



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

September 27, 2006
Volume 43, No. 2

The Meeting House News

REVeries

Sharon Salzberg is now a world-renowned teacher of Buddhism, founder of the Insight Meditation Centre in Barre, Massachusetts. For her, the road toward faith began with a mother who died when she was 9, and a father who was in and out of mental institutions from the time she was 11. She was a child who had given up on everything, who had walled herself away from the world and her own feelings because they were too painful. For years, she says, she hardly spoke. At 18, she went to India and made her way to Bodhygaya, the place where Buddha found enlightenment. “I woke to roosters crowing, dogs barking, women chatting at the water pump outside and prayers being broadcast over loudspeakers. Blaring Hindi film music drowned out everything else. It was the dawning of a hot, dry, dusty day, and the beginning of my new life.”

By her own account, Salzberg went to India and fell in love. She fell in love with the meditation teachers, and the community of students who gathered around them. She fell in love with the Buddha’s teaching.

For the first time ever, she had a glimmer that life could be different. “I sensed deep within me the possibility of rising above the circumstances of my childhood, of defining myself by something other than my family’s painful struggles and its hardened tone of defeat.”

This is what the Buddhists call “bright faith.” It is the first eager part of the journey, and it cannot last. Bright faith must deepen into “verified faith” or it stays shallow. But this first stage is important. It gives us the courage to leave the path we are on, to leave what is safe and familiar and perhaps constricting. Bright faith helps us find the courage to try something new. Over time, it must become “verified faith.” That means it must be questioned again and again, everything tested against your own experience.

In this sense of faith, questioning is essential. Doubt is central. The “bright faith” she found in India was only a beginning for Sharon Salzberg. There would be many more twists and turns, plenty more loss and despair, but at least she was on the road.

*Faith is not magic.
It doesn't make bad things not happen.
It doesn't inoculate us from pain.
But faith can help us through what life brings us.
It is our touchstone when life gets too busy.
It is what we return to when we are troubled,
What we seek when we are afraid.*

— Jenny Rankin

From *A Sermon on Faith*, Sept 17, 2006

Sunday Worship Schedule

October 1

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

Avinu Malkeynu – Janowski

Elohim Hashivenu – Rossi

11:00 – Martha Goodman, solo handbells

Beth Norton, violin

Kingsfold – McChesney

Largo – Handel/McChesney

October 8

Sally Hamlin, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

Ancient Mother – arr. Bradfield

This We Know – Jeffers

11:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano

October 15

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Handbell Choir

Psalm 9 – Wiltse

This Joyful Day – Wagner

11:00 – Gospel Choir

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho –
Traditional

Go Down Moses – Traditional

October 22

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir

Hindu Devotional songs and
choral music of Victor Paranjoti

9:00 – Junior Choir

Candle on the Water – Kasha &
Hirschhorn

11:00 – Chalice Choir

Let the Sun Shine In – MacDermot

October 29

Margie King Saphier, preaching

9:00 – Silver Bass Trio

11:00 – Adult Choir

Paradise – Dalglish


To the Holy Spirit – Dalglish

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Service Flowers Note

There are two inserts with this newsletter:

**Wright Tavern Center Programs
Capital Campaign Update**



COME BUILD A DREAM!
See insert for the latest information about the First Parish Capital Campaign.

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly September to June, to provide parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community.

Please send address changes to:

First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

<u>Noon Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
Monday, Oct. 16	Wednesday, Oct. 25
Monday, Nov. 20	Wednesday, Nov. 29
Monday, Dec. 11	Wednesday, Dec. 27

Newsletter items should be limited to 100 words and may be delivered, faxed or e-mailed to the church office.

Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. in the *Parlor*. Note change of location. Everyone is welcome to attend.

OCTOBER 1

The Impact of Humanism Today

The Humanist Group of First Parish

Rabbi Greg Epstein, Humanist Chaplain of Harvard University will be discussing the impact of Humanism in today's world. All are invited to hear this dynamic speaker and join in the discussion of significant issues.

OCTOBER 29

God or Goodness Is in the Details

Middle East Peace Activists

Many Israelis, Palestinians and Americans are hoping, praying and working for a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli and Palestinian problems. A film entitled *The Iron Wall* will be shown, followed by a discussion of the elements necessary to ensure a long-term viable economic Palestinian state and permanent protection for both Israel and Palestine. Included will be details that have to be incorporated into settlement agreements to ensure a successful outcome.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On Friday evening, October 13, the Ministers and Nominating Committee wish to celebrate and honor those involved in First Parish leadership. Standing Committee members, Trustees, current, immediate past and upcoming committee chairs are all invited. Others interested in becoming more involved and reflecting on lay leadership in our growing church are equally welcome.

