



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

May 3 - May 16, 2015

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for May is Freedom

5/3 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Rev. Lee Barker

5/10 - Coming of Age Graduation

5/17 - Rev. Erin Splaine

5/24 - Mandy Beal, Youth Coordinator

5/31 - Rev. Erin Splaine

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Saturday, May 16, 5:30-9:00 p.m. Please join us to celebrate our community and to thank all our members for their generosity during our recent fund drive. CATERED BY Blue Ribbon Barbeque (Vegetarian options are included) and music by White Collar Crime. Childcare will be available. Please RSVP to greggdibiaso@verizon.net Include number of adults, number of children, and number of those that are vegetarians, also let us know if you can bring along a beverage or dessert.

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 Friday, May 29. Send your submissions to office@fusn.org. Thank you. The Annual Meeting and FUSN Barbeque will take place on **Sunday, June 7** after the service.

R.E. CONNECTIONS

The end of our congregation's year is fast approaching. On Sunday, May 10, we will be celebrating our Coming of Age Candidates. These impressive youth will be sharing their credos and some music with us, after a year and a half of learning about Unitarian Universalism, other faith traditions, and spiritual practices. They've learned about homelessness, in both Newton and Boston, and have engaged in community service. Through the Our Whole Lives sexuality education curriculum, they have gotten a chance to better understand relationships and sexuality, as well as think through healthy relationship choices. Adult mentors have been serving as ambassadors from the larger congregation, supporting and getting to know our youth in this formative time. We are thrilled to present to you our Coming of Age Class of 2015, who will now be qualified to become members of the congregation upon completion of this program.

On June 14, we'll be celebrating any FUSN seniors graduating from high school in a Bridging service. Please contact Mandy at mandy@fusn.org by May 31 if you would like to have your child included in this milestone.

All high school aged youth are invited to attend a field trip to Temple Reyim on Saturday, May 9 from 9:30 - 1:30 p.m. We will participate in their service, then have lunch with their youth group and a chance to speak with their Rabbi. Anyone interested in going needs to RSVP to mandy@fusn.org by May 6. Their youth will be joining us at FUSN on Sunday, May 17 from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. for a similar program.

-Rowan Van Ness

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

Board of Trustees: Gregg DiBiaso, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Chair*, Jonathan Reuman, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon, 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

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FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I Believe

Thank you to Gordon Moriarty, Dwight Golann and Dan Brody for the dedicated work you've done over the past several weeks in regards to organizing/facilitating the April 26 Congregational meeting on proposed by-law changes. Thanks also goes to those of you who helped to mediate the small group meetings, your willingness to volunteer your time and expertise to the cause of the healing process of this wonderfully diverse congregation has not gone unnoticed... Most of all, thank you to our fellow congregants for your honest sharing and respectful listening.

Spring is upon us once again, (despite the weather), and with it comes renewed hope... Hope that the energy and goodwill of these types of meetings can aid in restoring health to this leading edge community of ours. Hope that respecting each other's viewpoints will help to renew our Society's commitment to recognize the inherent worth of all people.

There have been moments in FUSN's past that have tested our integrity; there will undoubtedly be others yet to come. I believe that we are strong in spirit and will continue to thrive and evolve in this ever-changing world of ours. "The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." -*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

I believe in us.

-*Gregg Dibiaso*

CASH YOUR CHECKS

Please note that, per our financial policies, FUSN will not honor, after the end of this fiscal year (May 31, 2015), any uncashed checks that it has issued which have a date that is more than a year prior to May 31, 2015. 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 if 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.

ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

SPRING for FUSN's Annual Budget Drive! We are very close to the end of the drive and still haven't heard from some folks. Please take a moment and tell us your intentions and know that every pledge counts. We can only finalize our beloved community's budget if we all participate in the Annual Budget Drive.

If you've procrastinated, we'd welcome your acting! This is your last chance to review your pledge and if you feel it needs adjustment upwards we would welcome that too. You can pick up a pledge form in the FUSN office, download it from the FUSN website, or just email us. Your Annual Budget team, *David Morocco*, davidmorocco@gmail.com; *Linda Rinearson*, lindarino@rcn.com and *Urban Larson*, urbanlarson@juno.com

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Looking to be more connected at FUSN? We're putting together the teams for our Lifespan Religious Education program for next year and we have a place for YOU! Year after year, new volunteers to our programs report that "I really started to feel connected to FUSN once I volunteered in RE". Perhaps you will join an energetic group of 20 other adults who are helping mentor our 8th grade Coming of Age candidates ...or maybe you will bond with fellow teachers over finger paint in a kindergarten classroom...or maybe you will develop a deeper relationship with a coffee hour acquaintance while creating a segment of the Adult RE Catalog together. There are opportunities for everyone so take your connection to our community beyond coffee hour and join RE!

Stop by the RE table any Sunday in May, pick up the new 2015-2016 LRE brochure, explore the options, and find your spot.

