



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

November 24 - December 7, 2013

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

11/24 - Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service  
**Guest at Your Table envelopes** will be distributed Sunday Nov. 24 and collected Sunday Dec. 22. This supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC strengthens workers' rights, defends civil liberties and preserves the rights of people affected by disasters. Gifts of \$100 or more are matched by the UU church in Manhasset, NY.

12/1 - Rev. Erin Splaine  
12/8 - Music Sunday

**Christmas Eve Family Service** with Pageant - Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m. Please join us for a multi-generational celebration of birth of Jesus and some favorite holiday carols.

**Christmas Lessons and Carols Service** - Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for this familiar FUSN service of the reading of the nativity story and the singing of traditional Christmas hymns.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** - Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 11:30 p.m. All are welcome to gather together for this service of less traditional readings, music and candlelight. This service will give us all a chance to center ourselves after the rush of the holidays. If you would like to be one of the readers for this service, please contact Erin.

**Chime for each baby born in 2013.** If you'd like a child acknowledged at our Christmas Eve services, please call 617-527-3203, or email Fran at office@fusn.org.

## PERRY'S PONDERINGS

Responding to poignant questions in small groups, we were asked to share personal stories at the Adult Faith Development Renaissance Module. A woman and I had similar stories about putting aside our own beliefs to be there for relatives in the way they needed spiritually at the end of life. In the sharing of our stories, we experienced the transformative learning and faith development we want to facilitate in our congregations.

Renaissance Modules are learning intensives designed for Unitarian Universalist religious educators and interested lay leaders. In attending this module together, Alice Wood, Co-chair of the Adult RE Committee, and I were able to reflect on FUSN's Adult RE program in the context of transformative learning. Transformation happens when we experience emotional discomfort, but remain open to learning and form new meaningful interpretations.

The module leaders defined spirituality as "an individual's personal experience of the sacred, or that which gives life meaning." Faith development and formation is the coming together of spiritual experience and our Unitarian Universalist identity. In our community at FUSN, we have the opportunity to share our personal shimmering moments and that becomes a spiritual experience in itself.

This year in Adult RE we are presenting Topic Tuesdays that explore a life issue or transition – divorce, care for the caregiver, downsizing, and loss of a loved one. Families for Depression Awareness recently held a presentation at FUSN on recognizing depression and getting loved ones help. For each of

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**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, 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*.  
**Board of Trustees:** Cathy Morocco, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, Charlie Watts, *Chair*, Ann Woodbury, Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan, *Youth Reps*.  
**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley

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these life issues, we offer a learning opportunity and then a follow-up session focused on sharing and supporting one another. We can share what is most alive for us to further reflect on what it means in our lives. There is movement in telling our stories.

Let the Adult RE Committee or me know what topics you would like to explore and what stories you are longing to share. What is most important to you and how can FUSN be a place where you focus on processing those happenings? Let us bear witness to each other's stories and reflect on ways to frame our personal narratives that continue to shape our faith development.  
*-Perry Montrose*

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## FROM THE BOARD

During this month's Board of Trustees meeting, the main topic discussed was the Ministerial Review Committee. This committee's job will be to take a look at how our minister works with the congregation through some challenging areas of the church, what strengths we have and in which areas we still need to grow. This will help the Board to create goals for the congregation. This committee will be made up of about five members, either self-nominated or nominated by members of the Board. We aim to have a completed cast by the end of the month.

One of the concerns that Erin raised was about the building not being available for memorial services. Since the building is rented out most weekends, there have been a few memorial services that had to be pushed back to when there was an available time slot. Erin suggested saving a weekend aside every month as a guaranteed time for memorial services.

Another area of discussion was the anticipated arrival of our new minister, Meghan. We hope to create a welcoming environment in which to receive her. Part of this will be some sort of event at which the congregation can meet Meghan personally. Until then, we eagerly await her arrival and plan for the transition.  
*-Maura Hess-Mahan*

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**Film on Ancient and Modern Iran**, Sunday, Dec. 1, 11:45 a.m. In honor of the life of filmmaker and FUSN member Mansi Saboori, the Adult RE committee will show one of her films, "Children of the Sun," in the Children's Chapel. This one-hour documentary interweaves the religion and history of ancient Iran with modern Iran's fascination with a recent solar eclipse.

**A memorial service** for Mansi Saboori will be held Friday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

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## HOLIDAY FAIR

**The Holiday Fair** is Saturday, Dec 7. 9:30am – 3pm. Get Your Holiday Shine On! Come one come all to our annual community event right here in the parish hall. Enjoy a hot lunch with your FUSN friends. Stop by the wreath table and bring home a fresh green wreath decorated with bright bows. Who can resist the delicious baked goods, colorful gingerbread houses or unique cookies and cakes? Browse the gifts, jewelry and books. Tell your friends, your family and your neighbors to stop by. What a wonderful way to enjoy a crisp December day together. Mark your calendar

**The 2013 Raffle Quilt** - The 2013 raffle quilt TOP makes its debut appearance this Sunday, and raffle tickets will be on sale from Sunday until the morning of Dec. 8. Ticket prices remain the same as in previous years; \$3.00 each, four for \$10. Please note: I say TOP since it has yet to be layered and quilted, but this will all be done by the time the Holiday Fair begins. Check it out in the Parish Hall after the service.

