

FALL 2016 ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FUSN Adult Religious Education Opportunities: September 2016 – January 2017

This catalog includes descriptions of all Adult Education events at FUSN, from September 2016 through January 2017. Check activity schedules, posted daily, inside the back door and the Washington Street entrance.

Registration

To register for those activities where registration is suggested, please contact Fran Clancy, our FUSN Administrator (617-527-3203/e-mail office@fusn.org). If you have any additional questions, contact Adult Education chair, Jacqui James (jacquiajames@gmail.com) or Acting Lifespan RE Director, Rowan van Ness (617- 332-3438 /e-mail dlre@fusn.org), or any member of the Adult Education Committee listed on the last page of this catalog.

Curriculum

In keeping with our tradition of openness, we welcome change and embrace diversity. Our curriculum varies from year to year responding to shifting needs in our community, in our denomination, and in the world at large. Our offerings fall into five distinct, yet overlapping, categories that capture/reflect our mission here at FUSN.

• Liberal Religious Traditions

These courses help congregants gain a deeper understanding of liberal religious traditions as manifested in our history and in our shared religious practice. These courses and activities help us answer questions of identity – *Who are we? How have we come to be who we are? What is our story? What do we stand for?*

• Faith and Doubt: Theology and World Religions

These courses and activities help us better understand other faiths - their histories and evolutions, their tenets and texts, their practices and rituals. The crucial questions in this area are about our neighbors and our shared history – *Who are our neighbors? What can we learn from them? How can we remain connected to them? Who are we? What is our history? Our future?*

• Faith and Practice: Social Justice and Social Action

These activities help us understand how change and healing can happen and how we can be their agents. They address the questions – *How can I help? How can I alleviate pain and suffering? How can I make the world a safer and more just place? How can I advocate for systemic change, for change that transforms the world? How must I change my life?*

• Spiritual Practice and the Inner Life

These are introductions to our supports for forms of spiritual practice – prayer, meditation, reflection, compassion, peacefulness, charity, mindfulness, and the disciplines of the arts (music, movement, poetry, etc). These practices help us answer questions like: *How can I be in the world? How do I experience the world? How can I worship? How must I listen? How can I best express my experience of the world?*

• Multicultural Ministry Initiative

These activities are designed to support us in living out our vision of becoming effective members of a just and loving multicultural society. They address: *Do I understand the nature of systemic racism? Who do I stand with? Do I stand for racial justice and the end of discrimination? How can I become an effective ally with people of color? Do I stand with people of color and white allies in the struggle to uproot racism?*

The Structures of Adult Education at FUSN

Times

Weekday evenings and Sunday mornings (before and after the worship service) have been the times of choice for most of our activities. *Times and dates for each event are listed in the description of the event.* We offer occasional daytime activities, as well as some day long workshops (usually on Saturdays).

Size

Workshops vary in size depending on content, format, and the specifications of our teachers or Facilitators. Most run from 5 to 15 people. Some have size limits; others have none.

Format of Offerings

- *Traditional multi-session courses* meet for 3 – 8 sessions and involve a consistent group of participants. Registration is essential.
- *The drop-in experience* occurs monthly or every other week. Come to one session, a few, or to all. Generally registration is not required.
- *One-time experiences* generally do not require registration (excepting some daytime workshops, which have size limits and/or fees).
- *The master calendar* at the end of the catalog helps us keep track of everything. It can also help you to track a course over time to see where there may be conflicts.

Costs

Except for some workshops presented by guest leaders, all activities are free. There are materials costs for some workshops.

FUSN Lending Library

Do you know that we have a Lending Library? Four years ago, we began to set up a library, acquiring books and DVDs, reflecting a wide breadth of topics and interests, which we could lend out. We have stocked our small lending library with materials ranging from class, climate change, economics, food, ecology, peace, race, spirituality, and Universalism and Universalism - to name some of our categories. Most Sundays you will find us in the parish hall during coffee hour. Stop by the Adult RE table to explore our collection.

Books circulate for three weeks and DVDs for one week, with no renewals. If you need a book for a longer period, we ask that you get a copy from the public library or purchase your own copy. Our aim is to circulate these materials widely within the congregation. Since we have a limited budget and storage space, we can provide only one or two copies of a given title.

Watch for our new books, including: *What If I Say the Wrong Thing?: 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People*, *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World through Islamic Eyes*, *What If: Short Stories to Spark Diversity Dialogue*, *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* and *Just Mercy*. Alice Wood, our Lending Library Coordinator, welcomes your suggestions for additional books and DVDs.

Teachers and Facilitators

Teachers include staff members and guests who have some special expertise. But the majority of our facilitators and teachers are volunteer members of FUSN. Their expertise, knowledge, talents, and gracious labor are a great gift, a blessing to all of us.

