



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

“The meaning of the Sabbath,” wrote Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, “is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time. It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation; from the world of creation to the creation of the world.” On the Sabbath there is no work. It is a day to share a meal, walk in the woods, take a nap. To rest in God’s love and renew your spirit for the week ahead.

As Unitarian Universalists, we draw wisdom from the world’s religions, and so I’ve been thinking about Sabbath in this week between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I love the idea of a time set aside for “being, not doing.” We are such a busy people. Stepping back into the fall, I remember that as I drive kids to sports, pick up food at the supermarket, go to back-to-school nights, juggle work commitments.

In Judaism and Christianity, Sabbath is a foundational practice. “Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy,” one of the ten commandments. I think we need this good news. As Gary said in his prayer on Sunday, we lead such fragmented, scattered lives. We drive back and forth across town to the supermarket, to sports, to music lessons. We fly back and forth across the country. We check e-mails, talk on cell phones, look at news headlines. How often can we put it all down, let it all go, and return to what matters most of all? That is the invitation of Sabbath time. As we sang in church last Sunday, “Return to the home of your soul.”

For me, August is when I am probably closer to that “Sabbath mindset” than at any other time of year. Away from schedules, computers, “to do” lists, I can feel the wind on my face, let the beauty of the sea and the stars sink into my soul. I share the days with family and friends, nothing to “do” but eat, sleep, play and swim. I rest. It restores my soul.

Back home, I know that “once a year” Sabbath is not enough. I need to find ways to bring the soul-renewing practice of Sabbath into “regular life.” I’m not sure what we will try this year, but it is on my mind and in my heart as we step back into fall.

I wonder what spiritual disciplines you find helpful in your day-to-day life to keep you and your family centered in the very busy, sometimes crazy-making world we live in. If you are inclined, drop me a note at revjenny@comcast.net and let me know. I’d like to find ways we could share our wisdom and support each other in this balancing act. I’d like to find ways that First Parish could help.

—Jenny Rankin

Sunday Worship Schedule

October 7

Becky Johnson, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

We Are – Barnwell

Wanting Memories – Barnwell

11:00 – Lauren Evans, Alto

October 14

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Handbell Choir

This Joyful Day – Wagner

Andante Maestoso – Holst

October 21

Ned Wight, preaching

**9:00 – Gospel Choir and
Junior Choir**

**11:00 – Adult Choir and
Chalice Choir**

October 28

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – TBA

11:00 – Adult Choir

Gib Unsern Fürsten – Schutz

Da Pacem Domine – Franck

COME BUILD A DREAM!

Check the First Parish website
and the bulletin board
opposite the kitchen for
the latest update on
the Capital Campaign.



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There are three inserts with this newsletter:
Wright Tavern Center Programs
RESQ Concert Information
Fr. Narváez Lecture and Reception

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

Noon Deadline	Mailing Date
Monday, Oct. 15	Wednesday, Oct. 24
Monday, Nov. 12	Wednesday, Nov. 28
Monday, Dec. 10	Wednesday, Dec. 19

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

Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee met on September 10. Please look for the minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log on), or look for them on the bulletin board in the downstairs hall. The next Standing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 15.

Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Robert Hilsinger** or **Charles Lowell** if you wish to recommend a topic or a speaker.

OCTOBER 7

No Forum
Holiday Weekend

OCTOBER 14

No Forum

OCTOBER 21

Jericho Road Update

Becky Johnson, Jericho Road
Ministerial Intern

First Parish is fortunate to have had outstanding interns over the years and this year is no exception. During her internship, Becky will be working on Jericho Road projects. She will give an update on the latest Jericho Road activities, including the fall bicycling fundraiser from First Parish to Lowell. This Forum will also give us an opportunity to welcome Becky and express our support for her during her stay with us.

OCTOBER 28

*What the Cape Wind Project Means
to American Energy Independence*

Charles "Chuck" Kleekamp
Moderator: **Mel Bernstein**

The hotly contested wind farm project proposed for Nantucket Sound is the subject of this Forum. Chuck Kleekamp, a leading spokesman for Cape Cod's Clean Power Now movement, will be the speaker with discussion to follow.

