



# FUSN *News*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

*Unitarian Universalist*

October 28 - November 10, 2012

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

10/28 - "Wheel of Life" Lay Ministers

11/4 - "A Heart-lode For Each Of Us"

Rev. Erin Splaine

11/11 - "The Things They Carried" - Rev. Erin Splaine

11/18 - Stand still, O Beautiful End: Music Sunday

## NEW SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR NEEDED!

On Nov. 16 and 17, 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 men's/unisex socks and underwear during coffee hour on Nov. 4 and 11. We will also be collecting toiletries and gently used backpacks. 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 2012-2013

## STAYING IN YOUR HOME

Tuesday- Nov. 13-7:30 p.m., Chapel. In 1950 the average life expectancy was 68 years, and 26% of those over age 85 lived in nursing homes. Now lifespans are 78 years, and 13% live in nursing homes. Most Americans today hope to remain engaged, active, and at home. Looking at the implications of this change will be Deborah Pierce, an architect and author, who will discuss what you can do to make your home safe and comfortable while Barney Freiberg-Dale will discuss how to coordinate the services you will or may need as you remain in your home. There will be plenty of time for questions as well a book-signing of Deb's new book.

## A NOTE FROM ERIN

Every Sunday morning a member of the Board of Trustees begins our service by saying in part, "We gather here as an open community that honors freedom of belief, encourages spiritual growth in ourselves and our children, and shares the wisdom of the many religious traditions, with reverence for the earth and in service to humanity." FUSN is the blending of individuals into a community of caring. We arrive together each having come from different beliefs, backgrounds and experiences in a shared search for truth and meaning. Our being together is testament to the fact that we need one another, that our individual lives are enriched by our communal life. We are a community of care and respect — of hope and memories — of invitation and welcome for all

Everyone has a place here and everyone is a member of our community. Yet there is another step beyond being a member of the community and that is becoming a signed member of our congregation. Membership in this congregation requires no creedal commitment; our free faith imposes no standardized expectation regarding theology, spiritual practice, or belief. If you haven't already taken the step to deepen your connection to FUSN, I hope you will. If you have any questions please talk with me, or Kristin or Perry or anyone on the Membership Committee.

We are a something to be part of, a community in which to delight and take pride — a community to become part of — a place to know and be known. We are a community for worship and for counsel — for friendship and for fun — for learning and for discussion — for shared effort and common support — for acting on our values and our faith in the larger world — a place where all of us young and old alike are treasured and taught and learned from. FUSN is

*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 wonderful place that it is because all of us work to make it so. We all have a place here and I am so grateful that you all are here.

## **BECOMING A MEMBER OF FUSN**

Twice a year FUSN holds a brief ceremony at the start of a worship service to welcome people who have recently decided to become official signed members of this congregation. Signed members can vote at the Annual Meeting in June, are counted as UUs by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, and receive the UUWorld, the UUA's quarterly magazine that shares information on the activities of other UU congregations. Our next New Member Welcome ceremony will be on Sunday, Nov. 18.

When you have made the decision to become a signed member of FUSN, simply pick up an "Intent to Join" card from the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall during coffee hour, and return it to Kristin Cleveland along with a brief biography of yourself (similar to the ones you can see on the New Member Bulletin Board outside of Fran's office). Although you may become a member of FUSN at any time, if you would like to be a part of the Nov. 18 Welcome Ceremony, then please return "Intent to Join" cards and bios to Kristin by Sunday, Nov. 11. Questions? Email Kristin at [member\\_services@fusn.org](mailto:member_services@fusn.org)

## **NEWS FROM THE OPERATIONS COUNCIL**

Each year, we hold two meetings with Committee Chairs. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., in the Alliance Room. One of the main purposes of these meetings is the opportunity for Committee Chairs to brief each other on the highlights of what their respective committees are doing. In addition, we discuss major items that affect all or most of the committees. The meetings are always well attended and very interesting and informative. In order to promote communication with the congregation, we are inviting anyone in the congregation to attend the meeting. Newer FUSN folks who may be thinking about increasing their involvement at FUSN may find the meeting particularly helpful in identifying possible ways to contribute their time and talents to FUSN and/or the larger community. We will be serving light food, so if you do plan on attending please let Pat Rohan know at [jprohan@verizon.net](mailto:jprohan@verizon.net) so we can plan appropriately.

