



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

October 11 - October 24, 2015

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

### The theme for October is Humility

10/11 - Rev. Erin Splaine

10/19 - Rev. John Millspaugh

10/25 - Wheel of Life service - Lay Ministers

### The theme for November is Belonging

11/1 - "The Little Boy" - Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed  
I was hiking up a mountain when a fleeting, but excruciating, moment set me on the path to social activism. Along the way the challenges taught me some hard lessons, including learning to be thankful for the obstacles I encountered.

11/8 - Rev. Erin Splaine

11/15 - Music Sunday

11/22 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Welcome New Members

## THE NEW UU

If you are considering becoming a member of FUSN and/or would like to know more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism you are invited to attend the "New to UU" retreat on Nov. 7, held here at FUSN from 8:30 to noon. This will be a fun, low-key opportunity to get to know others, share some of your own story and learn a little about UUism. We'll start by breaking bread together (bagels), we'll have a tour of the historic building and learn a little about how the congregation functions. Come at 8:30 for coffee, bagels & fruit. Programming begins promptly at 8:45 so that we can be sure to be done by 12 noon. Childcare will be provided. RSVP to Fran Clancy in the church office, office@fusn.org or contact one of our Member Services co-chairs- Rachel Viscomi, rachelviscomi@yahoo.com or Pat Rohan jprohan@verizon.net.

## A NOTE FROM ERIN

It's not too late! It's not too late to have fun, make deeper connections with other FUSNites and enjoy a fall weekend at the beach. As I hope you all know by now our annual fall retreat at Ferry Beach in southern Maine is Oct. 16-18— one weekend later than usual. Although the change in schedule this year might be challenging for some schedules I hope for many of you it will not be because our fall and spring retreats are consistently two of the social highlights of our year.

We are so fortunate to be part of such an active and engaged congregation — yet often the swirl of Sunday leaves me wishing I had the chance to have longer conversations than coffee hour allows for. There is just too much going on most Sundays and there is not enough time to do everything that needs to be done. Time and the chance to connect are why I for one love our retreat weekends.

If you are already signed up and going — great I look forward to seeing you there. If you have yet to decide if you can and will be going — remember the deadline is just days away. If you just can't make the weekend work for your schedule this year and are not going — know that you will be missed.

Vern Ellis has been organizing the retreat for years and here's a reminder of what he loves about the weekend and why he hopes you will be able to go:

*"What's the place like? Ferry Beach is a small UU conference center on a seven-mile stretch of sandy beach in southern Maine. It's a collection of rustic, wood-frame buildings from the last century, most*

*Continued on next page*

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

**Board of Trustees:** Brian Burba, Gregg DiBiaso, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Co-Chair*, Lesley Sneddon, *Co-Chair*, Julianna Lakomski, Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Representatives*

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, John Brennan, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

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*have been renovated! The main building has a lobby with a fireplace and comfy chairs and a wrap-around porch that faces the ocean. There is a huge new dining room where we share wonderful catered meals and have rousing sing-a-longs.*

*Who should go? Families, singles, couples, empty-nesters, parents of adolescents wanting a weekend away, parents of young children wanting someone to take a turn holding the baby—the group seems to blend in a sweet, amicable, pleasant way. Many important friendships begin at Ferry Beach.*

*What do we do? Some of us stay put at the beach, playing volleyball, tennis, basketball or creating arts and crafts all weekend. Others of us go out to the museums in Portland, apple picking, on environmental ecology trips, kayaking or to the outlets for shopping. We applaud amateurs at the Saturday night talent—no talent show and just generally get to know one another, share meals, share parenting, and have a wonderful time.”*

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## FROM THE BOARD

### A Season for Teamwork

Fall is here, the kids are settling into their school routine, it feels cold, but I know it's not even close. It is also time for one of my great joys ... getting out and cheering on the Newton North high school football team. Go Tigers! Apologies to Newton South and neighboring towns (except Brookline ☺).

Now let me get something straight, I am not really a football guy. I only occasionally commit to watching a full Patriots game, I've barely ever played touch football, let alone a formal game, and I've never managed to throw a spiral with any consistency. (I was a cross-country runner after all.) But what I do love is a high school football game. I loved it as a kid and I love it now.

A high school football game is an awfully complicated enterprise. Between players, coaches, referees, and cheer leaders across two teams there might be two hundred people down on the field. You've got dozens of folks working the gate, concessions and announcer's box. And then you have a thousand or more fans: students, parents, neighbors, and friends. There's a lot that needs to happen, and at least from my view, it all goes off without a hitch.

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## FROM THE BOARD (continued)

On the field the details of the game are often lost on me. My neighbor is a senior at Newton North and plays defensive end. His job is basically to stop the guy with the ball, whether it is a run, pass or sack. It takes all of my faculties to find his number between plays and see him get set in his stance at the line of scrimmage. As soon as the action starts, I immediately lose sight of him in the scrum and don't have the foggiest idea of his individual contribution. He once described to me how he can tell by the opposing players posture at the line whether they are about to execute a running or pass play – something utterly invisible from the sideline.

There's really only one guy on the field I can see: the player with the ball (and this isn't even always true because I usually fall for the fake). One player, usually the quarterback or a running back or receiver, is the one with all eyes on them. But I know enough to know that there is so much more going on – even though I can't see them, there are countless little, invisible contributions from each of the players that make a play work ... that make the whole game work.