Faith and Doubt: Theology and World Religions

HOLY CURIOSITY

First and third Tuesday afternoons: 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 12/6, 12/20, 1/3, 1/17; 1:30 to 3:15

After several years spent studying the scriptures and histories of Hebrew, Christian, and Islamic peoples, we will be exploring the history and development of the Mormon faith. Our primary text is *The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith* by Matthew Bowman, which is available in paperback and in the Minuteman Library Network. This is a self-facilitated group,

FUSN WORLD RELIGIONS STUDY GROUP

Every other Tuesday morning: 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 1/3, and 1/17

8:00 – 9:00 am

Facilitator: Sue Allen

After many years of studying both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, last year we studied Islam. This fall we are studying Buddhism. We meet on Tuesday mornings in the Alliance Room, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Our text is Karen Armstrong's *Buddha*, which is available in paperback. Note that this is a discussion group, not a lecture class.

Faith and Practice: Social Justice and Social Concerns

FUSN FORUM

Two Mondays, October 17 and November 21; 7:30 pm

Facilitator: Duane (Jim) Matthiesen

These events provide information, along with discussion of current or historical issues, of high interest to both the FUSN community and beyond. The topics may be specific for UUs, although, in many cases, the topics will be of a wide general interest, such as national or international affairs and societal developments. Discussion at the end of the presentations is highly encouraged.

JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

Sunday, 11/6; Noon – 2:00 pm

Facilitators: Jacqui James and Alice Wood

Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It is a powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice-from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings.

This book, which is the UUA Common Read for 2015-16, is available in paperback from the UUA Bookstore, Amazon.com, and other sources. Additionally the Adult RE Lending Library has several copies available for loan.

SANKOFA

Thursday, 11/3; 7:00 to 9:30 pm

Facilitator: Eileen Freiberg-Dale

An African American model on a photo shoot in Ghana encounters an old mystic who transports her into the past, where she becomes a slave. Haile Gerima's poetic and precisely detailed film takes its audience into its heroine's life and mind as her moral sense is challenged and changed. No viewer can avoid the discomfiting questions the film so eloquently raises.

Spiritual Practice: The Inner Life

THE MIRACLE OF MINDFULNESS

Every Monday and Wednesday; 7:30 pm

Self-facilitated

We practice sitting, walking, wise speech, and deep listening. Together we will learn to generate the mindfulness energy of calm and peace, concentration, and insight - allowing us to meet life's demands with more ease and freedom.

POETRY BY HEART

Fourth Tuesdays: 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/29, 1/24, 2/28; 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Facilitators: Barbara Deck, Jonathan Lillienfeld, and Cathy Morocco

When we memorize a poem, we attend to each word and sound until it becomes an intimate part of us. In this seminar we all memorize one poem each month. We recite it individually to the group and then discuss it. In sharing interpretations, we deepen the meaning of the poem and our connections with each other as readers. You may think this is something you can't do, but you can memorize, using your own approach. We also bring favorite poems to read aloud. No prior experience with poetry, reading aloud, or memorizing is required. Just Come!

THIRD FRIDAY FLICKS

Fridays: 10/21, 11/18, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, and 4/21

Facilitator: Allan Hartman

Showings of lesser known films which explore emotionally evocative and thought-provoking themes such as courage, fate, punishment, redemption, melancholy, and aging. After viewing each movie, there will be discussion time to talk about our reactions to the film's themes.

Multicultural Ministry Initiative

UPROOTING RACISM

Note: We are offering two different groups and time options for this program. Please choose one.

Six Sundays: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/13, 12/4, and 12/18: Noon to 2:00 pm

Facilitators: Meg Holland and Bill Holland

Six Mondays: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, and 2/13; 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Facilitators: Jacki Rohan and Jon Reuman

For those of you who attended a Waking Up White discussion group and asked "where do we go from here?" Paul Kivel's book: *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice*, is the focus of 2 new 6-session discussion groups this fall/winter. These groups will provide suggestions, tools, examples and advice to help us take that next step to work together for equal opportunity, democracy and justice. The new expanded 3rd edition of this book directly engages the reader through questions, exercises and suggestions for action, and takes a detailed look at current issues such as affirmative action, immigration and healthcare. It also includes a wealth of information about specific cultural groups such as Muslims, people with mixed-heritage, Native-Americans, Jews, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino/as, and recent immigrants. We ask that participants read Paul Kivel's book, *Uprooting Racism* **and** commit to attending all six sessions. Please note that participation in a Waking Up White group is *not* a prerequisite for attending this group. All are welcome to sign up.

WAKING UP WHITE

Four Sundays: 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, and 1/8; Noon to 2:00 pm

Facilitators: Judy Friedman and Demie Stathoplos

The process of becoming a truly welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community can be fostered by sharing and reflecting on our own personal stories. This group will give participants an opportunity to begin to unpack the meaning and significance of “White Privilege” and share how our personal experiences of race, ethnicity, and culture have shaped our lives and beliefs. Participants will also learn and practice multicultural communication skills. We ask that all participants read Debby Irving’s book, *Waking Up White*, and commit to attending all four sessions.