoughts on the meaning of grace for us, and facets of this big word will be reflected in the music in our services.

On **March 4**, the choir will sing Lui Collins' song "Blessed," written in 1993. Lui Collins, folksinger/songwriter, has been performing, writing and recording since the 1970s, earning international recognition for her music. And while we're making the grace and blessings connection, the choir will also sing a piece by Oregon composer Joan Szymko, "Blessing." The text, by Rabbi Abraham Heschel, concludes with "Just to live is holy."

On **March 11** we will be celebrating our FUSN family. Look for the return of the band playing Bachman Turner Overdrive. 'Nuff said.

March 18 is our Music Sunday service: "Amazing Grace – a Celebration of Good News." We'll be singing, playing, and dancing music which expresses our "UU gospel." There will be, really, something for who give their time and talent to FUSN.

"Youth, large, lusty, loving -- Youth, full of grace, force, fascination! Do you know that Old Age may come after you with equal grace, force, fascination?"
-Walt Whitman

Our forceful and fascinating youth are planning the service for **March 25**. This is always a wonderful worship experience, with the added benefit of the inclusion of music less familiar to us Old Agers!

Also coming up:

On Sunday **March 11**, at 3:00 p.m., the Newton Choral Society will present Luxurious Harmonies: Frank Martin Mass for Double Chorus and Daniel Pinkham Wedding Cantata. The concert will be at Holy Name Parish 1689 Centre Street in West Roxbury.
<http://newtonchoral.tix.com/>

Saturday, **March 17** the BSO hosts three Family Concerts. Kids under 18 are free! Family Concerts are a delightful way for families to spend time together. BSO Youth and Family concerts are compelling and interactive and will introduce young people and families to the wide spectrum of classical music.
<http://www.bso.org/> for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Join the "Open Questions" discussion: Come and be heard! The Board of Trustees invites you to participate in the first of several congregation-wide discussions focused on broad topics important to FUSN. The process of "Open Questions" is one that invites everyone to share their thoughts in a spirit of community-building and visioning, and that can help to guide the community and its leadership toward future action. Our first meeting will be held 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?

Come and eat some lunch, listen, and share! Plan to come as well to the April 29 session when we will consider questions on the topic of growth. Look for the additional information on the FUSN website or in the online newsletter about the Open Questions process, or feel free to contact Ann Woodbury, [contact info in the online .directory.]

YOUTH COFFEEHOUSE

The Annual Youth Coffeehouse is this Saturday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall! Brace yourself for this fun, youth run event that features a slew of local talent. All money raised will go to Communities Without Borders. CWB uses the money to support programs at the Chawama Family Home for AIDS orphans in Lusaka, Zambia. So please take advantage of this opportunity to help out this community.

MEET THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ever wonder what happens when FUSN Committee chairs get together? Well now is your chance to find out. There will be a meeting of Committee Chairs on Saturday, March 24 from 9:00 - 11a.m., in the Alliance Room. This is a chance for the committee chairs to provide brief updates to those in attendance on what is going on in their committees. At the last meeting in November, the group decided to open up the meeting to whomever in the congregation wanted to come, so you are all invited. We do serve light snacks, so please let me know if you plan on coming so we know how much to buy. My e-mail is [see the online directory].

-Pat Rohan, Chair of the Operations Council

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.

VESPER SERVICE

The monthly **Vespers service** with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday March 11 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—and 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 services are: April 8, May 13.

Deadline for next Newsletter is March 13 at 9:00 a.m

UPDATES TO R.E. SCHEDULE

Classes will be held as usual, unless noted below

March
11 – Daylight Savings (classes as usual)
25 – Youth Group service
Nursery - Kindergarten classes as usual
Immigration Program II for grades 1- 4

April
8 – Multigenerational Easter service
22 – Earth Day Activities for all classes

May
6 – 2012 Registration's due
13 – Coming of Age Graduation I & II
(services at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.)
Nursery - Kindergarten classes as usual
Immigration Program III for grades 1 - 4

June
3 – Last Day of classes
High School Seniors recognized in worship
10 – Multigenerational Flower Communion
Sundaes for Sunday
FUSN BBQ

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