



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

March 5 March 19, 2017

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

**The theme for March is Love**

3/5 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/12 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/19 - Music Sunday

3/26 - Rev. Erin Splaine

## SHOWING THEIR LEADERSHIP

Showing their leadership and commitment to FUSN, our entire Board of Trustees has already made their financial pledges. Now you, too, can do your part, but instead of doing it at a board meeting, you get to do it at a party! Sign up for a pledge party at coffee hour or online -- find the link on the fusi website.

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**Coffee's Brewin'!!** Come join us as the fabulous FUSN Youth Coffee House on Saturday, March 4. Our youth have arranged for a full line up of performers (including some of our own FUSN youth!) to provide an evening of music and entertainment so come support our youth as they raise money for Communities without Borders. Ticket sales are limited, so come early.

## WHAT IS FUSN'S CORE PURPOSE?

In this tumultuous time in our country, it's important to know and say who we are as a congregation and where we are going. John Nichols, in our February Board meeting used the metaphor of a wheel to define "core purpose" or "mission." The spokes are our vibrant committees and activities, while the hub, which holds the spokes together and enables us to move forward as one, is the core purpose. What is our hub?

One Board member suggested that the hub is our personal journey; another thought it is our UU Principles. If it is the Principles, then what is unique about FUSN, since we share those principles with the larger community of Unitarian churches? Who is FUSN in particular? Does it matter?

I hear struggle around the question. In another FUSN context, someone said, "We are playing happily in separate sandboxes, is that enough?" Another person asked how our social action programs are different by being embedded in FUSN, rather than in a high school or community organization. Before leaving on sabbatical, Erin, urged us to consider aligning all that we are *doing* in FUSN with our being. I understood "being" to mean our core grounding, our shared purpose.

The Unitarian Universalist Minister of Tuscaloosa posted a sermon titled, "Creating the Future that We Want." He urges us to embody our mission in all our actions and choices. He quotes Antoine de Saint-Exupery, the author of *The Little Prince*, "Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction." We won't all

*Continued on next page*

see the same things on the horizon, or agree with each other, but our intention for our community will lie in the same direction.

This year nearly 100 FUSNites have participated in focus groups led by our Adult Faith Development Task Force. While participating in one of these groups, I heard powerful language from participants trying to articulate our purpose: “We create a sacred space for listening and for spiritual growth, feeding our ability to go into the world and be of service” and “The spirit of life among us fuels our ability to do greater work in the world.”

Perhaps we are poised to see our mission more clearly and to find the best, while imperfect, words to speak it.  
*-Cathy Morocco*

## MUSINGS

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Random notes re your music program and some of the wonderful people who make it happen:

Thanks to all who came to the 2nd annual FUSN Musicians Concert. I love the mix of classical music with almost every other style of music, and it’s wonderful to see the support our folks have from the congregation. Thanks as well to the FUSN Music Committee for their help with the event.

Bob MacWilliams, who gives us the gift of his music regularly in our services, is composing a piece for the choir to sing on tour in Germany! It has a gorgeous guitar part, a multilingual text, and a beautiful sentiment: “...may you see all the sisters and brothers of this world live as one family.” We are excited and proud to sing it.

We have several choir members who sing in other ensembles – too many events to mention here, but there are two beautiful concerts coming up, with our stalwart Sanctuary Choir members George Batchelor and Neil MacGaffey singing:

- Saturday March 11 at 8:00 p.m., the Back Bay Chorale presents *Essential Voices: Da Pacem*, with music by J.S. Bach and Arvo Pärt. [www.bbcboston.org](http://www.bbcboston.org)
- Sunday March 12 at 3:00 p.m., the Commonwealth Chorale presents the Mozart *Requiem* along with the “sparkling, virtuosic” *Exsultate, jubilate* sung by soprano Joanna Mongiardo [www.commonwealth-chorale.com](http://www.commonwealth-chorale.com)  
*-Anne Watson Born*

## ROWAN’S REFLECTIONS

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Religious professionals in Unitarian Universalism are trained in a number of ways. Religious Educators seeking credentialing engage in a rigorous learning process like ministers, though it takes a different form. The Religious Education Credentialing Program is an approximately 3 year program while on the job and requires attending workshops and trainings, reading dozens of books, meeting regularly with a mentor, and creating a portfolio demonstrating competency and sharing examples of one's work in nine different areas. The process concludes with a presentation and an interview before a panel that meets annually in Boston, which approves a candidate or recommends further study before coming before the panel again. I am currently in my second year of this process.

FUSN is a congregation that values adult faith development, not just of its members, but also of its staff. Through my own continued learning, I am better able to learn about and understand best practices in religious education; to deepen my sense of the theology, history, sources, and philosophy of both UUism and religious education; and to translate my learning into practice within our congregation. This past month, I took a class on Working in Congregational Systems. I was struck by a comment someone made--that there is little economy of scale in congregations. As congregations get larger, people expect the staff to do more than they would expect in a smaller congregation. Having a deeper understanding of how the system works on a macro level can help me be strategic in allocation of staff time and in understanding the volunteer culture at a place like FUSN.

