



FUSN *News*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 22 - April 4, 2015

NOTES FROM ERIN

Every Sunday morning a member of the Board of Trustees begins our service by saying in part, “We gather here as an open community that honors freedom of belief, encourages spiritual growth in ourselves and our children, and shares the wisdom of the many religious traditions, with reverence for the earth and in service to humanity.” FUSN is the blending of individuals into a community of caring. We arrive together each having come from different beliefs, backgrounds and experiences in a shared search for truth and meaning.

Everyone has a place here and everyone is a member of our community. Yet there is another step beyond being a member of the community and that is becoming a signed member of our congregation. Membership in this congregation requires no creedal commitment; our free faith imposes no standardized expectation regarding theology, spiritual practice, or belief.

If you have just begun attending services at FUSN — I am glad you are here. If FUSN has been your spiritual home for the last few years or so — I am glad you are here. If FUSN has been your spiritual home for decades — I am glad you are here. Regardless of how long you have been connected to this community, I hope that you have found or are finding that FUSN makes a difference in your life, giving it greater strength, depth, significance and direction. I hope that you feel a sense of belonging and commitment to the liberal religious values this congregation represents. I hope that you have found or are finding here a community that is worthy of your support, your ideas and your energy.

If you are ready to explore the pathway to membership and/or deepen your connection to FUSN, I hope you will join the Member Services Committee and me for the “New to UU” class we will be facilitating on Saturday morning April 11. Bagels and coffee will be available at 8:30 – the class begins at 9:00. Childcare is provided. Please RSVP to Fran, office@fusn.org.

The class will provide a chance for you to reflect on your individual spiritual journey as well as learn more about the life and workings of this congregation and the history of Unitarian Universalism. While the emphasis is on fun, information, and getting to know others who are new to FUSN, everyone is welcome. If you have been here for a while and have yet to officially sign the membership book — I hope you will join us. If you have been a member for longer than you can remember — I hope you will join us. The more the merrier!

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The worship theme for March is: Redemption

3/22 - Music Sunday: Mozart Requiem

3/29 - Rev. Rebecca Hinds

The worship theme for April is: Soul

4/5 - Easter - Multigenerational Service

4/12 - Rev. Erin Splaine

4/19 - Rev. Ken Sawyer

4/26 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Special Collection

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Acting Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Mandy Beal, *Youth Coordinator*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Madison Crosby, *Beadle*.

Board of Trustees: Gregg DiBiaso, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Chair*, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon, Jonathan Reuman, Alison Costello and Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, 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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Here are a few updates from the Board of Trustees:

1. Membership Coordinator: The Board and Erin, in consultation with the Personnel Policy Committee, have decided to hire a new Membership Coordinator, to perform the functions that Kristin's job and many of the membership development and engagement parts of Meghan's job entailed. While we hope to return to an Assistant Minister model at some time in the future, we feel that it is premature to do so at this time. A search committee will be formed shortly, and we hope to be ready for a new Membership Coordinator to start in September.

2. Small Group Conversations: At the request of the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry organized and administered a program of small conversation groups, each led by a facilitator trained in keeping conversation focused and in helping to insure that participants are able to express themselves and are heard and understood. The goals of this program did not include groups reaching agreements, either about what they heard or about policies that FUSN should adopt; nor did it imagine preventing future disagreements. Rather, the goal was that participants feel a greater sense of safety about expressing feelings and beliefs on controversial issues.

From early February through the first week in March, forty people participated in seven different groups. The question of feedback from the groups to the Board was not clearly addressed beforehand, since the groups were not created with that goal in mind. However, in response to interest among many group participants, the Committee on Ministry shared with the Board some facilitators' general observations, as well as anonymous specific comments where participants so requested.

The Board discussed the feedback at its March meeting, and talked about what might be next in the effort to promote the healing of divisions and coming together as a congregation. There was a consensus of opinion in the Board that our major challenge as a congregation is to focus on exploring what it means to live in a beloved community in which we've become painfully aware that we don't all agree. Erin and the Board will be exploring possible ways to engage those who are interested in this kind of discussion or learning opportunity.

