



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

May 27 - June 9, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

May 27 - 10:15 a.m. - Kevin Tarsa, Intern,
First Parish Wayland

This Memorial Day weekend, we'll pause together to remember those who have died in service to the nation, and to consider the nature of patriotism, human "groupishness," and the ties that bind a religious community. Kevin Tarsa is the Ministerial Intern at First Parish in Wayland, MA and a student at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. A church organist by the age of 11, Kevin studied church music at Central Michigan University and served the UU congregation in Traverse City, Michigan for 23 years as Director, then Minister, of Music. He plans to pursue parish ministry.

June 3 - 10:15 a.m. - "Post Game" - Mr. Barb Greve
High School Seniors Recognition
Last Day of R.E. Classes

June 10 - 10:15 a.m. - "Flower Sunday"
Rev. Erin Splaine
Sundaes for Sunday
Annual Meeting
BBQ & Farewell Party for Barb Greve

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

On Sunday June 3 we will recognize high school seniors during the worship service. If you would like your senior to be recognized, please let me know:
dlre@fusn.org

BARB'S BANTERING

The blessing and the challenge of interim work is that we (congregation and interim) know when the ending will occur from the very beginning. To know where the end is allows us to take risks together that perhaps we wouldn't have taken otherwise. It also challenges us to be intentional with one another, to make sure we take a moment to pause in gratitude for the presence we've had in each other's lives. You welcomed me here with open arms and hearts and I thank you for that. I have every expectation that you will welcome Perry with the same care and openness as you did me.

Over our three years together we have explored new ways of engaging in religious education and firmed up the infrastructure of your lifespan religious education program. We have expanded the robust offerings brought to you through Adult Religious Education, seen an increase in the number of youth participating in Youth Group, gently tweaked the Coming of Age Program to better meet the needs of today's families, and increased support for teachers in the Children's RE Program.

We have shared struggles and celebrated successes together. We have mourned the death of loved ones and celebrated the arrival of new friends, both young and old. I have enjoyed connecting with you each week as you pass by my door on Sunday mornings.

One of the difficult aspects of interim work is that those of us who serve as interim staff are asked and expected to have minimal contact with the congregations with whom we've worked once our work has ended. Doing so will help you build new relationships

Continued on next page

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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with Perry while I build a new relationship with my next congregation (the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, GA). It is time for our paths to diverge from one another and our patterns of correspondence to change. At the end of June I will no longer respond to your emails, phone calls, and letters. And we will “un-friend” our Facebook friendships.

Know that I move on certain that you are destined for great things here and I look forward to hearing about them through the grapevine. And should our paths cross in the wider UU world, we shall greet one another as long lost friends.
With faith, Barb

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Many thanks to the FUSN Community for your generous donations to the newly created “CoA Scholarship Fund.” This year’s CoA Families raised over \$1000 among themselves and the gathered community raised an additional \$1400 at both graduation services. Future classes of the Coming of Age Program thank you!

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Kate Farb-Johnson & Paul Estin - Kate and Paul, who live in Waltham, began attending FUSN services regularly in Jan. 2011. Kate started attending Follen UU Church in Lexington with her parents when she was twelve, and has identified as Unitarian Universalist ever since. Paul, who grew up in Belmont, didn’t take his first step toward becoming a UU until he took an online quiz “What Religion Should You Be?” Even then, he didn’t actually visit a UU church until a few years later, when he visited UU Medford with a friend, and eventually became a member there.

Kate and Paul are both educators. Kate teaches math, science, programming, and game design at the Acera School in Melrose; Paul works at Newton South High School teaching psychology and history.

Kate and Paul met in a song circle at a science fiction convention, which tells you rather a lot about their hobbies -- both love science fiction and fantasy, tend to hang around with fellow geeks, and love music. They both sing in the FUSN choir; in addition, Kate plays ukulele, and Paul plays guitar and assorted other instruments.

Adam & Ashley Epstein - Adam grew up near Cleveland, Ohio where he had a highly musical childhood, eventually settling on percussion as his primary instrument. He attended Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. After earning a BA in Religious Studies and South Asian Studies, Adam went on to graduate

school at The Boston Conservatory. There, he earned a Master of Music Education degree and a K-12 teaching license in music. He now teaches general and vocal music full time in the Somerville Public Schools. Religiously, Adam was dedicated in the UU church as a child and later attended services at the United Church of Christ, where he learned about labyrinth meditation. He is very happy to have returned to Unitarian Universalism.

Ashley grew up outside of New York City and also went to Skidmore College where she majored in English. After graduation she and Adam moved to Boston, and Ashley earned her Montessori certification to teach 3-6 year old children. She works at Newton Montessori School in Newton Centre, MA. Ashley was raised half Jewish and half Christian in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood but felt lost since neither religion spoke to her. When Ashley met Adam in college, she explored her spirituality through meditation, yoga, and labyrinths.

When their son Tobias was born in 2010, Adam and Ashley decided they wanted to find a loving church community for him to grow up in. Since they were living in Saratoga Springs, NY at the time, they found the Unitarian Universalist church there to be the perfect place. When the family moved back to Boston, they searched until they found a new home at FUSN!

Todd & Erin Farrell - Todd, Erin, and Eloise currently reside in Waltham, and have appreciated the warm welcome they have received at FUSN! Todd grew up in Valatie, NY (near Albany). He studied biomedical engineering at the Catholic University of America (in DC) and Northwestern University, and currently works to develop new prosthetic devices at Liberating Technologies, a prosthetics company in Holliston. Erin grew up in Dearborn, MI (outside of Detroit). She studied chemical engineering at the University of Michigan and Northwestern University, and currently works to develop pharmaceutical manufacturing processes at Abbott in Worcester. Erin and Todd met in Chicago while attending Northwestern, and moved to Waltham in 2008. They welcomed Eloise to their family in July 2011, and she currently works as the resident diaper filler at Farrell & Farrell. The Farrells enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, including running, biking, hiking, and camping, although much of their recent time has been spent experiencing the highs and lows of renovating a “fixer-upper”. They are excited to be joining the FUSN community, and look forward to getting to know more members in the coming year.

