



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

October 27 - November 9, 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

10/27 - Wheel of Life - Layed service
11/3 - Rev. Erin Splaine
11/10 - Rev. Erin Splaine

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/24 - 7:30 p.m. - Ghosts of JeJu
10/25 - 7:00 p.m. - Environmental Film Series
10/26 - 2:00 p.m. - Noreen Kimball Memorial Service
10/27 - 4:00 p.m. - FUSN Halloween Party
10/28 - 7:30 p.m. - FUSN Tai Chi
6:00 p.m. - Insulation Panel
10/31 - 7:30 p.m. - Green Sanctuary

Fund raising at FUSN - a reminder. In a community whose members actively seek to make a better world, questions can arise about raising money at FUSN or through the FUSN listserv. We do have a policy governing this (see 2010-06 on our website), but here are some general guidelines to remember. All fund raising by RE classes or groups must be approved by our DLRE, Perry Montrose, or the RE Council. Major fund raising efforts should come through our Council for Social Action, which is charged with helping us to focus our activities in response to priorities set by the congregation. Other fund raising activities should be brought to the Operations Council for approval. Once approved, any fund raising conducted during Coffee Hour must be conducted from a table; nobody should ever be soliciting people individually. Questions? Contact Jeannie Chaisson for the FUSN Operations Council [see directory]

PERRY'S PONDERINGS

Can you recall a special moment in a worship service? How would you describe yourself in one word?

These were two of the questions that we answered in the "ball pit of questions," an inflatable child's pool filled with colorful plastic balls that had questions written on them. I remembered the time when a little girl made a pipe cleaner bouquet of hearts and handed it to me in the middle of an RE Sunday worship service, expressing the heart of the matter.

The "ball pit of questions" was one of several stations of creative faith formation at the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Fall Conference that I attended this past weekend in St. Paul, MN. Unitarian Universalist religious educators from every region of the U.S. and Canada gathered to share ideas and be inspired to take leaps in our meaningful work.

The Fahs Collaborative: A Laboratory for Leaders in Faith and Learning, housed in the Meadville Lombard Theological School, was the focus of the conference. Sophia Lyon Fahs was a revolutionary Unitarian educator in the early 1900's who transformed religious education into the exploration of life's big questions, rather than indoctrination. Our workshops, worship, discussions, and activities at the Fall Conference gave us a view of how religious education can help people of all ages find their own spiritual growth, negotiate life passages, and connect in the world we live in now.

I facilitated one of the "collaboratory" small group discussions on "Full Week of Faith." We brainstormed the opportunities and challenges of

Continued on next page

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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expanding faith formation into daily life through creative integration. Unitarian Universalist personal and collective spiritual exploration is not just a Sunday classroom experience; it is an integral part of our lives. The LREDA conference invited us to consider how to further those connections in our congregations.

In the ball pit, our one-word descriptions of ourselves led to further explanation and deeper sharing. At the end of that activity, our group added our own questions to the mix. In dynamic religious education, the activity is a springboard to interaction and discovery. It is our engagement that gives it life and creates the real energy that spurs growth. As we continue to evolve religious education at FUSN, I invite you to share your story and the essence of your creativity. What brings the meaning of Unitarian Universalism into your life and how can we add to that flow?

-Perry Montrose

FROM THE BOARD

Our FUSN and Newton communities have experienced deep losses in recent weeks. We are reminded of the fragility and the beauty of life. May our community be a source of healing for all. Let us reach out in love to those around us. May we become, as Ram Dass has written, “hollow reeds for the healing music of life”.

-Ann Woodbury

FUSN ART SHOW

Our FUSN Art Show is Saturday, Nov. 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – and Sunday, Nov. 10 from coffee hour to 4:00 p.m. Featuring 15 FUSN artists, this is our first show in 3 years and offers a wide variety of mediums: jewelry, pottery, paintings, photography, quilts, and much more! Wonderful gifts & keepsakes - plan your holiday shopping! Plus 25% of all sales to benefit FUSN! Questions? Contact Bev Droz [see directory].



FUSN HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday, Oct. 27, 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m., Potluck dinner starting at 5:00 p.m. Bring a hearty dish to share.

Haunted House (created by our youth)

Costume Parade, Games & Prizes.

RSVP at <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/halloween13>

or 617-332-3438



CONNECTIONS

\$5 off if you get your tickets at coffee hour at the Social Action table! “Smart, funny and informative. Like Rachel Maddow and Jon Stewart with guitars.” This is one description of “Emma’s Revolution”, the duo who will perform a benefit concert for UU Mass Action on Friday, Oct. 25. The concert will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wakefield at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Purchase tickets at <http://www.uumassaction.org>.

