



FUSN*ews*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

November 11 - November 24, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

11/11 - "The Things They Carried" - Rev. Erin Splaine
11/18 - "Stand still, O Beautiful End" - Music Sunday
11/25 - "What Will You Bring to the Feast"
Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service

Guest at Your Table boxes will be distributed Sunday Nov. 18 and collected on Sunday Dec. 23. This supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC strengthens workers' rights, defends civil liberties and helps people affected by disasters. Gifts of \$100 or more will be matched by the UU church in Manhasset, NY.

You are invited to a FUSN Project Zambia event: Zambia: Making Hope Happen, One Child at a Time Sunday, Nov. 25, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary at FUSN to celebrate Project Zambia and hear testimony from the 2012 FUSN travelers to Zambia. This is the FUSN community's chance to hear this year's travelers share stories about their experiences and report about our partner community in Zambia, the Chawama Compound. We will hear about a grass-roots neighborhood initiative, the Chawama Family Support Home, which prepares about 70 vulnerable children for public school, and about the older Zambian students whose school expenses we also fund. All of this is made possible through our donations to Communities Without Borders. Please join us, and feel free to forward this invitation to friends, neighbors, classmates, and colleagues. All are welcome.

Conversations with the Minister - Please join Erin in the Chapel after the service at 11:45 a.m., on: Dec. 9, Jan. 13, March 24, April 14 and May 5.

PERRY'S PONDERINGS

Conall began the Sunday morning service by asking everyone to vote in the 7th grade congregational poll during coffee hour that included questions about God, hobbies, congregational participation, and life activities. Finding God in nature and in the relationships among people were two of the responses that received many votes. Spirituality in these two forms was present throughout the morning activities.

While the 7th graders were bonding by baking cookies to be voting rewards, the 3rd graders were in the upstairs kitchen making dog biscuits. They were learning about Henry Berg, a Unitarian who initiated the movements against cruelty to animals and children, starting the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and later the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Brian Gill took the children outside to meet his family's new puppy from the shelter.



Bugs from all angles
(Photo by Carrie vanderLaan)

The 1st and 2nd graders were outside walking the FUSN grounds learning about nature's changes. Eric Olson gave them a tour and then created two stations where the children met Mr. Salamander and a wooly bear caterpillar joined by cocoons and moth pupae. Wonder abounded as the cocoons wiggled when tickled.

We all experienced wonder at the power of nature during Sandy last week. The Sunday story about two ducks, Can Do and Lilac, helped us process the events of the storm and our response was to donate

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*.

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the offering to the UU relief effort in the Metro NY district. The ducks learned that through the scary storm and in the aftermath the important thing was to be there for each other. As Can Do summarized, "When we all are together we can face any weather."

The K-4 children ended the morning in the Chapel together where they lit candles for joys and sorrows. It was a time of sharing about cousins who were without power and family coming to visit or moving away. The feelings about connections gained and lost were held in the sacred space of caring community. Parents joined the children for a sharing circle capturing the experiences of the morning that would be carried into the week and potentially long after.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We come together in an open community that honors freedom of belief, to encourage spiritual growth in ourselves and our children, to share the wisdom of the many religious traditions, with reverence for the earth and in service to humanity.

-FUSN Statement of Purpose

The Board of Trustees, as part of its mission to serve the community as a visioning board, aims to highlight FUSN's Core Values. Here we consider our core value of the Inherent Worth of Every Individual.

I write these words on the eve of a hotly contested election and at a time when it may be all too easy to discount the views and perspectives of those with whom we disagree (and they our own) and far too convenient to lose track of our core value of the Inherent Worth of Every Individual. And beyond the polarized political world in which we live, this value challenges us more fundamentally to see the inherent worth in *everyone*, as hard as that may be at times. In the 7th grade's recent poll at coffee hour, we were asked our views on spirituality and divinity, among other topics. Results showed that many of us place the locus of our spiritual identity in our community itself and, in particular, in our relationships with each other. As we as a congregation seek to build and strengthen those relationships within our own community, let us not forget to apply these same principles in our broader lives.