Friday October 13, 2006

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

Enjoy festive desserts, a glass of champagne and a social time, then join others in sharing ideas on the opportunities and challenges involved in lay leadership at First Parish. Please RSVP to the church office, 978-369-9602. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

Ministers: Rev. Gary Smith and Rev. Jenny Rankin

Nominating Committee: Kitsy Rothermel, chair; Lillian Anderson, Jack Nevison, Mark Richards, Patty Popov, Laurie Van Loon, Laura Graham and Kate Keleher

Parish Notes

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

The Partner Church Committee wants to thank all who helped with our Transylvanian service and dinner last Sunday. We shared lots of good food and stories about our partner church village of Székelykeresztúr and were especially pleased to include Istvan Csaka, who has been staying with **Kathy** and **Dana Booth** for the summer and will be returning home this week.

For all those who couldn't attend but are interested in travelling with the First Parish Choir Pilgrimage, please pick up a packet of information in the church office. The tour from August 7 to 20, 2007, is open to all. Our itinerary includes towns in Transylvania, our partner church village of Székelykeresztúr, Budapest and Prague. The cost is \$2600/ppdo, and a refundable deposit of \$200 is due on October 15. For more information, contact **Sara Ballard** at 978-371-0723 or sara@sb.org.

From November 16 to 28, we will have an opportunity to host four people (including Jozsef and Anna Szombatfalvi) here with us to celebrate our Thanksgiving. As part of our festivities we will have an all-Parish welcoming dinner for our visitors on Sunday evening, November 19. Save the date and plan to help us make it a memorable event.

NEW ART EXHIBIT

Please stop by the Sue Altshuler Gallery and the stage to view the new All-Parish Art Exhibit.

NO PHOTO DIRECTORY THIS YEAR

Unfortunately, we have found it necessary to delay the production of our Photo Directory until next year. We wanted to let everyone know as soon as possible, in case you were depending on it for your holiday photos. Please watch for future updates in the *Meeting House News*. Thanks.

PETERS CAST IN "ALL MY SONS"

Our own Bob Peters has been cast in the Concord Player's production of *All My Sons*, coming to 51 Walden this November.

LET'S MAKE FIRST PARISH A FAIR TRADE CHURCH

The Fair Trade program, which is sponsored by the UUSC, is a way to practice our UU principles by promoting fair wages and labor practices. We would like all church functions to use Fair Trade coffee and tea. Contact **Sue Beck** at sbeck345@comcast.net or 978-369-8445 to purchase your supplies at cost for church functions. We also need volunteers to help sell during coffee hours. Please contact Sue if you are willing to help. In October, look for three new types of chocolate bars: chocolate mint, espresso chocolate, and chocolate with cocoa nibs.

WALT WHITMAN IS COMING TO FIRST PARISH

On October 12, at 8 p.m., critically acclaimed Shakespearean actor Stephen Collins will present his one-man play, "Unlaunch'd Voices, an Evening with Walt Whitman." Collins brings Whitman to life as no other actor has, using Whitman's own poetry and other writings. His Concord letter from Ralph Waldo Emerson is an effective dramatic device that allows him to show how these visionaries kept, through correspondence, interesting contact with each other.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Money Matters

As I write this, I have financial information for only the first two months of the fiscal year. So far, the finances look relatively on track, but obviously it is hard to tell how the year will go with only two months of data. As is typical for the summer months, pledge income was low in July and August. First Parish is fortunate to have many contributors who pay their pledges early or by auto deduction, so the slow summer months do not hurt us financially. As you get back into your regular schedules, please remember to make regular contributions toward your pledges as well.

Speaking of pledges, the first quarter pledge statements will be sent out in October. Please look at these carefully, particularly if you pay by auto deduction or credit card. If you pay by auto deduction and increased your pledge, the amount deducted could only be increased if you filled out a form to do so. As I mentioned last month, if you pledged by credit card and your card expired during the last few months, we cannot charge the card until we get new information from you. In both these situations, we have tried to contact people and correct the problems, but some of the issues are still outstanding.

The year holds many opportunities for me as your Business Manager. Among other things, I will be working with volunteers from both the capital campaign and annual pledge campaign. First Parish is fortunate to have outstanding people working in both these areas, and I hope you will be supportive as they tackle these important jobs.

—*Lisa Cole*

Business Manager

MOST SUCCESSFUL PLEDGE YEAR!

It feels wonderful to be at First Parish in the fall. Back in the community. Old friends. New faces. I sense a new generation of young families in RE, and on Sunday nights Youth Group is getting into its groove. Coffee hour is bustling with new members, social action and many programs. We'd like to thank the congregation yet again for your generous pledges to support the July 2006 – June, 2007 church budget. The news is terrific! We have surpassed our \$940,000 goal by \$13,000! Pledging is an annual tradition and your love for First Parish is evident!