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## ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Sunday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m to 1:00 p.m. With stress, expense and expectations surrounding the holidays, it is no wonder they often exhaust rather than uplift us. Contributing to a charitable organization in the name of a loved one honors them, nurtures our own holiday spirit and can ease gift buying stress. When you make a donation toward a specific charitable organization, you receive a card to give to your recipient which details your gift contribution in their name. It provides a perfect opportunity to buy for those folks who have what they need. Organizations represented include international and major local charitable efforts. Tax deductible gifts start at \$10.00. For tips on simplifying the holidays, check out, [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)

**New Email Address?** Time to Update Your Online Directory Listing! The FUSN Online Directory is a listing of hundreds of FUSN members, most with photos. You decide what info you share. Listing a phone number and email make it easy for members to reach you. You can add up to three photos, your FUSN history, and more contact information. The directory is password-protected so you need to log in to see the directory and to update your information. Go to [FUSN.org](http://FUSN.org) > Community Tools > Online Directory. Email questions to [webster@fusn.org](mailto:webster@fusn.org).

## MUSINGS

Since September I've been preparing four settings of the Gloria, the 2nd major section of the Catholic Mass. At FUSN, on Dec. 8, we will sing the Glorias of the Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi and the contemporary composer Carol Barnett. In Harvard (MA), we're working on the setting by Francis Poulenc, commissioned by the BSO in 1959. And in February I'll conduct the Gloria (and a lot more) in a performance of J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. It's interesting to see how these works vary – Bach's Gloria, for instance, was composed in 1733 as part of a gift to a politician from whom Bach wanted a favor – a new title and more money. It is a highly elaborate work with combinations of voices and instruments beautifully designed to illustrate each phrase of the text. Poulenc's work has serious, dramatic moments and humorous passages – of his setting of the "Laudamus te" he said, "While writing it I had in mind those Crozzoli [Gozzoli] frescoes with angels sticking out their tongues, and also some solemn-looking Benedictine monks that I saw playing football one day." Vivaldi's setting is dance-like, bright and transparent, a straight-ahead, beautifully crafted work with nary a note out of place. And Carol Barnett's Gloria, part of her "bluegrass mass", uses a paraphrase of the traditional text, and incorporates a fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo.

The Gloria section of the Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) of the Mass opens with the words of the angels from Luke 2: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace" and consequently this section of the Mass is often heard in the Christmas season. After the opening, the rest of the text is a Trinitarian doxology, both praising and asking for forgiveness. Not text we usually sing in a modern Unitarian Universalist service, but for me the music offers us much-needed joy and beauty during the craziness of the season. Carol Barnett uses texts by the poet Marcia Chamberlin for her Mass; her Gloria begins: "Glory be to God on high, Who launched the sunlight, loosed the rain, Who scattered stars across the sky, Who piled the mountains, rolled the plains, Oh, Glory be, oh, Glory be." And it concludes: "Oh, Glory be the generous Hand Who left us to our work and care, Who gave us only few commands But that we help each other bear Life's burdens. Pain and suffering ease. Oh, Glory be, oh, Glory be."

And there it is, summed up, present in all of these works: wonder, generosity, serious purpose and beauty, wrapped up in glorious bursts of joy. -Anne Watson Born

## HEALTHY BABY/HEALTHY CHILD



On Dec. 1 during coffee hour look for the Healthy Baby/Healthy Child Holiday Tree trimmed with ornaments. Each year this gift giving project is sponsored by the FUSN Religious Education in conjunction with the Boston Public Health nurses. Children whose families are not able to provide gifts are identified by the nurses. Our children make ornaments with a name and the requested toy. Wondering how you and your child can help? Visit the Holiday Tree, pick an ornament or two, buy the requested toy, return the gift unwrapped by Dec. 22.

Thank you for your generosity.

It's coming...



## Christmas Pageant 2013

Follow the North Star to your part and  
become a star



K-7<sup>th</sup> graders sign up at

<http://fusnsignups.volunteer.com/pageant2013>

or at the RE table during coffee hour



## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Dec. 15 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: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 23, April 13, and May 18.

## VESPER SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Dec. 8 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.

## SPECIAL COLLECTION

**Women's Lunch Place Special Collection** Sunday, Dec. 1. On the third Saturday morning of every month, people from FUSN meet, cook and feed hungry, homeless and/or mentally ill women. The Women's Lunch Place provides meals, shelter and essential services for homeless and poor women during the day, when many overnight shelters are closed. They create a safe, comfortable environment for over 1,000 vulnerable women each year, providing a refuge from the isolation and instability they face on the streets. The need is greater than ever with cutbacks in federal funding for food programs. Please make your checks out to "Women's Lunch Place." Thank you!

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