



FUSN *News*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

January 22 - February 5

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for January is Faith

1/22 - "And Now What?" - Rev. Carol Rosine

On this first Sunday following the inauguration, our guest preacher will be the Reverend Carol Rosine. Carol is the Minister Emerita of the First Universalist Society of Franklin, MA, a congregation that she served for 29 years. Carol did her internship at FUSN and was ordained by our congregation in 1987.

1/29 - Matt Meyer

The Coming of Age class of 2017 will be selling ready-to-heat frozen food after services on Sunday, January 29. Proceeds will benefit the Newton Food Pantry as part of our growing partnership with them. Let Matt Cuddy (cuddy.m@gmail.com) know if you have questions.

The theme for February is Surrender

2/5 - Rowan Van Ness

2/12 - Rev. John Nichols

2/19 - Rev. John Nichols

Greater Boston Food Bank - Food Bank - Our congregation's next visit to the Greater Boston Food Bank is next **Saturday, January 21**. We meet up to carpool from the FUSN lot by 9:00 a.m. Back by 1:00 p.m. Anyone 14 and over is welcome. Please let me know if you are planning to come. Eric Haas: enhaas@yahoo.com or 617 795-5963.

MUSINGS

Music Sunday – Join us!

"...the spring sun of the arts forms light out of suffering." These lines are from a poem by Christoph Kuffner, set to music by Ludwig van Beethoven, for his Choral Fantasy, Op. 80. "Reports are numerous regarding the fiasco of the *Choral Fantasy*, introduced to the world at Vienna's Theater an der Wien (capacity 1,230) on December 22, 1808 as "Improvisation for piano with gradual entrance of the orchestra and finally a choral section and finale." On the same program were the Symphonies Nos. 5 and 6, the Fourth Piano Concerto, an aria, two excerpts from his in-progress Mass in C, and a solo improvisation. Nearly all of the music, including some of the most challenging ever devised by the mind of man, was sight-read at the concert, which lasted from 6:30 to 10:30. According to the composer's piano pupil Ferdinand Ries: "We experienced the fact that one could easily have too much of a good – and even more, a powerful – thing." (Herbert Glass)

"When the master brought out his orchestral Fantasia with choruses, he arranged with me at the somewhat hurried rehearsal, with wet voice-parts as usual, that the second variation should be played without repeat. In the evening, however, absorbed in his creation, he forgot all about the instructions which he had given, repeated the first part while the orchestra accompanied the second, which sounded not altogether edifying. A trifle too late, the Concertmaster, Unrath, noticed the mistake, looked in surprise at his lost companions, stopped playing and called out dryly: 'Again!' A little displeased, the violinist Anton Wranitzky asked 'With repeats?' 'Yes,' came the answer, and now the thing went straight as a string." (Ignaz von Seyfried) *Continued on next page*

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*; Fran Clancy, *Administrator*; Rowan Van Ness, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*; Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*; Dani Lindstrom, *Youth Programs Coordinator*; San Foster, *Congregational Engagement Coordinator*; Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*; Carson Cooman, *Organist*; Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*; Ruslan Crosby, *Beadle*.
Board of Trustees: Gregg DiBioso, Brian Burba, *Vice Chair*; Josie Greene, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, *Chair*; Lesley Sneddon, Sarah Fazli and Julianna Lakomski, *Youth Reps*.
Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*; John Brennan, Judy Curby, *Treasurer*; Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*; Andrea Kelley, Kate Mason.
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We hope to have fewer difficulties with this lovely work, and we invite you to join us. FUSN's Music Sunday is March 19. Our soloist in the Beethoven is the sublime Lois Shapiro, and we will have a small orchestra accompanying her. The choir will sing some other works, by Bach, Schütz, and Uusberg. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., in the Chapel. For more information, email Anne Watson Born at music@fusn.org

FROM THE OPERATIONS COUNCIL

FUSN Room Rentals

Do you know that you receive a discount as a FUSN member on the room rental rate when you host an event in our building? What a terrific perk of membership!

Last year the Operations Council reviewed the rental rates and policies, which resulted in more appropriate, yet very reasonable prices, and a clearer way to rent rooms. Regular rates were established based on the size each room, and a separate, minimum cleaning fee per rental was instituted. As shepherds of the building, we aimed to cover the costs of operating (heat, electricity, wear and tear, etc.) our beautiful old structure.

In December 2016, the Ops Council continued to refine the policies and rates for room rentals. A pro-rated fee structure was approved for members, based on 50% of the regular rate per room. For non-profits, the rate will be 75% of the regular amount.

YOUTH BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. The youth are working hard on Coffee House. Currently, the focus is finding talent from FUSN, Newton North, and Newton South high schools, designing posters, logos for t-shirts, and working on lighting and sound. Please mark **March 4** on your calendars now for another awesome Coffee House!

A few other upcoming youth events!

March 17-19- UUBAY Service Overnight - The overnight is all UU Boston Area Youth that will focus on service projects throughout the weekend.

March 26 - FUSN Field Day- This is an event for 5th-12th grade junior and senior youth. We will be spending a day at Project Adventure on their high/low ropes course. It will be a day of team building, leadership, and fun.

YOUR NEW CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The job title is tough gristle, with thirteen syllables to chew upon, so please just call me Samuel, or plain Sam. My task here at FUSN, since joining the staff in early January, is to ensure that every one of you, whether you are a longtime member or an occasional visitor, feels welcomed, respected, and included in the vibrant FUSN community. I want to hear your thoughts, answer your questions, and serve as a guide to all that FUSN has to offer.

