



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

October 14 - October 27, 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

10/14 - "That Nice Man" - Rev. Erin Splaine
10/21 - "We'll Save a Place for You: Universalism, a Theology of Love, Reconciliation and Hope."
Rev. Erin Splaine - Second Collection
10/28 - "Wheel of Life" Lay Ministers

UPCOMING EVENTS

Poetry Reading by FUSN Poets, Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Deborah Bennett, Catherine Morocco and Holly Zeeb will read poems that draw on their own Family Landscapes. The reading will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room and will end well before the Presidential debate at 9:00 EST.

Project Zambia will sponsor an after church Forum Oct. 21. Jonathon Simon, Director, Boston University Center for Global Health and Development, will be speaking on "**Success and Challenge: Development Assistance for Health in Zambia.**" Professor Simon, who has extensive experience working in Africa and South Asia, will assess how US government aid is being used in Zambia to address child survival, infectious disease, and capacity strengthening. Alliance Room 11:45 a.m. Bread and soup will be served.

FUSN All Ages Halloween Party is Saturday, Oct. 27, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Games, Haunted House, Costume Parade (with prizes in all age categories), Movie for older kids, and a Spaghetti Dinner. Please RSVP if you are coming to the dinner. Dinner is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids, maximum \$15 for a family. RSVP for the dinner or volunteer to help with the party at <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/halloweenparty>
Questions? Email Kristin at member_services@fusn.org

PERRY'S PONDERINGS

At the Ferry Beach Sunday morning worship, youth Michael, Alison, Kieran, Julia, and Ian acted out *The Warm Fuzzy Tale*. Everyone born in their village received a bag full of warm fuzzies that people freely gave to one another. A bad witch changed that by creating the notion of scarcity and introducing cold pricklies. Then a happy woman came along who inspired the children to give away an abundance of warm fuzzies. The adults were worried and made it illegal, but the children continued anyway. The story says that the outcome is unknown and you can help by giving away warm fuzzies. That is exactly what we did, passing out fuzzy balls of yarn and asking everyone to exchange strands while sharing kind words. The joyous feeling went beyond the strands.

The moment became an opportunity to feel care and connection in our FUSN community across the ages. It was made possible by gathering as a multigenerational community. Sometimes youth are asked to provide service, but at Ferry Beach they were full participants. In the cafeteria at lunch it was wonderful to see smiling people of all ages sitting across from one another with strings of warm fuzzies. Some people had been moved to tears earlier because the exchange touched that deep place of longing for connection.

That afternoon a few of us were tossing around the football when three of the children piled on each other going after the ball. Miles was crying because his ankle got hurt. His mother reminded him that he had a warm fuzzy. She rubbed it over his ankle and then Miles stuffed a few strands in his sock. He stopped crying and soon was playing again. Sometimes healing is just being reminded that warmth is around us.

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*.

Board of Trustees: Margaret Costello, Lisa Gresser, Bruce Henderson, Carl Metzger, Gordon Moriarty, *Chair*, Strom Thacker, *Vice Chair* Charlie Watts, 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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The Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 27 is another fun opportunity to connect as a multigenerational community. Our congregational life includes multigenerational interactions that we do not often find elsewhere. The sharing across the ages creates the energy of a fuller life picture that offers us a chance to be whole. We can take advantage of this by consciously creating and engaging in the exchange of multigenerational warm fuzzies.

-Perry Montrose

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, is working to highlight FUSN's Core Values. Here we consider our core value of Spiritual Growth.

In the past year, we have talked about growth at FUSN – its opportunities, its necessity, and its implications. During the two Open Questions sessions of last year, many people touched on the importance of spiritual and relational growth. As we consider growth in membership and in our mission to the larger community, we also want to consider our spiritual growth as individuals and as a community.

There is a vibrancy within FUSN these days. Our community is virtually buzzing with activity and promise. As we move forward, how can we keep our spiritual center? Do we have avenues for nurturing our spiritual journeys? To deepen our faith? To develop spiritual practices as individuals and in community? What is, at the heart of it all, sacred to us? How can we share our stories and our lives together in love?

The Board invites the community to consider these questions at our next Open Questions forum on Nov. 4 after the worship service. We will talk and listen to each other.

-On behalf of the Board, Ann Woodbury

OPERATIONS COUNCIL UPDATE

The Operations Council is now in its 4th year of existence under the trial period established by the Board of Trustees to see how the new governance structure would work. Both the Board of Trustees and Operations Council believe that we are ready to propose amendments to FUSN's bylaws to make the Operations Council a permanent part of FUSN's governance. Of course, any bylaws amendments require a vote by the congregation. Members of the Operations Council and the Board are meeting to consider what

OPERATIONS COUNCIL (continued)

bylaws changes are needed. We are also working on plans for various meetings with the congregation to explain the proposed bylaws changes and to solicit input from the congregation. We will provide the congregation with more information as our plans develop.

PROJECT ZAMBIA SECOND COLLECTION

FUSN's Project Zambia team wants to thank all of you who have supported our work to educate AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia since 2000 when the FUSN community began to support the work of Communities Without Borders in Zambia.

We're delighted to report that this summer eight FUSN service volunteers traveled to Lusaka as part of the annual visits to the communities CWB supports in Zambia. These volunteers—adults and youth—saw first hand how our work has transformed children's lives. Our Zambian students have done well, many graduating from primary school to secondary school. As you may remember, FUSN is linked to a compound called Chawama.