-On behalf of the Board, Strom Thacker

CONCORD PRISON GIFT BAG PROJECT

Again this year FUSN will be contributing to this vital effort. These presents are greatly appreciated by the inmates: in their words--"*I have been incarcerated since 1996 and so look forward to receiving these packages, they are the only gifts I receive each year and I'm very grateful.*" Please pick up one or more of the following items when you're shopping and deposit them in the large decorated box in the hallway at the arch doorway on Washington St. We will be delivering them to the prison on Monday Nov. 26; the prison will not accept donations after this date. Please only contribute the items listed below:

Deodorant soap 4-5oz size

tube of toothpaste 5.8 size or larger

pad of white paper 6x9 or 5x8, 100 pages, no wire

white envelopes #6 3/4 or 6 1/2 x 3 5/8

white crew socks (no tube socks/knee highs/tennis socks)

bottle of shampoo (12-15 oz)

stick deodorant (no-roll ons 2.75 oz size or larger

pocket calendar 6 1/2 x 3 1/2 (no wire/wall/vinyl-leather calendars or planners)

Individual bags with one of each item listed are great or you can contribute any amount of any of the items listed. You may send one holiday card/signed with your first name. Handmade cards are especially appreciated. Thank you for taking time out to remember these guys; this will be one of the most important gifts you give this year

-Sarah Conn and Marylou McArdle

CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas? Already?! Although it is a ways off, the Tree Guys have already started thinking about FUSN's annual sale of Balsam Firs for your holiday decorating. In case any newcomers are reading this: we set up a lot in the back yard of the church complete with lights and signs, and sell trees to FUSNites and the general community. All the set-up, sales, and clean-up are handled by volunteers from the congregation. It's a lot of work, a lot of fun, and a significant fund raiser for the church. We will be in business from the Holiday Fair through Dec. 23. Prices will be the same as last year, and we will have more large trees in the mix. We will have a table at coffee hour, where folks can order and pre-pay for trees—receiving a \$5 discount in the process—and sign up for a shift on the sales lot.

MUSINGS

Our first Music Sunday of the year is coming up on Nov. 18. In this service we will present an eclectic batch of music which features many of the talented musicians from our congregation, as well as some visitors. The music and the readings reflect our Judeo-Christian heritage through various perspectives on the afterlife: a parable by Jesus about entering the kingdom of heaven; Sacred Harp songs about the Day of Judgement; Handel's "Let the bright seraphim" and other, more robust, angelic singing; music by Rani Arbo; and poetry by the Bengali poet Rabindrinath Tagore.

Our inspiring Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra, led by Lois Shapiro, will play the "Aria" from *Four Pieces for Cello and Piano* by Max Bruch, arranged by Gabriel Antonucci. And, with our equally-inspiring intergenerational Creationdance troupe, the orchestra will present two movements of the lovely *Brook Green Suite* by Gustav Holst. Holst composed the work for his pupils at St. Paul's Girl's School near the end of his life (in fact, the performance of the *Suite* in March 1934 at the school was the last performance Holst attended).

We have several visiting musicians: a string quartet, two oboes, and an English horn will accompany the choir as they sing the first movement of J.S. Bach's cantata 140, "Wachet Auf!" Luca Antonucci will play trumpet in the Bach and will also catapult the heavenly hosts into the stratosphere in the Handel. And singing Handel's joyful, lilting work will be some of the singers from Youth pro Musica, which was founded here at FUSN by Roberta Humez in 1970. We are so happy to continue our connection to this wonderful organization.

In addition to the music we hear in worship, there are some upcoming events featuring FUSN musicians:

Saturday Nov. 17: Newton Choral Society and Youth pro Musica presents Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Holy Name Parish, West Roxbury, 8:00 p.m.

Friday Dec. 7: *Messiah* Sing to benefit Project Bread, with orchestra and professional soloists; Anne Watson Born, conductor. All Saints Parish, Brookline, 7:30 p.m.