In appreciation,
Cynthia Ellis, cochair, Pledge•2006

Pastoral Care News

October is my favorite month. It seems to span the human experience of “full catastrophe living,” or as Gary says, the “mess and the mystery.” We in New England experience the brilliant display of color as leaves turn to orange, yellow, red and brown. Then the colors vanish when the leaves fall and much of our environment turns to gray. The days become shorter, we move the clocks back and we are in darkness. For me this annual metamorphosis is a reminder of how precious and sacred life is. It is not surprising that Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur and All Souls’ Day and Saints’ Day, Halloween and Day of the Dead, are all observed in October or the beginning of November. Autumn invites us to turn inward, to review relationships and the meaning of our life.

With these thoughts in mind, I will deliver a sermon on October 29 titled “Being a Companion in the Wilderness,” in which I will explore what Unitarian Universalism uniquely has to offer when we are with a loved one who is dying. I will follow up the sermon with a workshop Thursday, November 2, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and a repeat on Thursday, November 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on “The Dance of Contemplative Care: The Psychospiritual Journey of Dying.” We will explore the final journey we all must take, and the lessons it has to offer.

HOLIDAY FLOWERS

I am looking for two volunteers to work with **Sandie** and **Tom Kennedy** to coordinate the delivery of holiday flowers the day after Christmas and at Easter. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the church community, bringing holiday cheer to those who cannot participate in the services. If you are interested, please leave a message at extension 422.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Standing Committee Notes

The Standing Committee (SC) met on September 1 and welcomed guest **Sally Hamlin**, our new Ministerial Intern. **Gary Smith** reported that there are currently two staff positions to be filled, one in RE and one in social action. **Jeff Greene**, **Kitsy Rothermel** and **Rob Galford** comprise the Sabbatical Committee to help Gary's sabbatical, which he is taking January through June of next year, go smoothly. **David Hesel** is the new Finance Manager of the Capital Campaign, and he met with **Rob Richardson** and **Lisa Cole** to discuss how best to manage the church's financial records as the campaign proceeds. The SC set the following goals for the coming year: 1. Implement communications priorities (from last year's committee work); 2. Support the capital campaign (which needs people who are willing to solicit); 3. Support taking financial management systems to the next level; 4. Develop a long-term vision for First Parish. The SC hopes to include other members of the congregation in subcommittees this year. **Katharine Esty** reported that the Social Action Task Force is looking at how other churches manage social action and ways to fund social action. The Capital Campaign Committee worked throughout the summer and is trying to keep to their tight schedule. Updates are posted on the church's website. The all-church meeting is scheduled for December 3, at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting of the SC is October 16 and will be open to the public from 7 to 8 p.m.

Submitted,

— *Sue Beck*, Clerk

Music Notes

SARASA CONCERT

On Sunday, October 29, at 7 p.m. the Music Events Committee will present a concert by the Cambridge-based, nationally acclaimed, chamber music ensemble Sarasa. The program, entitled "Mozart and his Fortepiano," will include a piano quartet, a trio and sonatas by Mozart, with Alison Bury, violin; Jennifer Stirling, viola; Timothy Merton, cello; Maggie Cole, fortepiano. Tickets are \$20, \$16 for seniors, \$13 for students; children are free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at sarasamusic.org. The public is invited. For information, call 617-492-4758, 978-369-3779 or 978-369-9602.

MUSings

Go out into the world in peace . . .



The First Parish Choir is taking that first line of our Benediction quite seriously this year. Our diverse international repertoire has earned us some wonderful invitations to events in the Boston area this fall and we are making plans to make another Musical Pilgrimage to Transylvania in August of 2007.

On Monday, October 9, at 12:30 p.m., members of the Choir and our friend, vocalist Sadhana Upadhyay, will be singing at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts as part of their Columbus Day Open House. We will present Hindu devotional songs from our repertoire as well as choral works by the Indian composer Victor Paranjoti. This performance is in honor of a new exhibit of South Asian Art at the MFA. General admission to the MFA is free that day so come hear us and enjoy the museum. There is more information about this event on the MFA website at mfa.org.

Later in the month, on October 22, the choir will travel to Faneuil Hall to sing at a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. This invitation came from the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts, through parishioner **Ivan Kristoffy**.

Our ever-growing repertoire of Hungarian music has been inspired by the relationship that First Parish has with our partner church in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania. In August 2002, the First Parish Choir made its first Musical Pilgrimage to Transylvania, an experience that transformed the individual pilgrims who participated and deepened our relationship with our Unitarian brothers and sisters in Székelykeresztúr.

Plans are now under way for a second musical pilgrimage, August 7 to 21, 2007. This trip will include an extended visit to Székelykeresztúr as well as visits to and concerts in Brassó, Kolosvar, Budapest and Prague. Keep watching the newsletter and the website for more information about this trip. If you are interested in singing in the touring choir, I encourage you to join the Adult Choir this year. We will be including tour repertoire in our Sunday services throughout the year so that the music will be mostly learned by June and can be "polished" with the touring choir in a few summer rehearsals. There will also be space on this pilgrimage for nonsinging travelers.