CARE CREW

Would You Like to Be Called on To Help? If you would like to be one of those who make up our Care Crew—the cadre of people the lay ministers call on to help FUSN people who need meals if they are ill, or who need rides to the doctor, or other help in a crisis—small or large—just e-mail Greg Sullivan at gregs@sulliwood.org for more information or to sign up to be in the Care Crew database

MUSINGS

'Tis the concert season...

May 3, 3pm at FUSN: The **Halalisa Singers** present: "Vine and Fig Tree: Songs of the Mediterranean"
Featuring songs of passion and peace from Italy, Greece, Spain, Israel, Serbia, Turkey, Syria and Iraq including "Five Hebrew Love Songs" by Eric Whitacre. Tickets available at the door. FUSN member Jules Delamar will be singing!

The **Newton Festival of the Arts** begins this weekend. Here are a few of the events happening that are musically interesting – many have FUSN members involved. All event information can be found here: <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/festival/>

May 2 and May 3: **Capella Clausura, Amelia LeClair**, music director
EXULTET! Evocative music of Arvo Pärt, Eric Whitacre, Hildegard von Bingen and distinguished Welsh composer Hilary Tann. We are honored to present the New England premiere of Tann's "Exultet Terra," as recreated for Cappella Clausura for double choir and double reed quintet featuring guest artist Peggy Pearson.

May 9, 1-5:30pm **Home Grown MusicFEST**
Come and enjoy Newton's own "Home Grown" talent featuring folk, bluegrass, acoustic guitar, Irish traditional, Americana, and a little bit of rock and roll.

- **Newton Family Singers**
- Rotary Club's "Newton's Got Talents" Winners
- Birch Hill Ramblers: Goldfinger family
- Highland Glee Club
- **Constellations: Cindy Mapes**
- Loose Change: Mike Costello and other NPS teachers
- George Attisano (acoustic classical guitar)
- Mostly Newton (Irish Traditional)
- Sean Smith & friends (Irish & English Traditional)
- The Dominoes: Abigail Matthews, Alexa Firkusny, Ben Baines, Jacob Trokel and Owen Beaver
- Crowes Pasture

MUSINGS (continued)

May 9, 6:30-9:30 **FolkFEST featuring Catie Curtis & Friends**

Catie Curtis is a veteran of the singer/songwriter folk scene, touring throughout the US for 20 years and releasing 13 CDs. Her credits include touring with Lilith Fair, and winning Grand Prize in the 2006 International Songwriting Competition (out of 15,000 entries) and recording a duet with Kris Kristofferson. Her songs appear in numerous films and TV shows. She has been called a "folk-rock goddess" by the New Yorker, and has performed at the White House several times.

Catie Curtis, Rob Siegel: Folk/singer/songwriter, Waiting for Neil, Grace Donovan (NNHS), Barbara Cassidy Band & Friends

May 14, 7:30 p.m. **All City Chorus** with Special Guest Artist Jim Papoulis
Brown Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

May 17, 7:00 p.m. **Choirs and Cantors in Song**
An Interfaith Concert of songs from cantors and choirs throughout Newton, harmoniously and beautifully bringing together the voices of Newton's religious organizations. Reception following concert. Host: Temple Shalom, Rabbi Eric Gurvis
Music Directors: Cantor Peter Halpern & Joe Fort
Conductor: Joshua Jacobson, Zamir Chorale of Boston

- **First Unitarian Society in Newton Sanctuary Choir**
- Grace Episcopal Church of Newton
- LoveTones
- Myrtle Baptist Church
- St. Ignatius Church
- Temple Emanuel: Cantor Elias Rosemberg
- Temple Shalom: Cantor Peter Halpern
- Zamir Chorale

And much more - !

But if you feel like getting out of Newton on May 9 ☺, our soloist Deborah Selig will be singing the ravishing soprano solos in *Carmina Burana*, that perennial springtime favorite. Saturday May 9, 8:00 p.m. at Littleton High School (45 minutes from FUSN!). Anne Watson Born, conducting. Tickets available at the door (or Anne has some she'd be happy to sell you)

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our last Community Breakfast on May 17 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.

VESPERS

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

WALK FOR HUNGER

FUSN is Fighting Hunger today in two ways:

First, sponsor a walker on FUSN’s Walk for Hunger team at the Social Action table at coffee hour, or at www.projectbread.org. The walkers will leave FUSN at noon; let the SA table know if you can drive walkers to Newton Corner, where they will begin the 10 mile walk to the Boston Common.

Then, visit the Newton Food Pantry right after the service today from 11:45-1:00 p.m., and see where 600-700 Newton residents get emergency food each month. The Food Pantry is in the basement of the Waban Library at 1608 Beacon Street, and you’ll get a quick tour. All are welcome, including kids (granola bars and juice boxes will be provided)! Donations are welcome.

Deadline for next Newsletter is May 12, 9:00 a.m.

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