



# FUSN*ews*

## First Unitarian Society in Newton

*Unitarian Universalist*

October 26 - November 8, 2014

### SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for October is Evil

Oct. 26 - Wheel of Life Service

The theme for November is Courage

Nov. 2 - Rev. Meghan Cefalu

Nov. 9 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Nov. 16 - Music Sunday: "When we come to it"

Nov. 23 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Nov. 30 - Thanksgiving Service

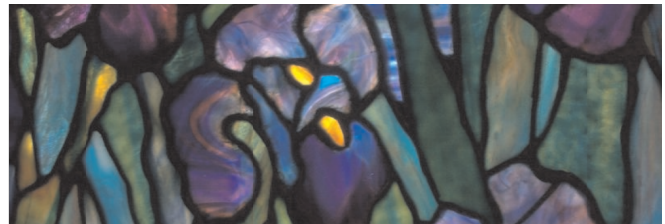
**Coffee Hour expansion** - For those who seek a quieter spot, a place to sit, or just a different point of view, our beadle is now setting up coffee in the Alliance Room after our Sunday morning service. Bring a friend and your cup of tea and enjoy a conversation in a slightly less energetic arena!

**Register for Interfaith stained glass tour:** Space is still available for the interfaith sanctuary tour on Sunday, Nov. 9. FUSN and three other houses of worship have organized an interfaith sanctuary tour. Participants will learn how each faith tradition has used stained glass to create sacred space. This is also a unique opportunity to build fellowship among our four congregations. Bus transportation is available. The group will assemble at Temple Shalom at 2:15, and then head straight to FUSN, followed by visits to Second Church, Myrtle Baptist Church. For the final visit, we will head back to see Temple Shalom's sanctuary, followed by refreshments and Q/A. The event will end at 5:30. A fee of \$5 per head/\$10 per family will be charged to help defray costs. Advance registration is requested; and for those who will use the bus, advance registration is required. To register, contact Gayle Smalley, 617-332-7075; [gaylesmall-ey@mindspring.com](mailto:gaylesmall-ey@mindspring.com)

### NOTES FROM ERIN

Sunday afternoon Nov. 16 is a day for celebration for both the Theodore Parker UU Church in West Roxbury and FUSN. That's the day Rev. Anne Bancroft will be formally and joyously installed as the minister of the Theodore Parker congregation. For those who may not know, Anne, her husband Dan, and their 3 children were long-time members of our congregation, deeply engaged in congregational life through the years. For many years Anne lovingly served as our Director of Religious Education even as she answered the call to and prepared for ministry.

The flyer below has all the details of the day. I'll be there to celebrate with Anne and I hope to see many of you there as well.



The Congregation of the  
Theodore Parker Unitarian Universalist Church  
requests the honour of your presence  
at the installation of

The Reverend Anne Beverley Swanson Bancroft

Sunday, November 16, 2014  
3:00 p.m.

1859 Centre Street, West Roxbury, Massachusetts

A reception will follow the service.

Clergy and religious educators are invited to process.  
Please gather in the parlor at 2:30 p.m.

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

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

“It’s good to be together again”. Erin’s Sunday morning greeting has been going through my mind of late, as we returned from our far- (or near-) flung summers. This year, I returned as a first-time Board member, a little anxious about having taken on this role. Like many of you, my life seems too full already, and I wondered whether this was really a good decision for me after all. But then a funny thing happened. I began to notice that, not only was I not feeling overwhelmed and tired from doing too much, I was instead becoming energized. My job is still frustrating, and my to-do list is as long as ever, but I am truly happy to be working with my fellow members, connecting with thoughtful, intelligent, and caring people all forming a close-knit community that values and nurtures our spiritual home. At our community breakfast recently, I chatted with a long-time member of our congregation. I mentioned that I am on the Board of Trustees and how much I like this work. He shared his experiences of having served on the Board many years ago. I noticed immediately his use of the word “served” as opposed to my “being” on the Board. Such an important distinction – active rather than passive, supportive rather than authoritative. I like to think of my role in the same way, and I am thankful to you for allowing me to serve.

I have the good fortune to serve with Gregg DiBiaso, my fellow first-time Board member. You may recognize Gregg from elsewhere in West Newton, as he is the owner of Artitudes, a lovely gallery just down the street. As they did last year, Gregg and his wife Valerie Miller are providing FUSN a special opportunity to do some early holiday shopping with the added benefit of contributing to FUSN’s operating budget.

On Sunday, Nov. 2, beginning immediately following services and running until 4:00 p.m., Artitudes will contribute 20% of ALL of that day’s sales to FUSN. There will also be refreshments served until 1:00 p.m. Please join me there, and please thank Gregg and Val for their generous support of our beloved community!

*-Lesley Sneddon*

## RE-CONNECTIONS

Beth and I have been visiting the various different religious education (RE) classes and have been amazed by conversations about the difference between fairness and equality, the collaboration between classmates in constructing a Sukkah for the Jewish festival of Sukkot, new kids eagerly participating in classes, and teachers asking great questions of young people and themselves. Our high school youth are engaged in our youth group and serving as class aides in the children’s RE classes. I’ve heard great reports on a number of the Adult RE classes as well, where adults are committing to their own deepening of faith and exploring the world around us. What a blessing it is to come together each week! Thank you for all you do to get your children and yourselves to church week.

Ferry Beach was another wonderful opportunity to come together, and it was so great to see people of all ages playing and enjoying each other. It is so great to be able to spend a whole weekend together. I hope you all are saving the date for Sandy Island--Memorial Day Weekend--so we can come together again. In the meanwhile, our RE Council is actively pulling together our RE Circles to help facilitate justice activities, social events, and connections within our congregation. Please let me know if you are interested in being involved in any of these committees, and stay tuned for more opportunities to come together.