It is often said that music is the universal language. It has certainly been my experience that music bridges gaps of language, culture, faith and geography. I am grateful that through music we can live that opening line of our benediction and truly "go out into the world in peace."

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

M. L. CARR TO SPEAK

Increasing violence is an ever-present challenge in Boston. Join the UU Urban Ministry, member church congregants, and representatives from our Boston community as we address issues of urban violence at our fall forum at the First Church in Roxbury, 10 Putnam St., Sunday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m. with featured speaker former Celtics star



M. L. Carr speaking on "Moving Beyond Violence: We Are All Role Models".

As founder of WARM2KIDS — an acronym for We're All Role Models. M. L. brings the same leadership skills to preventing youth and domestic violence that he once brought to the basketball court and NBA championships. RSVP to Linda Evans at levans@uum.org, or 617-318-6010, ext. 203.

HELP REBUILD A BILOXI FAMILY'S HOME

Bridge to Biloxi still needs your help this October/November. Consider volunteering to work in Biloxi rebuilding one home (no special skills required), or make a contribution to the cost of rebuilding. We have just begun work on the modest, hurricane-damaged home of Gulf Coast residents Cynthia, Dan, and their five children. Highly committed to helping Biloxi recover, the family lives in a FEMA trailer and works hard to provide for younger children and a college-age daughter. To learn more about this pilot project, including our partner, Hands On Gulf Coast, please visit www.bridgetobiloxi.org or e-mail info@bridgetobiloxi.org.

TOUR ROXBURY WITH UU URBAN MINISTRY

Roxbury is a fascinating place loaded with history: UU and otherwise. Two Roxbury orientations have been planned for interested suburban UU's — Saturday, September 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sunday, October 15, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each of these orientations includes a tour of Roxbury and an introduction to the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM) facilities and programs. Carpooling can be arranged; call **Mark Richards** 978-771-9823 to RSVP for the October 15 event by Tuesday, October 10.

CROP WALK 2006

The 2006 Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 15, starting from First Parish. Registration begins at

1:30 p.m. with music from the CCHS Pep Band. This 10-K walk raises funds for seven local antihunger organizations, and for Church World Service to use in disaster relief and development projects around the world. These programs provide access to nutritious food, clean water, education, economic opportunity and medical care. **Jenny Rankin** and her family will be participating; if you can't walk, please consider sponsoring her or another walker. Online pledging is available; go to www.concordcrop.org and click on the link either to join the First Parish team or sponsor a walker. Sponsor forms are also available at coffee hour. Contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org with any questions.

PRISON OUTREACH ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

Sign up for the community Alternative to Violence workshop on Saturday, October 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord. The fee is \$15.00 and includes lunch. This experiential workshop helps participants tap into their own creativity in building peace at home, in the workplace, community and the world. AVP, Alternatives to Violence, an international organization founded by Quakers is based on the belief that we all have an inborn power for peace. Registration forms are available in the office. For more information, contact facilitator Betsy Maloney at 978-369-8024, or Betsy62647@verizon.net.

GUANTANAMO AND BEYOND: WHAT WE CAN DO

Amnesty International's Group 15 and SAC are cosponsoring this community event at First Parish. The guest speaker is Boston attorney Sabin Willett, who will describe his firsthand experience defending and gaining freedom for two Chinese Uighur detainees from Guantanamo's Camp Delta. Please join us for the talk, entitled "Unconstitutional Detention, Cruel and Unusual Punishment in the US," to be followed by a question and answer period and refreshments, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, in the Parish Hall. And bring your friends!

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE PROJECT

Team leaders of the Mass. Campaign for a Department of Peace have planned a new outreach. Rev. Fred Small, of Littleton First Parish, has proposed a "Peacemaker Project," to be piloted in Massachusetts. One person makes two contacts, e-mail and phone call, to three members of Congress, one Representative and two Senators. The Red Hot Chili Peppers have invited the campaign to "table" at concerts on their upcoming tour. The Newton group, hosting a meeting at the Unitarian Society September 11, will feature a new film on Gandhi, developed by the New York Department of Peace Campaign. To get involved, contact **Pat Simon** at 781-373-1410 or Jason White at 978-621-0353 or www.madop.org.

"AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH" SCREENING

A free screening and discussion of the movie "An Inconvenient Truth," sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee and The Earth, will take

SOCIAL ACTION continued on page 7

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH?

The First Parish Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org, see our website www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/, or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.

place on Thursday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The public and people of all ages are invited to attend. For more information, contact **Andy Proulx** at 978-369-4706.

GREELEY FOUNDATION CELEBRATION!

Twenty years ago, The Greeley Foundation for Peace and Justice was created to honor First Parish Minister Dana McLean Greeley and his wife Debby. Over the years, Greeley Foundation grants have ranged from support for peace and international understanding to at-risk youth in Boston and Lowell.