In addition, our ADLRE will be working with the Adult Ed Committee to research and/or develop some learning opportunities on some of the subjects and behaviors that have caused hurt and division, such as: conflict management; polyamory and diverse family structures; communications skills for talking about

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)

difficult issues; pluralism; adult OWL; Welcoming Congregation. While we hope that something can be offered before the end of this church year, it may have to wait until next year, given the research, planning, and possible training required, as well as our already full calendar for the rest of this year.

3. Bylaw proposals: As you probably know, the Board has received a proposal that FUSN adopt some language passed by the 2014 General Assembly, enumerating classes of people protected from discrimination. The initial proposal was for a new bylaw to apply to employees of FUSN. That request has since been replaced by a proposal to amend our current membership bylaw by adding the enumerations mentioned. The Board has accepted these proposals for consideration, and for the moment, it has referred them to the Bylaws Committee for study. As with all bylaw proposals, this one will be subject to study and congregational input before the Board determines whether it should come to a congregational vote in June.

We welcome the interest and questions of anyone. Please contact a Board member if you wish to talk.

FUSN PARTIES

More than a 100 FUSNites have attended a house party. Have you? Go to FUSN's Website at <http://www.fusn.org> or if you know which pledge party you want, RSVP here http://bit.ly/RSVP_for_a_FUSN_Pledge_Party. You can also sign up in the Parish Hall. We still have room in the following seven pledge parties.

Saturday, March 21, 5:30-7:30, Brian/Robin Hicks
Beer - Tacos

Saturday, March 21, 6:30, Joyce Pollock/Kevin Osborne
Asian Appetizers

Friday, March 27, 6:30, Gordon Moriarty
Hearty Appetizers

Saturday, March 28, 3:00-5:00, Bev/Tom Droz
Snacks & Desserts

Saturday March 28, 3:00-5:00, Shawn/Amy Konary
Drinks & Snacks

Saturday, March 28, 6:00, Mary White/Mike Arnott
Potluck dinner

Sunday, March 29, 6:30, Anne/Ted Hess-Mahan
Potluck dinner

If you have any questions contact a member of the Annual Budget Team: David Morocco, davidmorocco@gmail.com; Linda Rinearson, lindarino@rcn.com; Urban Larson, urbanlarson@juno.com

UPCOMING SERVICE

The Reverend Rebecca Hinds, Director of Congregational and Volunteer Engagement for the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury will deliver the sermon at FUSN on Sunday, March 29.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Reverend Rebecca Hinds back to FUSN on Sunday, March 29. In her current role at the UU Urban Ministry, Rebecca is committed to working together across difference and the barriers of race and class in order to build the beloved community. Come learn how the UU Urban Ministry does this type of social justice work every day and how you can be a part of it. After the morning service, you are cordially invited to attend a reception and “talk back” session in the Children’s Chapel where Rebecca will answer questions, talk more about the current UUUM programs serving youth and families living in Roxbury, and explore how FUSN can continue to be an important part of this work. Look forward to seeing you! For more info about UU Urban Ministry see www.uuum.org. For more information, please contact Judy Friedman or Josie Greene, FUSN Delegates to the UUUM.

Hope Out Loud 4

Bridging Communities and Families through Praise and Music

Sunday April 12, 3-5pm

Hope Out Loud is an annual celebration of community and joy held at our UU Urban Ministry. This intergenerational and interfaith performance on April 12 features children and adults from all over the area dancing and singing; it is a way for us to hear a diverse collection of voices speak their truths; and it is a time for all to sing together. “For nearly 200 years, the UU Urban Ministry has been working side-by-side with individuals and communities in Boston to create opportunities and instill hope for a brighter future.” (www.uuum.org)

At this year's **Hope Out Loud**, UU singers from congregations in the Boston area will combine to sing two beloved songs (“Draw the Circle” and “How Good!”). Children from Union United Methodist Church’s Liturgical Dance Team, and their Radical Praise children’s choir, will perform, as will the dynamic Youth Choir from Dorchester’s Greater Victory Temple. There will be lots of group singing as well, led by the gospel singers of the Boston Community Choir; so bring your voice and help us make HOPE come alive!

