



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

April 16 - April 30, 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

The theme for April is Trust

4/16 - Multigenerational Easter Service

4/23 - Rev. Erin Splaine

4/30 - Youth Service

The theme for May is Beauty

5/7 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Cindy Beal

5/14 - Rev. Erin Splaine

5/21 - Coming of Age

5/28 - Dani Lindstrom

FUSN FUN NIGHT

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at FUSN! After the resounding success of our Family Fun Night on St. Patrick's, we again cordially invite you to an evening of food, family, and fellowship in the Parish Hall on Friday, May 5. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. to eat and have a good time together until around 8:00 p.m. Tacos and soft drinks will be served, but you are encouraged to bring a tasty side dish or dessert to share.

You can come for the whole evening, or for whatever time works best for you. RSVP to me, sam@fusn.org so we have a rough idea of how many tacos to prepare. But don't worry if you decide to come at the last minute. Everyone will be welcome!

If you would like to bring some games, or if you have a favourite Fun Night activity, or if you would like to bring an instrument for a jam or singalong, then get in touch and let me know! We could use some volunteers before and after, so it would be great to hear from you if you have a hand to lend.

Warm wishes to all FUSNites (and those they love),
-Sam, Membership Coordinator

MUSINGS

"A single offense looms above 200 concerted voices like a buzzard in a flea market. There is no escaping personal responsibility. Perhaps that is what makes choral singing so great: the grandest of common endeavors — achieved with the utmost of individual effort. Think about it. Then do something. R" (the conductor Robert Shaw, in a letter to the Robert Shaw Chorale)

I ran across this quotation from Shaw shortly after a conversation with my husband. He was recalling a performance of Mahler 2 he sang in long ago, in which a lone, errant tenor came in early, *forte*, at the final "zu Gott, wird es dich tragen!" And while that is not the only or even the main thing he remembers about that performance, moments like that do, er, stick in one's mind.

But what is difficult about Shaw's quote and my anecdote is the message they send about making a mistake. None of us should approach making music timidly, in fear of being "that guy" - the one that enters early, or as Garrick Ohlsson did when playing the 3rd movement of Mozart's K. 330 as an encore: "about 1 minute in, he had a memory lapse, turned to the audience, and said "Mind if I start that again?— and started again!" (forum.pianoworld.com) We are all human, we all make mistakes (those of you who have sung with me for the last 10 years or so have certainly witnessed plenty from me!). What I want to emphasize in Shaw's statement is that we are all individually responsible to put in the effort to learn the music we will perform as best we possibly can. When we all put in the time to not only learn our part but to see how that part fits into the whole; when we

Continued on next page

read the score from beginning to end, learning the structure of the whole work; when we study the text and see how the composer sets it – when we all do these things, then we have a chance to really make music

As I write this, many of your friends and colleagues are sitting down with a pile of music and some recordings. They are listening, studying, humming, marking their music - putting in their hours of individual effort. And after many more rehearsals here at FUSN, we will arrive in Frankfurt and sing our first concert on May 28, and it will be a glorious moment – our grand, common endeavor.

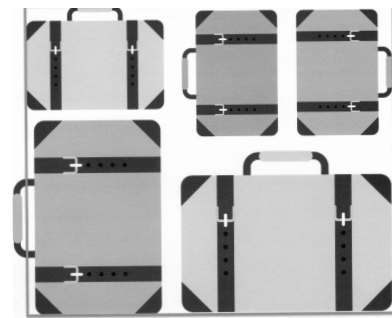
We will be hosting a pre-tour concert and reception on Wednesday May 24 - 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. We'll sing, boast about our packing prowess, and raise a farewell glass together. You're invited – please come to wish us "Gute Reise!" *-Anne Watson Born*

OPERATIONS COUNCIL

Budget Season Is Upon Us – and Pledging Season Too! All the fellowship, service and activity that is FUSN begins with the requests that are brought forward during the annual budget process. In March the Finance Committee kicked off the process by putting out a call to all FUSN committees to send in their requests for next year's funding. Some of the budget building blocks are fairly predictable, particularly personnel costs and the operation and maintenance of the building. But the budget also speaks to our hopes and desires for our next year together – new lifespan religious education courses for all ages, social action initiatives, music programs, summer worship, fellowship opportunities and much more.

The Finance Committee prepares a draft budget for review and action by the Operations Council and the Board of Trustees. The final budget depends upon the results of the Annual Pledge Drive. A robust pledge outcome means the heat stays on, the doors stay open and the website is chock full of activities. Maybe even a little new paint on some walls. In tighter times the Finance Committee is faced with difficult choices between continuing programs, keeping staff and maintaining the building. Every pledge is important – we depend upon each other to keep FUSN strong!

-Judy Curby, Treasurer and Operations Council



**FUSN MUSICIANS
TOUR CONCERT
WED. MAY 24, 7.30PM**

THE LARGER PICTURE- UUA

For most of us, FUSN is our spiritual home. We consider if we should change the name; we choose to attend the social action activities or the 60+ Club meetings; we revel in our wonderful music every Sunday and our wonderful sermons or testimonials. But there is a larger association. The Unitarian Universalist Association, headquartered in Boston, represents over 1000 member organizations across the US with a global reach. The Seven Principles and a faith in diversity and inclusion are huge cornerstones of the UUA. Erin's sermon and follow-up discussion last Sunday revealed that the UUA is not meeting the diverse and inclusive goals as we expect. I'm sure there will be more discussion about this specific concern. But I am inviting you to reach out to our UU neighbors through the Regional Assembly on April 21 and 22 in Woburn, or, for a huge hit of UUism, attend General Assembly in New Orleans June 22-25.