In 2007, the foundation will be evolving into work through five other organizations. All friends of the Greeleys, the foundation, and UU activism in the world are invited to celebrate this transition on Sunday, November 5, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please come for music, memories, food and fun.

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

Dessert and sweets will be served after the performance. Suggested donation is three dollars. All First Parish folks and friends are cordially invited. This performance will be of interest, as well, to teens studying Whitman. For reservations, contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekincd@comcast.net by October 9. This will be a very popular event, so make your reservations early!

DON'T MISS THE ARTISANS FAIR

It's time to get ready for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 4. Bring your treasures for our white elephant table to the Parish Hall on Friday afternoon, November 3. The fair committee is looking for donations of small gift items of high quality. Several new artists and artisans have been added this year to ensure an interesting variety of handcrafted items as well as photography and prints. Many First Parish artists' and artisans' works will be on sale. There are many fun ways to participate in this community-wide effort. You can volunteer to work for an hour or more. Call **Jen Petersen** at 978-369-4103 or **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekincd@comcast.net to offer your services or gift items. Come and bring your friends to this annual event. Watch for discount postcards around the church.

Membership Corner

WELCOME TO EVERYONE!

First, a hearty welcome to everyone who is receiving this newsletter for the first time! If you came by during the summer, you probably wondered where everyone was. If you came by during September, you probably wondered where all the people came from! There is a lot going on at First Parish, and the job of the Membership Council is to make you feel welcome and to ensure you don't get lost in the coffee hour craziness. Whether it be an Affinity Group, a course at the Wright Tavern Center, or a conversation with one of our ministers, we can help connect you to this vibrant faith community. We are here every Sunday, at both services, so please look for us at the Newcomer's Corner in the Parish Hall. Come by and introduce yourself; we'd love to meet you!

THE NEW U OFFERED IN OCTOBER

Our introduction to Unitarian Universalism and to First Parish as a faith community is starting up again this month. This three-session orientation is facilitated by our ministers and lay leaders, and will take place on October 22 and 29 and November 5 (all Sunday afternoons) from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Wright Tavern. Please see me during coffee hour, e-mail me at steph@pierre.com, or call the office if you would like to attend. Space is limited, and we only offer this twice a year, so don't miss out. Child care will be available, if requested in advance.

ARE YOU ON THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP?

If you have been coming to First Parish for about four months and would now like to become a member, then the Minister's Orientation is the session for you. It gives you and the ministers an opportunity to get to know each other in a small group setting. It allows you to share with us your spiritual odyssey, and the path that brought you to First Parish. And it allows us to share with you our vision and our dreams for First Parish, and how important your contribution is to make those dreams a reality. This month's Minister's Orientation coincides with the first session of the New U — Sunday, October 22, at 4 p.m., with **Gary Smith**. Space is limited and advance sign-up is required, so please see me during coffee hour, e-mail me at steph@pierre.com, or call the office if you would like to attend. Child care will be available, if requested in advance.

—**Stephanie Chiha**, cochair, Membership Council

FALL SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

These potluck dinners of 8-10 people will be held in participants' homes. Each evening promises delicious food, beverages and spirited conversation. The hosts provide an appetizer and beverages. The guests bring the main dish, salad and dessert. Don't miss this delightful evening! Sign up at coffee hour on Sunday, October 15, and Sunday, October 22, or by calling **Carolyn** and **Barry Copp** at 978-287-0492 (cbcopp@comcast.net). The sign-up deadline is 1 p.m. (sharp!) on Sunday, October 22. The dinner parties will take place on Saturday, October 28, in participants' homes.

MATCH YOURSELF TO AN AFFINITY GROUP

Would you like to become acquainted with others at First Parish who have similar interests? Groups are based on diverse interests or hobbies. Many groups are available and others can be organized this year. Check the Affinity Groups table at coffee hour on October 15 to see which groups are currently functioning. To join a group, fill out an interest survey. Surveys will also be available at coffee hour on Sunday, October 15. If you have questions, contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or at dembsey@surfglobal.net.

Phew! It's hard to believe we have arrived. So many have done so much to make things ready in RE this year. I am writing this just after our very first day of Workshop Rotation. Normally, I like to get my "reflection" for the newsletter in early to **Jane Johnson**, but this week I told her I couldn't write a word until I saw everything in action on Sunday.

As I walked through the halls that Sunday morning, I really listened to the "noise." I listened and I heard happy and engaged children. I heard children talking to one another, working on projects together, practicing yoga and playing games. These are the sounds of relationships forming. These are the sounds that build a community of First Parish children. These are the noises that enable kids to learn each other's names and to feel connected to our congregation. Names are important, they make us feel like we belong, and others knowing our names keep us coming back.