MUSINGS

In June we will hear a wonderful mix of music. The choir will sing one of Barb Greve's country faves at his service on June 3 – "We Shall Be Free" by Garth Brooks. Brooks and singer-songwriter Stephanie Davis wrote the song in 1992. Brooks provided the following background information on the song in the CD booklet liner notes from *The Hits*:

"'We Shall Be Free' is definitely and easily the most controversial song I have ever done. A song of love, a song of tolerance from someone who claims not to be a prophet but just an ordinary man. I never thought there would be any problems with this song. Sometimes the roads we take do not turn out to be the roads we envisioned them to be. All I can say about 'We Shall Be Free' is that I will stand by every line of this song as long as I live. I am very proud of it. And I am very proud of Stephanie Davis, the writer. I hope you enjoy it and see it for what it was meant to be."
[Wikipedia]

The choir will also sing "Ubi Caritas" by Maurice Duruflé. This antiphon is part of the Maundy Thursday ritual in the Catholic church, and in its text is included the beautiful and universal line, *Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero* – "And may we love each other with a sincere heart." This text has been set by many composers (we sang a version by Ola Gjeilo earlier this year) but the Duruflé setting, using the Gregorian chant associated with the text, is perhaps the most perfectly constructed.

Another beautifully composed piece is "Ce beau printemps" by Mark Sirett, which the choir will sing at the Flower Sunday service on June 10. The text, by the 16th century poet Pierre Ronsard, celebrates May Day, the mid-point between the vernal equinox and the summer solstice, which in many traditions marked the beginning of the pastoral summer season. We're a month late, but it's worth the wait.

Also on June 10, our intergenerational chamber orchestra (FIGCO) will play music by Anatoly Liadov and Max Bruch. We are so fortunate to have Lois Shapiro and our other adult musicians working with our children and presenting such lovely and substantial music in our services. They will be playing "Swedish Dance," the third movement of Max Bruch's *Four Pieces for Cello and Piano*, Op. 70. The dance was arranged for the orchestra by Gabriel Antonucci. FIGCO will also play "Chant" and "Round Dance" from Anatoly Liadov's *Russian Folksongs*, Op. 58.

CONNECTIONS

On Saturday, June 9, march behind the FUSN banner in Boston's Gay Pride Parade. Meet in Copley Square by 11:30 a.m., or, if you'd like to attend the Gay Pride Worship Service at the Arlington Street Church that morning at 11:00 a.m., you can join the parade from that location at the conclusion of the ASC service. Questions? Email Kristin, member_services@fusn.org

If you want to stand out as a UU by wearing a yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirt or other SOT-SOL gear, you can order it from www.standingonthesideoflove.org. If you don't get a yellow shirt, you can wear any other bright "rainbow" colors to emphasize the beauty of a diverse community. This is a joyous advocacy event appropriate for all ages.

The Final FUSN Fun Night of the 2011-2012 year will be held on Friday, June 1, from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bring a few \$s for pizza or a dish to share. If the weather is nice, we'll have a picnic outside. If not, we'll eat, socialize, and play games in the Parish Hall. No RSVP required. Just come to be together. Questions? Email Kristin, member_services@fusn.org

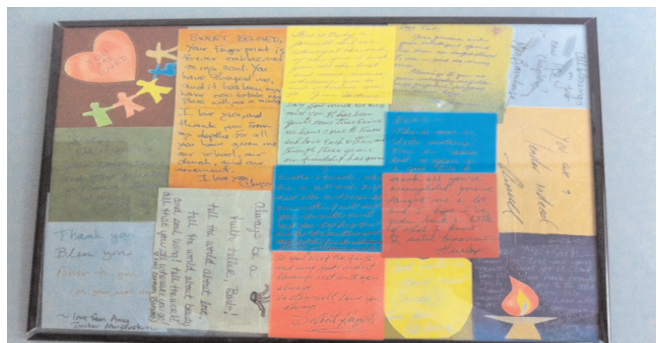
NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE UPDATE

There will be two more Newsletters going out in June. Deadlines for the June newsletters are June 5 and June 19. Our next newsletter deadline will be August 21. We return to our regular two week schedule in September. Deadline for the first newsletter is Sept. 11.

CREATE A MEMORY

Everyone is invited to stop at the Religious Education table during coffee hour and leave a (fun, cool, pretty, artistic, non-artistic) note for Barb that will be framed and added to his memory wall.

Barb cherishes the notes he has received from previous congregations and would love to add FUSN notes to his collection.



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on September 9 for our first 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: Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, Apr. 7 and May 19.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday June 10 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.

Deadline for next newsletter is June 5, 9:00 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Calling All Committee Chairs! Let the rest of the congregation know what a great time you had Chairing your committee. The deadline for your submission to the Annual Report is Thursday, May 31. Send your submissions to office@fusn.org. Thank you. The Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, June 10** after the service.

CASH YOUR CHECKS

Please note that, per our financial policies, FUSN will not honor, after the end of this fiscal year (May 31, 2012), any uncashed checks that it has issued which have a date that is more than a year prior to May 31, 2012. If you have received a check from FUSN within the last year and have not cashed it, please cash it if you still have it and it is less than six months old. If you do not still have it or the uncashed check that you have is more than six months old but less than a year, please see Fran to arrange for a new check to be issued.

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