Our lives in this day and age are as busy as they’ve ever been, and it can be hard to find the time and energy to be together. Our FUSN community has really shown me that we want you to join us, because life is so hectic. It’s beautiful to see the ways that we all care for one another in this community. Our community and our covenant--the ways that we are together--are just as important as curricula in faith formation.

*In faith, -Rowan*

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**Looking For Readers for Nov. 16** - The Music Sunday service on November 16 will include a group reading of Maya Angelou’s wonderful poem, “A Brave and Startling Truth”, written in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN.

Please be in touch with Anne Watson Born at [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org) if you are interested in reading.

## GREEN EVENTS AT FUSN

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Soon the Green Sanctuary Committee will submit our Application for Certification to the UUA. We are making the final updates. Thank you to the BOT and FUSN members for the support and the many ways you individually have participated in leading and attending events. We invite you to continue to contribute your ideas and time.

A sampling of GSC events - Endocrine disruptors information was first presented at a well-attended panel on a recent Sunday. This important information about chemicals in our homes was next presented at Ferry Beach. If you missed the handouts, you can stop by the GS table at coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 2nd. Additional opportunities to learn about this topic are being planned. On a related topic the film *Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?* will be shown in the Children's Chapel at 7:30, Thursday, Nov. 6. With a light touch and even an occasional chuckle, you can learn the dangers of plastics and how to wean them from your lives. On a different environmental concern, plans are being made for a garden at FUSN that will contain native plants that attract and support monarch butterflies as well as other critters. Planning will continue on Monday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 pm. Watch the listserve for more details. There will be many opportunities to join this activity.

Also at coffee hour on Nov. 2, you can pick up packets of letter-writing information supplied by the Climate Advocacy Group in Newton (CAGN). Letters to policy makers are effective - the more the better. As Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, and the Rev. Bill Schulz, President and CEO, UUSC, have stated, "We cannot remain silent in the face of such a threat." More information about the UU response will be forthcoming.

*-Carrie van der Laan, on behalf of the Green Sanctuary*

## DINNERS FOR 7

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Sign up Today for Dinners for 7! A Dinner for 7 is a potluck in someone's home - a great opportunity to get to know a small group of FUSN friends in a casual atmosphere. A sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Table in Coffee Hour. Dinner Dates include: Nov. 1, Nov. 8, and Nov. 15 and three more to follow.

## EXCITING UPCOMING EVENT!

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Author of *Waking Up White* to Speak at FUSN!

Saturday, Nov. 1, 4:30-7:30 p.m. *Waking Up White*, by Debbie Irving is an honest, unflinching exploration of race and personal identity told with honesty and humility. The author shares her own story of transformation-opening herself up to the realities of racism and the unintended consequence of white privilege. As she confronts her own fears and mistakes, she gleans many useful lessons and tips that can help others move from confusion and avoidance to constructive engagement and courageous action. Her story is both engaging and challenging. Copies of her book will be available for purchase on Nov. 1 as well as at Coffee Hours on Sundays before the event.

Schedule for Nov. 1:

4:30 p.m. - Author Presentation

6:00 p.m. - Pizza Dinner & Conversation

7:00 p.m. - Closing Thoughts

Please RSVP to Fran Clancy, [office@fusn.org](mailto:office@fusn.org) (and if you need childcare let her know) so we have an accurate count for ordering pizza. A \$5.00 donation to help cover costs is gladly welcome as are contributions of salad or desserts to share.

## CONNECTIONS

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This summer, FUSN member Rosie McInnes will be co-leading a trip with Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The trip will include meetings with Israeli and Palestinian rights groups, peace activists, politicians, scholars and business people, as well as visits to important historical and religious sites and homestays with Palestinian families. People of all ages have benefited from highly informative, often emotional trips to the region, many returning to become activists in their congregations and elsewhere. Rosie, currently a junior at Bryn Mawr College says, "Working to understand the trauma that both Israelis and Palestinians have experienced is the most powerful thing I gained from this trip, and what I hope to share with others." Please get in touch with Rosie if you are interested in the trip, have questions or want more information! Scholarships also available. Rosie's e-mail is [rmcinn@brynmawr.edu](mailto:rmcinn@brynmawr.edu).

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our Community Breakfast on Nov. 9. 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. 14; Jan. 11; Feb. 8; March 8; April 12, May 17.

## VESPERS AT FUSN

Second Sundays, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11; 7:30 -8:00 p.m. Director: Amelia LeClair. This is the fourth year for Vespers at FUSN. If you haven't found it yet, we encourage you to come discover this hidden treasure.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is **Nov. 4**

**New Socks and Underwear Needed!** (or checks made out to FUSN) Accepted Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9 at coffee hour. On Nov. 14 and 15, this years Coming of Age class will be taking part in the City Reach program of Ecclesia Ministries. This program helps to feed, clothe and offer support and comfort to Boston's homeless while educating volunteers about homelessness. COA candidates will be collecting new men's/unisex socks and underwear during coffee hour on Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9. We will also be collecting toiletries, gently used backpacks and other clothing items. Checks made out to FUSN (with Ecclesia in the memo) will also be accepted. Please look for the decorated boxes near the Social Action table during coffee hour. Thanks for your generosity! COA class 2014-2015

**The FUSN Bridge group** is always looking for new members. The group meets about every 3-4 weeks on Friday evening in each others homes (non-Fusnites are also welcome) The group has folks at all levels of play, so beginners to advanced are welcome. About half of the group has regular partners and the other folks mix and match, so you don't need to come with a partner. For more information contact Brenda Roberts, bnroberts@comcast.net

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