WORKSHOP ROTATION

We were all pleased to see that Workshop Rotation started off without a hitch on September 17. This was the result of so many working so hard to try to think of everything: rooms, grade level colors, sashes for the guides, RE Workshop boards, worship boxes, journals and other materials. We wanted it to go as smoothly as possible to make the transition as easy as possible on both our kids and our parents. Thank you for working with us while we "grow into" our new program together.

THE YOUNG ACTIVISTS (YA)

Wowee! Twenty-two 7th graders showed up for the return of the Young Activists program. There was so much energy coming from the Parlor on Sunday morning. Good energy. Social Action energy. These kids are ready to help others and get involved with hands-on projects in our community. We have dedicated leaders for this group as well. Leaders who are all personally interested in social action themselves: **Claudia Nimar**, **Marcie Tyre Berkley**, **Deborah Hulihan** and **Maile Hulihan**. Thanks to them we have this vibrant program for our young teens.

WAYS OF WORSHIP (WOW)

Our wow group kicked off the year on a Friday night with a screening of the original film *Godspell*. They shared popcorn and laughs in the new "theater" in our Fenn room. With the talented leaders this year, we are already off to a great beginning. Plans for music, worship, dance and social action are already under way. Please take a

moment to thank these dynamic leaders for WOW: **Tracey Hurd**, **C C King**, **Jay Vogt**, **Barb Caddell**, **Rob Castillo**, **Jennifer Hurley-Wales**, **Deborah Bain** and **Candace Nelson**. Each one brings a special talent to share with our 8th grade youth.

COMING OF AGE (COA)

We are starting our COA year with two social events in October. The first is the ropes course (October 14), followed by dinner with **Gary Smith**, and the second is a social action project through CityYear on October 28. Both are designed to help our Coming of Age youth and mentors get to know each other and find out who is in the program. We have another year of terrific leadership with **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** supervising the program and **Debra Dunnington** as the COA program leader. Both are dynamic people dedicated to making COA a meaningful program for our young adults.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS

We have two vibrant youth groups this year: one for 6th graders, led by **Hillary Wells**, **Michael Conwill** and **Elizabeth Seabury**; and one for 7th and 8th graders, led by **John** and **Andrea Sheffield** and **Liza Carter**. Both groups are focusing on building social connections through active group projects and events. On October 20, the 6th graders will meet at the Wright Tavern for the Concord Ghost Walk; and on October 22, our 7th and 8th graders will participate in an Applefest.

— Pam Howell

IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY NOTE

If you are missing a calendar, we have included calendars for all of our programs on our First Parish website, firstparish.org. We hope you find this a useful resource this year. Also, please take a moment to sign up for the RE Listserv. It is the best way to receive timely information about our RE program. To subscribe, send an e-mail to: FirstParish-ReligiousEducation-Subscribe@googlegroups.com.

UPCOMING RE ORIENTATIONS

Because of the new programming next year, we will be doing orientation a bit differently. Orientation will be critical to the success of Spirit Play and Workshop Rotation. For each rotation, all leaders and guides are required to attend. If one person doesn't know the expectations, it could really throw the whole program off.

Orientation Schedule for 2006-2007 Religious Education

Spirit Play, Winter/Spring Teachers – December 7, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #2 – October 19, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #3 – December 7, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #4 – February 8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #5 – March 29, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

RE NEWS (OCTOBER CALENDAR) continued on page 9

RE OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday, October 1 – Regular RE for 0-Sixth Grade

7th Grade Young Activists – 11 a.m., Parlor

8th Grade wow – 11 a.m., Wright Tavern

Sunday, October 8 – Regular RE for 0-4's

Chapel Sunday for K-Sixth Grade

No RE for wow (8th) or YA (7th)

Saturday, October 14 – Coming of Age Ropes Course & Dinner with **Gary Smith**

(8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

Sunday, October 15 – Regular RE for 0-Sixth Grade

7th Grade YA Crop Walk, 12 noon for lunch in the Parlor

8th Grade wow Crop Walk, meet at Wright Tavern at 12 noon

Thursday, October 19 – RE Orientation for Workshop Rotation #2

Friday, October 20 – Sixth Grade Youth Group at 7 p.m. in Wright Tavern for Ghost Walk

Sunday, October 22 – Regular RE 0-Sixth Grade

No RE for 7th Grade YA

8th Grade wow in the Wright Tavern

7th/8th Grade Youth Group – Applefest 2 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 28 – Coming of Age City Year Project, 8:30 a.m. at First Parish

Sunday, October 29 – Regular RE for 0-Sixth Grade – Rotation #2 begins

7th Grade YA at 11 a.m., field trip to Rivercrest Care Facility

8th Grade wow at 11 a.m. in the Wright Tavern

Senior Youth News

We are off to a terrific start. We squeezed 63 youth into the Chapel for our first YRUU on September 10, and tried to learn each other's names with a hilarious game. It felt so good to be back together and to welcome new youth. We spent the rest of September building community by developing trust with each other, getting to know each other and going on retreat to Anam Cara (the new name for Mayromai, which means "good friend") in Vermont. The YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) wants all First Parish youth to know that they can drop by *any* Sunday and join us. You can join us on a social action project or simply sign up for senior high OWL. It is our hope the youth feel connected to First Parish in whatever way best fits their schedule and interests.