At the New England Regional Assembly on Friday night **April 21**, there will be a UUA Presidential Candidates Forum with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev. Alison Miller and Rev. Jeanne Pupke, moderated by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti. On Saturday, **April 22**, 9:00 a.m., you can worship with acclaimed liturgist Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and preacher Rev. Robin Bartlett. At 11:00 a.m. there will be workshops followed by lunch and a community sing.

The event is currently filled; to join a wait list please go to the New England Regional Assembly website.

General Assembly in New Orleans needs FUSN Delegates to go Resist and Rejoice! FUSN will pay the registration fee, but you are responsible for travel and housing. Contact Kate Mason katelagrezemason@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. We have had an exciting couple of weeks. On March 17-19, several of the youth attended Another World Is Possible, a youth social justice retreat with youth from five other UU congregations. We learned about power and privilege, attended great youth worship, and left positive messages for the members of Winchester Unitarian Society, who hosted the retreat.

On March 26, nineteen fifth through twelfth graders headed over to Project Adventure in Beverly, MA for a day of games, team building, high ropes climbing, and leadership development. It was wonderful to see friendships being built between the youth of different ages. Our hope is to hold a multi-grade community building day every year.

The youth are currently working on planning the youth-led Sunday service. The service will be on April 30. The youth will be speaking, writing, and providing the music. This will also be the senior bridging service. We will be congratulating our high school seniors and honoring the transition they will be making from youth in the congregation to young adults.

Finally, youth teacher applications are out. Every Religious Education classroom has a youth teacher that helps lead the weekly lessons, build relationships with the children and adults, and who is a part of the classroom every Sunday. If youth are interested in applying, please contact Dani, Beth, or Rowan for a link to the application. The applications are due by May 1.

WE NEED YOU

We Need You! – It's the beginning of our Lifespan Religious Education volunteer recruitment campaign and we're looking for about 75 people to teach, be a COA mentor, or participate in a significant way next year. Our program is a cooperative one, which means it couldn't exist without all of you pitching in. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering next fall, please stop by the RE Table during coffee hour over the upcoming weeks or speak directly with Rowan or Beth.

ABOUT US

The FUSN community offers their sympathy to:

Jean Doelling on the death of her husband, long time FUSN member Norm Doelling; Ann and Anthony Sposato on the death of their son Anthony; and the family of Peter Karoff, who died last month.

A memorial service for Norm Doelling will be held at FUSN on April 22, 2:00 p.m. The memorial service for Peter Karoff will be held at FUSN on June 11 at 2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our new criminal justice advocacy team will meet in the Alliance room on Monday evening, **April 17** from 7:30-9:00 p.m. We will review current legislation and our experiences at the State House on April 11 with UUMass Action. All are welcome. For more information, contact Nancy Wrenn, wrennnancy@gmail.com.

Legacies of the Heart. In an experiential workshop based on her recent book, *Legacies of the Heart: Living a Life That Matters*, Meg Newhouse will introduce a fresh, multi-dimensional, and powerful perspective on legacy as the ongoing imprint of our life and as a gift forward to succeeding generations. Sunday, **April 23**, 12 to 3:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room. Light lunch. Sponsored by the Over 60's. Register (or questions) to connieadkins@comcast.net

Preemptive Radical Inclusion. Are you wondering what Preemptive Radical Inclusion is? Come to the workshop and find out! The Welcoming Congregation Implementation team is sponsoring this interactive workshop, entitled "Preemptive Radical Inclusion: Everyone is Always in the Room" on Sunday, **May 7**, 12 noon – 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The goal is for us to think about and learn ways to include everyone in our meetings, discussions, and decision-making. Cindy Beal, a long-time UU Religious Educator and founder of Justice and Peace Consulting is a dynamic speaker and compassionate facilitator who will guide us during a 3-hour experiential workshop.

Lunch and childcare will be provided. RSVP to Chris Krebs, chriswallacekrebs@gmail.com. Childcare requests should be made to Linda Ross, drlimale@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our last Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on **May 7** 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 \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too.

EVENING SONG

Join Vermilion for the Evening Song service on Sunday, **May 7** at 7:00 p.m. Evening Song at FUSN is a half-hour candlelight service of music, poetry, and meditation planned around FUSN's monthly themes. Let the sanctuary welcome you into meditative music, poetry, and silence - even at the end of a full weekend at FUSN - for a bit of quiet music, reflection, and silence to ease into the week ahead, and into our always too busy lives.

FERRY BEACH

Help Make Our Ferry Beach Columbus Day Weekend Retreat the Best Ever!

After this upcoming FUSN Ferry Beach Columbus Day Weekend retreat, I will have been the coordinator for 14 years. It is time for a regime change. We are looking for some folks who would like to continue our 40+ year tradition. It would be awesome if you could co-coordinate this coming retreat with me to learn the ropes. Please join me in continuing this FUSN legacy. If you are interested contact me at vellis@ellisdesign.net or 617 686 9123. It has been an honor and privilege to coordinate these intergenerational FUSN get-togethers. Thanks. *Vern*

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