But as we have said in the past, success comes at a price. Each secondary school student has three times more expenses: books, bus costs and fees.

Unless we raise more funds this each year, we will not be able to support the children who started school over the last 12 years. In fact we may have to tell children and their caretakers in Chawama's preschool, which we support, that they have to wait another year to start primary school.

We are very pleased to announce that a small group of FUSN members have agreed to match, dollar-for-dollar, every donation we can gather up to \$7,000. So, \$7,000 will become \$14,000. We are lucky to be in the midst of such a generous community.

If you will not be at the Oct. 21 service, please send your check made out to "Communities Without Borders" to FUSN in advance of the 21st.

Please give as large a donation as is comfortable for you on Oct. 21 when we have our Second Collection for Project Zambia and CWB. These are OUR children and are so very deserving of an education.

-With great thanks, The Project Zambia Team

MUSINGS

Several singers from FUSN were thrilled to be a part of a truly collaborative experience on Sept 30, when we sang the 4th movement of Beethoven's Choral Symphony, the "Ode to Joy," with the Boston Korean Chorus and the MIT Chorus. The individual choirs began preparing in August and then spent a good chunk of a week singing and talking together. It was a cross-cultural and generation gap-defying event. I went from groaning about the rehearsal schedule to feeling completely inspired by the music and the camaraderie. That's what making music together can do, and we try to do that here as well. So...when I post our somewhat intense rehearsal schedule for the next month, I hope you will take a chance and come and sing with us.

The next months will be filled with music in many different styles which we hope will reflect the different facets of our Sunday worship themes. In October we'll be contemplating God while singing music by Carson Cooman, Brahms, and the gospel songwriter Richard Smallwood. The beautiful solo "Adonai Ro'i," a setting of Psalm 23, will also be sung.

November 4th will feature music from the Renaissance period, and on Veteran's Day (Nov. 11) our men's choir will debut, singing "Find the Cost of Freedom" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". Nov. 17 is the fall Music Sunday, our annual collaborative effort which brings together our many musicians, not just to make music together, but to create a beautiful worship service together.

Music Sunday is going to be a cool collection of music related to the November worship theme of death. We invite you to join us by singing with the Sanctuary Choir, the Family Choir, or the Gospel Choir; or by playing in the orchestra or band. We'll sing a movement of J.S.Bach's Cantata 140, accompanied by a string ensemble. The cantata refers to the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, which is a kind of warning to be prepared for the Day of Judgement. So we will also sing some Sacred Harp tunes and some gospel songs, including the Rani Arbo version of "Oil in My Vessel." Our intergenerational chamber orchestra will be playing music by Bruch and Holst, and Creationdance will dance. We hope to welcome some of the fine singers of Youth pro Musica to our service as well.

We close out the month on November 25 with the intergenerational Thanksgiving service, a joyful time to sing with our families - and recover from any possible excesses!
-Anne Watson Born

UPCOMING:

Nov 18 Music Sunday

Dec 15 Caroling

Feb 10 Hope Out Loud II Concert at the UUUM

March 18 Music Sunday: Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service (Avodath Hakodesh)

CONNECTIONS

FUSN Social Action has resumed work with Habitat for Humanity. Our first workday will be Saturday, Oct 20, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Ages 16 and up; all skill levels. Great fun and help build housing for low-income families. Sign up with Barney Freiberg-Dale, [see online directory for contact information].

Help Feed Those Who Are Hungry or Malnourished in Massachusetts by joining us for a morning of work at the Greater Boston Food Bank on Saturday, Oct. 20. We carpool from the FUSN parking lot at 8:45 a.m. back by 1:00 p.m. Youth are encouraged to join us, minimum age is 14. If you plan to join us or have questions, contact Judy Zacek, [see directory].

YOGA for FUSN? Think you'd like to try or get back to yoga? You can do it, and contribute to FUSN at the same time. Join Helaine Golann for Kripalu (compassionate) Yoga. Tuesday evenings 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Headstart Room. All proceeds from this class go to FUSN. Interested? For more information at www.yogawithhelaine.com

FUSN's Green Sanctuary Committee will be periodically sharing tips and research news, about living more lightly on the planet. Our first announcement follows: We are pleased to pass on an important finding from Stanford Univ. researchers: The offshore wind resource from Florida to Maine could satisfy 100% of the electric power demand of the eastern third of the United States. The lead author notes that in practice, 40% to 50% of our region's power should be supplied in this way, with solar and other sources making up the difference. As the Cape Wind case shows, offshore wind can be controversial, but it is even harder to find suitable land-based sites in the Eastern US for giant wind machines. Read More: <http://tinyurl.com/9fzbj4p>

THANK YOU

The Operations Council would like to thank: Curt Lamb for organizing summer services and all of those who conducted these wonderful services; Gayle Smalley and the chimers for the summer chiming concerts; Jacki Rohan, Jacqui James, Debby Minard, Brenda Roberts and Betsey Williams for creating the new more welcoming signs in the rear entrance hallway; and Andrea Zatarain for creating the new map of the FUSN facilities.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Oct. 14 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: Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 17, Apr. 7 and May 5.

VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Oct. 14 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 Sept. 25, 9:00 a.m.



Ferry Beach - The Warm Fuzzy Tale

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MUSINGS