One joy of a football game is to see the players on the field collaborate to make something happen that can only be done by a team. But my greatest joy is when you add in the layers of everybody else making the event happen ... the coaches (who don't do it for the money), the players on the sideline who never get in (but work hard to be ready), the parents running the concessions stand (thankless) and then the countless students in attendance but paying attention only to their friends (yet whose presence and supporting energy are vital).

It almost reminds me a little bit of our dear FUSN. We too have a lot of people and countless moving parts that somehow come together, often in remarkable fashion, to create our wonderful society. How FUSN works can be a mystery – as in football, you can watch a play, see a result and still have no real idea about what just happened. One of the great joys of FUSN is not knowing all the fine details of who does what when, but in knowing that my friends and fellow congregants are so devoted to our team that the work gets done and we are always ready to go on game day. Take care and enjoy your fall.

*-Brian Burba*

## RE-CONNECTIONS

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This year is officially under way! Children's, Youth, and Adult Religious Education (RE) classes have all begun and are off to a great start. The RE Council just gathered for a retreat and began mapping our vision for our Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program at FUSN.

This year, we are starting all of our Children's RE classes with a worship circle, mirroring what is happening in the sanctuary. The children have the opportunity to be welcomed into the worship circle, light a chalice, share their joys and sorrows, sing a hymn or a song, and share a moment of meditative silence. We are thrilled that the worship circles allow kids to have their own experience of worship and to learn and practice a number of spiritual practices. These are all practices that people of all ages can incorporate into life at home.

I am excited to announce that we have hired Ellie Foster to serve as our Children's Music and Family Choir Coordinator. Ellie is a talented musician, currently studying music therapy at the Berklee School of Music, and has extensive experience working with children of all ages. She will be bringing music into our Sunday School classrooms as part of our effort to bring more music into the lives our children and families and to give teachers support in bringing music into the classroom. Creating music is a powerful practice for people of all ages to express the diversity of human emotions and to find connection to each other, to the universal experiences of being human, and to the divine.

*-Rowan Van Ness*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Criminal Justice Speaker Series

Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., Alliance Room:

Justice Reinvestment - Presented by Ben Forman, research director. MassInc. has adopted an evidence-based model to deliver a far more cost-efficient way to make policy and decisions regarding programs.

Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m., Chapel:

Proposed changes in the MA Parole Process presented by Lead Sponsor State Rep. Dave Rogers. His bill would require the Parole Board to justify the denial of parole after a risk and needs assessment.

Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m., Alliance Room:

Houses of Healing, an emotional literacy rehabilitation program which has been offered in prisons throughout the country. Presented by Robin Casarjian.

## UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

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Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m., Alliance Room:

Evidence-based intervention program for 17-24 year old high risk men, based in Chelsea, Boston and Springfield with 21 statewide centers. Presented by John Ward, public relations officer for Roca.

Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., Chapel:

A Restorative Justice Approach to Sex Offenders. Presented by Ros Winsor, criminal justice advocate, social worker.

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**The Miracle of Everyday Mindfulness** - Meets every Monday from 7:15-8:30 p.m., in the Chapel. We will practice sitting, walking, wise speech, and deep listening. Together we will learn to generate the mindfulness energy of calm and peace, concentration and insight - allowing us to meet life's demands with more ease and freedom.

## UPDATED DIRECTORIES

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After a long layoff, we are now in the process of creating an updated directory of FUSN folks. We are hoping to have accurate, up to date information in the directory. To help insure that, we will have preliminary copies available near the Membership table for several Sunday mornings for you to look over and make any corrections to how your information is listed. So please stop by and check. If you cannot make it to FUSN on Sundays, you can always contact Fran Clancy, office@fusn.org to check on how your information is listed. Once we believe that we have up to date and correct information, we will make copies of the directory for distribution. The Member Services Committee

## HAVE YOU TAKEN THE SURVEY?

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Have You Taken the Welcoming Congregation Assessment Survey? If not, its not too late. We hope to have as many FUSN members as possible complete the survey. Please stop by the Welcoming Congregation table during Coffee Hour where you can complete a paper copy or take the survey online. ALL responses are confidential.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on Nov. 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The extensive menu includes scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, gluten-free corn bread, home fried potatoes, white and whole wheat biscuits, vegetarian sausage gravy, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and the occasional special treat. It's only \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts – Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 13, Apr. 10 and May 22.

## EVENING SONG

**Evening Song** is coming Sunday, Jan. 3, at 7:00 p.m.! FUSN's Vespers service sung by Vermilion, a quartet directed by Amelia LeClair, has a new Name, a new Time, a new Date! Our monthly service of contemplation with music and poetry chosen by FUSN poets continues every **FIRST** Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Deadline for the next newsletter is Oct. 20, 9:00 a.m.**

## FUSN MUSIC COMMITTEE

Do you love music? We are looking to expand the FUSN Music Committee

Are you a singer? Sing only in the shower? Sing only when alone in the car with the windows rolled up?

Do you play an instrument? Play air guitar after a glass of wine? Play only the radio?

Guess what - all of you are welcome to explore ways in which you can help our music program grow and thrive. We need many types of talent to help plan, publicize, and coordinate programs, concerts and workshops, as well as musicians to perform in them. Anne Watson Born needs your help!

Please join us on Wednesday Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m., in the Parlor for an informational meeting - we look forward to seeing you!

(many thanks to Jeannie Chaisson for her always-inspiring prose)

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