**Open Questions Forum.** The Board of Trustees invites you to participate in a congregation-wide discussion focused on Spiritual Growth. We will meet in the Parish Hall from 12:00-1:00 p.m., on Sunday, Nov. 4. Come and eat some lunch, listen, and share! Child care provided. Questions: Contact Ann Woodbury, [ann@sulliwood.org](mailto:ann@sulliwood.org)/617-964-7699.

## **BETTER TOGETHER AT FUSN**

Jack Johnson sings about it. Robert Putnam and Lew Feldstein write about it. The Interfaith Youth Core teaches fellow college students about it. And at the Stewardship Committee's Pledge Parties last spring, FUSN members and friends asked for it: more opportunities to be together!

FUSN's staff and committees deliver.

This Saturday, Oct. 27, starting at 5:00 p.m., is FUSN's All Ages Halloween Party & Spaghetti Dinner. The Member Services Committee hosts this opportunity to be with people of different generations, eating yummy comfort food, laughing about costumes, sneaking a bit of fair trade chocolate from the pinata, and just getting to know one another. To RSVP for the spaghetti dinner portion of the party, email Kristin at [member\\_services@fusn.org](mailto:member_services@fusn.org), or click on this ivolunteer signup link <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com> (FYI, this is a home page to a variety of sign-up events at FUSN).

Member Services is also hosting a FUSN Friday Fun & Games Night on Friday, Nov. 9. No RSVP's needed for the FUSN Fun Night. Just come anytime between 5:30 and 9:00. You can bring a potluck offering, or just bring a few \$s to pitch in for the pizza we order. You can bring a favorite game, or just come enjoy conversation. We'll have activities for young kids, movies for tweens, and parlor-style games for grown ups. Very casual. Very good place to be together.

The Social Action Committee is coordinating the Oxfam Hunger Dinner (Nov 17), the UU Urban Ministries Explorers Club (Nov 10), the Greater Boston Food Bank monthly volunteering, a Military Spending Forum (Nov 18), a Transgender Remembrance Service (Nov. 20), a Project Zambia Evening Worship Service (Nov 25), and many other events. See this newsletter and the calendar at [www.fusn.org](http://www.fusn.org) for details. Sign up for some of these events will soon be available at <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com>

Perry, Erin, & Anne will continue announcing news about music, education, chalice groups, and other opportunities to be together.

And every Sunday morning, we come together to worship. Be part of one of the services by signing up for a Sunday Morning role (chalice lighter, chancel decorator, greeter or usher). Lew Feldstein writes, "We must learn to view the world through a social capital lens. We need to look at front porches as crime fighting tools, treat picnics as public health efforts and see choral groups as occasions of democracy." (<http://bettertogether.org/>). Live longer. Be happier. Come to events at FUSN. Sign up here: <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com>  
*-Kristin Cleveland*

## 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, aims to highlight FUSN's Core Values. Here we consider our core value of Community Connection.

FUSN's Statement of Purpose illustrates that we are each drawn in various degrees to spiritual growth, learning, stewardship, and service. But it is our focus on that other element – community – that makes these endeavors FUSN. Without this community connection, we could pursue spiritual growth, learning, stewardship, and service as individuals, but there would be no FUSN. Community is an essential element.

We've been talking quite a bit about growing our community, but growth is measured not just by the number of people here. Just as music is not notes but rather the relationships between notes, our FUSN community is not simply the people here but the relationships among us. It's these relationships that make our community strong, resilient, and valuable.

We can grow our community immensely by developing more relationships among us. (If others join us, all the better.) How many people do you know well at FUSN? Who are they? How did you get to know them? How can you do more of that? You're hired. When can you start?