I am looking forward to taking an online course UU Theology in March and April, and I’m curious what new ideas that will inspire. I am so grateful to be working with FUSN volunteers and staff on projects from adult faith development to models of children's religious education and piloting our “Traveling Chalice,” helping bring Unitarian Universalism into the home. It takes partnership to make things happen.

*-Rowan Van Ness, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

## SERVICES AUCTION

**The Annual Services Auction** was held the evening of January 28, 2017. We had good attendance and some spirited bidding and those in attendance appeared to have fun. After expenses, the Services Auction generated somewhere in the neighborhood of \$16,300 for FUSN. Of course, the auction would not happen without the generous donations of goods and services by the FUSN Community. Thank you to all of our donors. I also want to thank all of those who helped put on the auction: Leslie Barrows, Karen Bottar and Don Buonagurio, Bill and Sandy Horne, Jeannie Chaisson and Bob Persons, Jacki Rohan, Christine and Saul Lookner, Jon and Chris Reusser, Norm Thibeault, Mindy Scharlin, Denise Bousquet, Greg Sullivan, Judy Zacek, David Morocco, Maura Morse, Bruce Kimball and Lynne Karlson.

*Pat Rohan on behalf of the Services Auction Team*

## UPCOMING

**The Over 60 Club** at FUSN invites seniors, baby boomers and their families to a panel discussion from 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room on Thursday, **March 9** to learn about home “right sizing,” optional living alternatives, home sale and management, caretaking resources, asset protection and estate planning. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Wendy Haskell, [haskellwendy@gmail.com](mailto:haskellwendy@gmail.com). Light refreshments will be served.

**Got White Privilege?** Do you identify as a white man? The Multicultural Ministry Steering Committee is delighted to announce a special event for FUSN men who identify as white to explore together our experiences of being white in a society that targets and marginalizes people of color. Sunday, **April 2**, 3:00 to 5:30 Alliance Room, FUSN. The workshop will be facilitated by Bill Holland, long-time member of FUSN and the MMI Steering Committee, and Ken Wagner, Co-President of Allies for Racial Equity and on the New England G.R.A.C.E. Team. See more workshop details at <http://tinyurl.com/zhxxvc9>. For planning purposes, we ask that you let us know in advance if you plan on attending Register by emailing your name and email address to Bill at [wm.holland@gmail.com](mailto:wm.holland@gmail.com). Put "WMA Registration" in the subject line. Childcare will be provided if requested. Requests must be received by March 15.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

“I’ve participated in many committees and always appreciate the fellowship over my 34 years at FUSN. When a position on the Operations Council came up last year I asked to be elected.” Kate Mason

“My service with FUSN’s Board of Trustees was definitely a step out of my comfort zone. However in retrospect it served to increase my self-confidence, and without a doubt heightened my awareness of how a non-profit business is conducted. I would honestly say that I harbor no regrets in having been a part of the BoT team. I would label it an experience that brings with it and leaves you with valuable experience.” Gregg DiBiaso

The above quotes are from two FUSN members who are stepping down from their elected positions this year. As a result, the Nominating Committee is actively seeking members who would like to contribute their time and talent to leading FUSN. The Nominating Committee will staff a table at coffee hour where members can inquire about open positions and volunteer to be nominated or recommend members who might be approached by the Committee to see if they would be interested in serving.

The following elected offices are being vacated this year: Board of Trustees: Two three year terms are being vacated as well as the two BOT Youth Representatives. Trustees develop policy and provide financial and administrative oversight of the Society. The BOT meets monthly. Operations Council: One three year term and one one year term are being vacated. The Operations Council guides and coordinates the activities of the various committees and staff activity of the Society. The Ops Council meets monthly. Treasurer: The treasurer is an elected position nominated yearly without term limits. The Treasurer signs checks and keeps the accounting of the Society. The Treasurer is a member of the Operations Council and the Finance Committee and attends the monthly meetings. Board of Investment: One three year term. Members oversee the investments of the Society.

The Board of Investment meets monthly. For more detailed information, please go to the By Laws posted on the FUSN website. You can contact Sheila Ardery at [sardery@gmail.com](mailto:sardery@gmail.com) or reach out to the Nominating Committee members, Ann Woodbury, Andrew Morse, Jim Emerson, or George Batchelor.

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## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our next Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on **March 12** 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. Upcoming breakfasts: April 9, May 7

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## EVENING SONG

**Join Vermilion** for the Evening Song service on Sunday, **March 5** 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.

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## FOOD BANK

Our congregation's next visit to the Greater Boston Food Bank is next Saturday, **March 11**. We meet up to car pool from the FUSN lot by 9:00 a.m., sharp, and are back by 12:30. It's usually a lively, fun morning. Anyone 16 and over is welcome. Please let me know if you are planning to come.  
Eric Haas: [enhaas@yahoo.com](mailto:enhaas@yahoo.com) or 617 795-5963.

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