I see my role at FUSN as one of facilitating an ongoing conversation about what matters to the community. As a newcomer to this conversation, which reaches back as far as the founding of the Society in that tumultuous year of 1848, the Springtime of the Peoples, I naturally have a great deal to learn! I therefore look eagerly forward to sitting down with many of you, in my office or over a steaming coffee somewhere, and listening to your experiences, your commitments, your concerns, and your hopes for the future of the community. What can I do to make you feel more at home in this congregation? If an answer springs to mind while you read this, please get in touch!

A little about my background. A newcomer to Unitarian Universalism, I grew up in London and moved to Boston for graduate school, where I read a lot of poetry and researched the life of an Irish playwright. I have lived in Burundi, the poorest country in the world, where I raised goats and assisted a research project on the regional civil war, and in Philadelphia, where I taught Shakespeare and married a lifelong Unitarian. I am passionate about social justice, intentional communities, the craft of truth-telling in poetry, dog sweaters, and learning how to connect the pieces of a life to make a whole.

You can get in touch with me by email (sam@fusn.org) or by telephone (617-527-3203) or on Facebook, or in my office during the week. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I hope to meet many of you in the coming weeks. *-Sam Foster*

Sam's office hours will be Monday - Friday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 9:00-1:00 p.m.

ABOUT US

The FUSN community offers their condolences to the family of long time member Betsey Williams who passed away on January 5. The memorial service will be held at FUSN on March 25 at 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY FLICKS AT FUSN

Third Friday Flicks at FUSN - On Friday, **January 20** we'll select, as usual, one film from among 4 or 5 lesser known ones, which explore emotionally evocative and thought-provoking themes such as courage, fate, revenge, redemption, life's meaning and work. Afterwards, we'll talk about our reactions and thoughts. Shows start at 7:00 p.m., in the Children's Chapel and we'll finish with the last person sitting or standing. Future Friday dates: February 17, March 17, April 21 and May 19.

AN INVITATION

The Catholic Church Opts for Nonviolence over War: What Now? Sunday, Feb 5, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Lisa Sowle Cahill, professor of theology at Boston College, was one of the leaders of last April's Vatican 3-day international symposium on Nonviolence and Just Peace. The symposium recommended that the Catholic Church drop its teaching of "Just War Theory" and endorse a policy of nonviolence with a teaching from the pope. In response, Pope Francis has just issued a statement for January 1, the World Day of Peace in the Catholic Church, calling for all to embrace a policy of "active nonviolence" and no more war. Dr. Cahill will describe the Vatican symposium and speak on the future of nonviolence in the Catholic Church and the world.

After her presentation there will be discussion with the audience. Sponsored by Newton Dialogues on Peace and War and the Sacred Heart/Our Lady Help of Christians Justice and Peace Committee. This meeting will be in the lower church hall of Our Lady Help of Christians Church at 573 Washington St., Newton Corner. All are welcome. Free, but offerings to support the work of the sponsors will be graciously accepted. Park in the parking lot behind the church off of Adams St. Use the adjacent church entrance. Posted by Nancy Wrenn for Newton Dialogues on Peace and War

SERVICES AUCTION

Don't miss the Fabulous FUSN Carnivale Mardi Gras Services Auction. Since our theme is Mardi Gras, feel free to dress in your most festive garb. The Services Auction is an annual event where we auction services, mostly donated by FUSN folks. We always have some great offerings – weekends at vacation homes, fine meals, handyman services, computer help, child care, and a variety of others. And the event, which will be held on Saturday evening, **January 28** at 6:30 p.m., is always a lot of fun.

We will be providing a meal, beverages of all sorts, and a party for the kids. You can feed your family and have fun for a nominal entry fee of \$5 for each adult and you do not have to bid. All are welcome. As part of the auction activities, we also sell raffle tickets for special offerings. And since the raffle tickets are purchased mostly by FUSN folks, your chances of winning are much better than most raffles.

The Fabulous FUSN Carnivale Mardi Gras Services Auction table will be open on Sundays after services in the Parish Hall. We will be selling raffle tickets and/or you can sign up to donate a service. Or if you just want to learn about the Services Auction, this is the place to come. In particular, if you are wondering if you can provide a service, but are not sure, stop by and talk to us. We will be more than happy to help. Or if you want to help out at the auction, that is welcome also. Pat Rohan on behalf of the Services Auction Team can be contacted at <mailto:jprohan@verizon.net?subject=Services%20Auction> or 617-852-5290.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on **February 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 \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts: March 12, April 9, May 7

EVENING SONG

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Make a Resolution to make our Sunday worship services bright. Choose a Sunday to usher- welcoming all who come is close to our hearts. Or decorate our chancel with flowers, candles, or whatever moves your spirit. For ushering, go to fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com. For the chancel, see the sign-up list across from Fran's office.

POETRY READING

"A Mind of Winter" — Poetry Reading, Sunday February 26, 3:00 Parish Hall. Deborah Bennett, Karen Edwards, Cathy Morocco and Carol Siemering will read their own poems. Wallace Steven's "Snowman" will inspire the reading.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Please join us on Sunday February 5, 12:00-3:00 pm for an interactive examination of the intersectionality of oppressions with Rev. Michelle Walsh in the Alliance Room. Contact Josie Greene to reserve a spot josieg49@gmail.com, 617 513-2814. Sponsored by FUSN's Multicultural Ministry Initiative.

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