*-On behalf of the Board, Bruce Henderson*

## UPCOMING CONCERTS FEATURING FUSN MUSICIANS

**Outside the Walls** – Capella Clausura, Amy LeClair, director.

Wed, Oct. 24 at 12:00 p.m. – Mandel Center, Brandeis University

Sat, Oct. 27 at 8:00 p.m. –University Lutheran, 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA

Sun, Oct. 28 at 8:00 p.m. –Parish of the Messiah, 1900 Comm. Ave., Newton, MA More info:

<http://www.clausura.org/>

**Verdi: *La Traviata*** – BU Opera Institute. FUSN soloists Jorgeandres Camargo and Celeste Fraser will be singing.

Friday Oct. 26 at 8:00 p.m. BU Theatre, Mainstage, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston

## UPCOMING CONCERTS (continued)

**Beethoven: 5 Cello Sonatas** – Lois Shapiro and Pieter Wispelwey

Sunday Oct. 28, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Tufts University Distler Performance Hall, Granoff Music Center

**Carson Cooman: *The Evening Choir***

Sunday Oct. 28, 5:00 p.m., King's Chapel, 58 Tremont Street, Boston

**Carson Cooman: *The Revelations of Divine Love***

Sunday Nov. 4, 4:00 p.m., Memorial Church, Harvard Yard, Cambridge

Admission Free: No Tickets Required

**Tippett: *The Midsummer Marriage***. FUSN soloist

Deborah Selig will sing one of the lead roles.

Saturday Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

## THANK UUS

**We had a wonderful** Columbus day weekend at Ferry Beach. A huge Ferry Beach Thank You goes out to Rachel Yee for organizing the activities and making it look so easy. And, what made it such a successful weekend is the following folks who volunteered; Alex Cardona, Kate Carney, Jackie Colby, Alan and Curran Crosby, Bill Duset, Kate Farb-Johnson, Laurel Farnsworth, Judy Freedman, Simon Galed, Brian Gill, Stu Gladstone, Cris Goldsmith, Lisa Gresser, Allan Hartman, Wendy Haskell, GERALYN HORTON, Noreen Kimball, Jud Leonard, Alex Leuchtenberg, Fred Lewis, Janet Lewis, Christine Lookner, Larry McKinney, Andrew and Maura Morse, Rekah Nigam, Chris O'Donnell, Harriet Serverino, Mindy Scharlin, Sue Skoler, Bobbie Sproat, Sandra Teare, Norm Thibeault, Rod Thomas, Carrie Vanderlann, Alice Wood, Nancy Wrenn, Tom Yee and Judy Zacek. My apologies if I missed anyone in the list. In humble service.

*-Vern*

**The Operations Council** thanks Vern Ellis for organizing the wonderful Ferry Beach weekend. It was very well attended and the weather was excellent. Also thanks to Rachel Yee for all of her efforts in organizing all of the events for the weekend. We also want to thank Mindy Scharlin and Rachel Yee for organizing the Rosh Hashanah dinner and Dwight Golann for putting a mail slot in the door of the Pine Village office so they can receive mail when they are not around.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

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

## VESPERS SERVICE

For a Vespers on our monthly theme of Death, Vermilion and guest artist Jamie Balmer on classical guitar offer music of the inimitables: excerpts from William Byrd's intimate yet soaring Mass for Four Voices, an English Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Orlando Gibbons, Franz Schubert's deeply moving "Nacht und Träume" as sung by our tenor, Alex Nishibun, and accompanied by Balmer on the guitar. Transporting meditation and song! Join us.

**Deadline** for next newsletter is Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Join us** for a great inter-generational event! The Hunger & Homelessness Task Force of FUSN's Council on Social Action invites you to the Oxfam Hunger Dinner, on Saturday, Nov. 17, 5:30-7:00 p.m. This activity, designed to raise awareness about hunger at home and abroad, is co-sponsored by the Religious Education program. Tickets sold during coffee hour on Oct. 28, Nov. 4 and 11. Cost is \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. Childcare for younger children is available. Call Judy Zacek, 617-969-7992.

**The 3rd Annual Alternative Gift Fair** will be Sunday, Dec. 9. We need a few volunteers to help organize this wonderful event. If you would like to get involved please come to an organizational meeting this Sunday, Oct. 28, before the service at 9:30 a.m., in the Women's Parlor. Some of the positions that we need filled are people to help with: PR (announcements in the Newsletter, etc.); tallying the collections after the fair; assisting with design of gift cards; and lining up people to do check out during the fair. If you would like to help, but can't make it to the meeting, get in touch with Sharon Sisskind at 617 435-9828 or [sharonsisskind@gmail.com](mailto:sharonsisskind@gmail.com).

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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