CONNECTIONS

FUSN Friday bridge is held every three weeks, year round, in homes. The next bridge game is at the home of Pete and Brenda Roberts on Nov. 16 starting at 7:15 p.m. New people are invited to come. Contact Pete or Brenda [see online directory].

Volunteers are needed for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank on Saturday, Nov. 17. This is a great way to do something to help ameliorate hunger and malnutrition in eastern Massachusetts. Carpool from the FUSN parking lot at 8:45 a.m., back before 1:00 p.m. Youth are encouraged to join us, minimum age is 14. If you can help us this month, please contact Judy Zacek [see online directory].

Get Your Tickets Now for the Oxfam Hunger Dinner being held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets (\$5 for adults, \$2 for children) will be on sale during Coffee Hour on Sunday, Nov. 11. Questions? Contact Judy Zacek, [see online directory].

Bombs vs. Budgets: the High Price of Nuclear Weapons, Nov. 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in FUSN's Parish Hall. Come to hear William Hartung, Director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy in Washington and New York, speak to the facts of the 5,000 nuclear weapons the U.S. has deployed and in reserve, the \$185 billion in the budget for new weapons manufacturing, and resistance of the Mayors for Peace from 140 countries who say NO. Mr. Hartung is a featured expert on major network and cable news outlets, writes for Newsday and The Nation, and is the author of several books concerning the Military-Industrial Complex. This is the third in a series of forums open to the public on cutting the military budget. Sponsored by the Fund Our Communities Not War committee of the Social Action Council. For information, contact Nancy Wrenn [contact info in FUSN Online Directory].

The Holiday Fair is Saturday, Dec 1. We need your hands and hearts to make this holiday event a success. Volunteer to help out. To volunteer: contact Sheila Ardery at sardery@gmail.com or sign up during coffee hour. Donation dates:

- Saturday, Nov. 24 - Silent Auction items
 - Sunday, Nov. 25 (after service) - Donations for attic treasures, books & gift table accepted.
 - Thursday, Nov. 29 - Appraisal of donated jewelry
 - Friday, Nov. 30 - Set up begins
 - Saturday Dec. 1 - Bring in your donated baked goods. Yummm!
 - Dec. 1 - Come to the Fair! 9:30 to 3:00 - Get Your Holiday Shine On!
 - Sunday, Dec. 2 - Fair continues for FUSNites only; Trader Jackie's gourmet meals will be sold
- Calling all musicians! We looking for spirited musicians to fill the Parish hall with song and sound! If you would like to reserve a block of time during the fair on Saturday, Dec. 1, to share your musical talents, contact Lois Shapiro, [See online directory].

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Nov. 11 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: Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 17, Apr. 7 and May 5.

VESPERS SERVICE

For Vespers on our monthly theme of Death, Vermilion and guest artist Jamie Balmer on classical guitar offer music of the inimitables: excerpts from William Byrd's intimate yet soaring *Mass for Four Voices*, an English *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* by Orlando Gibbons, Franz Schubert's deeply moving "Nacht und Träume" as sung by our tenor, Alex Nishibun, and accompanied by Balmer on the guitar. Transporting meditation and song! Join us.

Deadline for next newsletter is Nov. 20, 9:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fair Trade Expo Sunday, Nov. 11, 11:45-2:00 p.m., Head Start room. Representatives of the UU Service Committee and Equal Exchange will be talking about the UUSC Coffee Project, the fair trade movement, and the Equal Exchange Interfaith Program. Samples of newer fair trade products will be on display. Members of other congregations have been invited. Soup and bread will be served. Stop by and meet the UUSC and Equal Exchange representatives and stay for all or part of their presentations about the UUSC Coffee Project and the fair trade movement in general.

FUND OUR COMMUNITIES NOT WAR

Monday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. Meeting of the Fund Our Communities, Not War advocacy group in the Alliance Room. All welcome.

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