This month there are two important deadlines:

October 9 – Transylvanian Youth Pilgrimage applications due

October 12 – SOWL applications due; mandatory parent orientation on Tuesday, October 17, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (11th and 12th graders only)

All forms can be downloaded from the First Parish website by clicking on Youth Calendar.

Senior High OWL (Our Whole Lives) is a class for 11th and 12th graders that meets for four Tuesday nights and one Friday night lock-in to discuss different aspects of high school relationships. The class builds on the facts and skills learned in 8th grade OWL by meeting high school age youth where they are with regard to relationships and sexuality. We are lucky to have **Peter Fischelis** and **Susannah Elliot** returning as teachers.

There are some great social action opportunities for youth this month. We are taking a bus into Boston for the CityYear Serve-a-thon on October 28. Sign-up sheets are available online and all youth are welcome. Youth are invited to join the larger church in participating in Crop Walk on October 15. You can get sign-up sheets from me. The YAC has decided to sponsor a new high school student in Transylvania and we are working on raising the funds to support our student.

Look in the mail for the monthly youth newsletter, *What's the Deal?*, which outlines our Sunday night program:

- October 2 – No YRUU because of retreat
- October 9 (Monday because of Columbus Day) – Snowballs
- October 15 – Outdoor games at Emerson Field, meet at church
- October 22 – Inspirational speaker
- October 29 – Field trip to Witches' Woods – leaving First Parish at 5:30 p.m. and returning at 9:30 – permission slip on website

Fall is such a busy, hectic time as we settle into our new routines. The YAC is putting a lot of thought and energy into creating a youth program at First Parish that can be an oasis of peace, a place for youth to feel connected and a place to grow one's soul in these busy times. As always, call or e-mail me with any ideas, questions or comments.

—Mary-Wren vanderWilden



**THE AUCTION RIDES INTO TOWN
— SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

**Food, Fun, Games and Bids Galore
Help First Parish by Joining the Party!**

Big Sky Bonanza will be here in a few short weeks with everything you love about the First Parish auction tradition: socializing, unique and exciting auction items, good food, creative decorations and all-around party fun!

**What makes the Auction a Success?
YOUR Donations Do!**

Donations will be taken October 1 to October 15 (coffee hours or see contacts below). There are so many great possibilities: time at vacation houses, original art or craft items, special event tickets, hosting dinners ... or you may have a service that someone would love to bid on: making music or art, teaching a new skill, or caring for children or pets. If you're not sure, come chat with us at coffee hour; together we can find that match between your genius and the congregation's needs.

**What makes the Auction a Success?
YOUR Volunteer Time Does!**

Dozens of people contribute their time to make the auction work. It's a great way to get to know people in our growing community — and we can fit many of the tasks to the time you have available. Talk to us at coffee hour or call the number below.

**What makes the Auction a Success?
YOUR Attendance Does!**

Tickets go on sale starting Sunday, October 22. Attendance is limited.

Please contact auction chairs **Phyllis Savage** and **Eric Read** at 978-663-3987 or e-mail to phyllis.savage@comcast.net with questions or comments. Thanks!

Women's News

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The October book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *The Master Butchers Singing Club*, by Louise Erdrich. The evening session will meet on Monday, October 30, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning group on Tuesday, October 31, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com. Books and dates for the remainder of 2006-2007 are as follows.

December 4 (p.m.) and 5 (a.m.)

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard

January 29 (p.m.) and 30 (a.m.)

The Birth of Venus, Sarah Dunant

February 26 (p.m.) and 27 (a.m.)

The Spiral Staircase, Karen Armstrong

March 26 (p.m.) and 27 (a.m.)

Independent People, Halldor Laxness

April 23 (p.m.) and 24 (a.m.)

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, Anne Fadiman

May 21 (p.m.) and 22 (a.m.)

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, Lisa See

**REMEMBERING FANNIE FARMER AND OTHER COOKBOOK
AUTHORS**

On Tuesday, October 24, at noon, The Women's Parish Association is pleased to offer an interesting luncheon and program to celebrate the accomplishments of a famous Unitarian, Fannie Farmer, and the author of *The Joy of Cooking* as well as other important cookbooks. The luncheon will include items from these cookbooks followed by a discussion of people's favorite recipes and memories associated with these and other recipe sources. Please bring your copies of *Fannie Farmer* and *The Joy of Cooking* and other favorite books, dog-eared or not. The price of the meal is not determined at this time, but you will get a discount if you bring a book with you! Reservations are not absolutely necessary but for planning purposes, contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekindc@comcast.net by October 21 to let us know if you are attending, or if you need a ride or child care arrangements. All First Parish folks and friends are cordially invited.