Special Shopping Event to Benefit FUSN Sunday

Oct. 27. New FUSN Members Valerie Miller and Gregg DiBiao, owners of the Artitudes gallery near the West Newton Cinema, are offering a private shopping event immediately following services on Oct. 27 until 1:30 p.m. They will then remain open until 4:00 p.m. — and 20% of sales that day will be contributed to FUSN! Think about upcoming holidays and helping your community at the same time. Please mark your calendar and join us for free refreshments and fun.

Newcomers’ Potluck. Newcomers are invited to a potluck dinner at the home of FUSN members Bobbie Sproat and Jud Leonard on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be available upon request. Come talk with other newcomers who are interested in Unitarian Universalism and FUSN. There will be time to discuss our congregation’s services and activities and to ask questions, as well as time just to get to know one another. RSVP to Bobbie Sproat bsproat@penfield.fm to tell us if you can come and what you’d like to bring (an appetizer, main dish, side dish or dessert that serves 6-8 people). We’ll provide beverages. Since space is limited, please sign up as early as possible to secure your place. Details: the address is 220 Dorset Road, Waban. You may park on the street. Questions: call Bobbie [see directory].

CONNECTIONS (continued)

New Socks and Underwear Needed! On Nov. 8 and 9, this year's 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 socks and underwear for men and women during coffee hour, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. 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 2013-2014.

All the Chalice Circles will start the third week of Nov. 17- 21 and continue the third week of each month through May 2014. An email has been sent to the FUSN Business and General list. Please follow instructions and sign-up now. Groups will be formed after the facilitators meeting Nov. 3. If you have questions contact Brenda Roberts, [see online directory].

Active Hope: Revive your connection with nature and the web of life. Are you discouraged, overwhelmed, or worn out about climate change? Are you feeling powerless in the face of the enormity of our global situation? How would you like to find new energy, tell a new story? Join us as we explore Joanna Macy's approach, "The Work that Reconnects." The central goal is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the systemic, self-healing powers in the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization. Our group will also draw on recent material from Mary Pipher. This new group is for anyone who is already active in climate advocacy work and wants to recharge and renew themselves. It is also for anyone who is considering becoming active in climate change advocacy for the first time or returning after a break. We will meet monthly six times for 90-minutes each session. Come and experience it! It might be just what you are seeking. The first meeting is Nov. 12 in the Children's Chapel from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. RSVP one of the leaders: Wendy Haskell, [see online directory]. Holly Zeeb, [directory]; Jeff Baker, [directory]

HOLIDAY FAIR

Call for Volunteers! Sign up is this Sunday to work at a Holiday Fair Table. We need your hands and hearts to make this holiday event a success. Volunteer to help out. Projects include: fair set up, working at a table or cleaning up, the more hands the merrier! Tables include books, baked goods, wreaths, jams and jellies, jewelry, fair trade coffee, gifts, silent auction, toys and games, children's activities, sit-down hot lunch, quilt raffle, attic treasures, and live music! To volunteer: contact Sheila Ardery at sardery@gmail.com or sign up during coffee hour. Watch the FUSN list serve for more event updates. Dec. 7 - Come to the Fair! 9:30 to 3:00 - Get Your Holiday Shine On! Sunday, Dec. 8 - Fair continues for FUSNites only; Trader Jackie's gourmet meals will be sold. New this year. Sign up online with [ivolunteer!](http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/holidayfair2013) Its easy to use

Calling all interested musicians! We are 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. 7, to share your musical talents, contact Lois Shapiro, [see directory]

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Erin Splaine, Minister

Erin is usually in and around FUSN Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for daytime and evening appointments/meetings. She tries to keep Friday and Saturday reserved for sermon writing and preparation for Sunday service. Monday is her day-off. Please let Fran know if you would like to make an appointment.

Perry Montrose, Director of Lifespan Religious Education Ministries is typically off on Mondays. Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. He is happy to speak or meet with you anytime, please call or email to make an appointment.

Beth Walton, R.E. Assistant
Monday, Tuesday and Sunday, call for appointment

Rebecca Hinds, Youth Coordinator
Sundays 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fran Clancy, Administrator
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anne Watson Born, Music Director
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 12:00-7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Nov. 3 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. 15, 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, Nov. 10 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.

THE TREE TEAM



The Tree Team has begun planning for 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.

Beginning Nov. 10, we will have a table at coffee hour every Sunday, 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. The trees are scheduled to arrive this year on Dec. 3—mark that date on your calendar—and we will be open for business starting the weekend of the Holiday Fair.

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