Hope Out Loud is free and open to the public, with a reception following. It is a wonderful and engaging afternoon – perfect for all ages.

NOMINATIONS

Seeking Nominations and Self-Nominations for a New Developing Leadership Team (DLT)

Leadership is a form of ministry at FUSN—a way to build a community that cares for its members and works toward a just world. A new Developing Leadership Team (DLT), to be appointed by the Board, will be working over the next two years on making leadership opportunities more visible and supporting individuals in finding roles that engage their spirit and fit their time constraints. This team will:

- Work with the Nominating Committee to identify, recruit and support a broad, diverse group of members for “core” leadership roles: Board, Operations Council, Annual Budget Drive Team, Treasurer, Moderator, Clerk, delegates to Mass Bay District, General Assembly, UU Service Committee and UU Urban Ministry.
- Make visible, through various media, the ministry contributions of core and other FUSN roles. Demystify the varied pathways people take to engage in FUSN life.
- Provide ways for members—newer, long-time and over time—to identify what they love about FUSN and what they long to develop and contribute.

Some qualities we are looking for in the Developing Leadership Team:

- Excited about tapping into the multitude of talent and potential in our midst.
- Experienced with one or more lay leadership roles at FUSN.
- Connected with people across FUSN or deeply in a ministry area— religious education, youth, worship, social justice, music/arts, finance, the building, and others.
- Active member of the congregation for three or more years.

We wish to select a team that reflects the diversity of our congregation and that can be inventive in building leadership opportunities for members with many demands on them. The Board will select the team in April. Please send self-nominations, nominations and questions to one of these Board members: *Cathy Morocco*, catherine.morocco@gmail.com; *Jon Reuman*, daystreet@comcast.net; *Lesley Sneddon*, lesley_sneddon@naturereserve.org

DELEGATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Board has named six FUSN delegates to this year's General Assembly in Portland, OR, June 24-28. They are: Karen Burns, Jud Leonard, Jacki Rohan, Pat Rohan, Mindy Scharlin, and Bobbie Sproat. Those named are the only nominees or self-nominees who responded to our call for delegates and were sure they could go. There are two additional people who've said they might be able to go, but anyone else who is still interested should contact Kate Mason, Jacki Rohan, or Bobbie Sproat.

FUSN is entitled to send 9 delegates, so we can name at least 3 more. They can attend either in person or online, if cross-country travel is not feasible. Several of our named delegates have said they'd be happy to cede their delegate slots to anyone who is enthusiastic and willing to serve. We'd be especially happy to send youth or young adults to represent FUSN!

Deadline for next newsletter is March 31, 9:00 a.m.



Join us for Fun at FUSN - Friday, March 27 starting at 5:30

Come for a truly multigenerational night of fellowship in the Parish Hall. Bring just yourself or come with your friends or your kids or your kids' friends. We'll begin at 5:30 pm and eat and play and dance together until 8:00 or so. Get to know other families. We need some help to ensure a fun time for all. If you have a craft you would like to help lead, you know some theater games for all ages, or you would like to help RSVP to Bill Duset, duset@rcn.com.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next Community Breakfast on April 12 from 9-10 in the Parish Hall. Our menu consists of scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, home fried potatoes, bacon, sausage, white and whole wheat biscuits, gluten free corn bread, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and sometimes a special treat. We have high chairs for the tots. The price is only \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. First timers eat free. Clean-up help appreciated. Upcoming Community Breakfast dates: May 17.

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boston
Massachusetts
Permit No. 8900

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