Community News/Classified

FROM THE CONCORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Concord Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for 3-bedroom apartments in Concord. Anyone interested should contact the Concord Housing Authority at 978-369-8435 to find out income limits and to request an application.

SEEKING HOUSE-SITTING OPPORTUNITY

Former Concordian returning to the area seeks house-sitting while he awaits his family's relocation. The need is immediate through June, or any increment. Please contact Dennis Fiori at 671-646-0520 or dfiori@masshist.org.

October 2006 Calendar

*Listings in italics represent classes offered through
the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.*

Every Week...

Morning Meditation	Monday-Friday	7:15 a.m.
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	9:30 a.m. (not 10/9)
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	1:15 p.m. (not 10/9)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. (not 10/31)
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	Tuesday	7:30 p.m. (not 10/31)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
<i>Poetic Journeys</i>	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Brown Bag Emerson</i>	Thursday	12:00 noon
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Melt Chaos into Calm</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Finding Your Calling</i>	Thursday	8:00 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/2 or 10/8)

Sun Oct 1	8:30 Jericho Road Ride	7:30 <i>Five Important Sermons</i>
	10:10 Humanist Forum	7:30 <i>A Woman for Our Time: Mary Magdalene</i>
Mon Oct 2	7:30 <i>Five Important Sermons</i>	
	7:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>	Tue Oct 17
Tue Oct 3	9:00 WPA Board	7:00 Senior Our Whole Lives Parent Orientation
Wed Oct 4	7:00 Youth Advisory Committee	7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee
Thu Oct 5	9:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i>	Wed Oct 18
Fri Oct 6	9:30 Parish Care Ministry	12:15 <i>Listening for God</i>
Sat Oct 7	12:30 <i>Reiki – Level One</i>	Thu Oct 19
Sun Oct 8	12:30 <i>Reiki – Level One</i>	9:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i>
Mon Oct 9	Holiday—Office Closed	7:30 RE Orientation
	7:00 YRUU	Fri Oct 20
		11:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i>
		1:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i>
		7:00 Sixth Grade Youth
Wed Oct 11	6:30 Partner Church Committee	Sat Oct 21
	7:00 <i>Stress Drop-In</i>	7:30 Library Program and Reception
	7:30 Capital Campaign Congregational Meeting	Sun Oct 22
	7:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i>	2:00 RE Violin Recital
Thu Oct 12	8:00 WPA Meeting with Walt Whitman Portrayal	4:00 New U
		4:00 Junior High Youth Group
Fri Oct 13	7:30 Nominating Committee Dessert Gala	Tue Oct 24
		12:00 WPA Luncheon
Sat Oct 14	9:00 Photo Club	Wed Oct 25
	9:30 Capital Campaign Congregational Meeting	9:15 Newsletter Mailing
	6:00 Coming of Age Dinner	9:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i>
Sun Oct 15	1:30 Crop Walk	Fri Oct 27
Mon Oct 16	12:00 Newsletter Deadline	7:30 Rise Up Singing
	7:00 Standing Committee	Sat Oct 28
		8:30 YRUU City Year Serve-a-thon
		9:30 <i>Sound as Prayer</i>
		1:00 <i>Dying to Live</i>
		Sun Oct 29
		4:00 New U
		7:00 Sarasa Concert
		Mon Oct 30
		7:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
		7:30 <i>Five Important Sermons</i>
		Tue Oct 31
		9:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

The next **Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, October 16**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, October 25.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

CONCORD CROP WALK

Sunday, October 15
1:30 p.m.

A VISIT WITH WALT WHITMAN

Thursday, October 12
8:00 p.m.

**First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Staff**

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister (*on sabbatical January–June 2007*)

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Sally Hamlin, Ministerial Intern

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Jane Barnes, Religious Education Administrator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

Eric Huenneke, Organist

Martha Goodman, Handbell Choir Director

Judy Burrows, Children's Choir Director

Anderson Manuel, Music/RE Associate

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Wright Tavern Center Director

Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director

Leslie Koplou, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road

A. Bigay, Assistant to the Ministers

Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

Jane Johnson, Office Manager

Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector

Lisa Cole, Business Manager

Caroline McCloy, Director of Member Services

Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor

Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff



**HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS
FOR SUNDAY SERVICES**

If you would like to provide the service flowers for a special Sunday to honor or celebrate an event or a loved one, dates are still available throughout the year. Please contact **Peggy Brace** at 978-369-1373.



Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 4:00

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: fpconcord@aol.com

Website: firstparish.org

Ministers' E-Mail:

Gary E. Smith: garyesmith@firstparish.org

Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net

Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net