Parish Notes

JERICHO ROAD SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Never volunteered through the Jericho Road Project? Been a while since your last volunteer engagement? Let Lowell Program Director Jodi DeLibertis take you to coffee to discuss how you can use your professional expertise to help Lowell nonprofits be more effective in serving their clients. Marketing and IT professionals are in high demand right now, although we always welcome volunteers with any professional skill. Jodi can be reached by e-mailing jdelibertis@jerichoroadproject.org or calling 978-500-1722.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS ON OCTOBER 7

An interfaith blessing of animals will be held on Sunday, October 7, at 1:30 p.m., at the Emerson Umbrella (in inclement weather, on the veranda of Trinity Episcopal on Elm Street). Please watch for an update on location. Trinity Episcopal and Holy Family churches are inviting all faith communities to participate on this date nearest to the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Treats for animals and humans will be available.

ASSOCIATION SUNDAY IS COMING!

On October 14, we will be joining thousands of Unitarian Universalists in affirming our common bonds on the first annual Association Sunday. Our liberal faith is needed to help heal this wounded world. Now is the time to pool our resources and let people know who we are and how to find us. Funds raised on this Sunday will go to new national marketing efforts, to resources supporting our ministers and seminarians of-color and the congregations that call them; and also right back to our district for grants supporting individual congregations' growth and outreach projects. (These are incentive grants, as the gifts returned to the district will be proportionate to the Association Sunday funds raised by the district.) Come join us on October 14, ready to give generously to help grow our faith, because we are better together! More information about Association Sunday can be found at uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml.

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

This spring and summer more than 75 people from First Parish — including our choir, youth pilgrims and independent travelers — visited Transylvania. All have stories to tell, and there are many pictures to share on the Web: <http://firstparish.org/photos/gallery2>.

The Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr needs renovation after decades of communist and government abuse and neglect. It will house new classes and its library is being reconstituted, including our contributions of dictionaries, books and laptops. The Parish House is also being reconstructed into ministers' offices, a library, facilities for youth and women's groups, meeting hall, kitchen and guest rooms. Our youth helped clear out decades of dirt and debris. Our friends in Székelykeresztúr can use our help in these efforts. Look for future updates from the PCC.

DISABILITY AWARENESS FORUM

On October 23, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., the First Parish Diversity Committee will host an educational forum on disabilities. The focus of this forum will be to help us understand the variety of daily challenges faced by people with disabilities. A panel of guests with firsthand experience will discuss ways that we can all make First Parish more welcoming and accessible.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 10

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATES

October 2007

To keep information more current, all Capital

Campaign updates will now be posted on the First Parish website *and* on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen. Check either location often for the latest news.



Pastoral Care News

In *Singing the Living Tradition*, George Odell, in Reading No. 468, *We Need One Another*, writes, "We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted." He continues, "We need one another when we are afraid, or in a state of despair; as well as when we want to share a success." Odell concludes, "All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us." This is the spirit Parish Visitors bring to each of their visits.

Judy Foreman of *The Boston Globe* wrote April 22, 1996, that a little over a 100 years ago, a small band of Italians left Italy in hopes of a better life in the United States. Naming the new village Roseto, the group soon created strong community ties which they had nurtured in Italy. Their lives centered around family, and they built homes close together so neighbors could easily talk with one another. By the 1960's, the town of Roseto stood out because its population had only 40 percent as many heart attack deaths as the rest of the nation. As researchers came to study "the Roseto effect," it became clear that closeness with other people has a strong protective effect against illness and death.

So the good news is...being a member of First Parish is not only good for you spiritually, it is also good for you physically and emotionally! Our current parish visitors are **Pagey Elliot, Ross Harris, David Huston, Janet Kennedy, David Pohl, Carolyn Shohet, Lois Suarez** and **Marian Wheeler**, but we need more volunteers. To be a parish visitor usually means visiting a parishioner once a month (it is often less and can be more), bringing news of church life, and having an open mind and heart to hear life stories of the past, as well as concerns and fears of the present. A visit might also include going for a walk, playing cards, working on puzzles or reading aloud. Most of all visiting requires a large dose of compassionate curiosity, thereby enriching your life, as well as the life of the person you are visiting. Please contact me at mksaphier@comcast.net or call at the church (ext. 422) if you are interested in becoming a parish visitor.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Membership Corner

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE PHOTO DIRECTORY

Be sure to register to have your photograph taken for our upcoming pictorial directory. We would like to have 100 percent participation this year. Each family or individual who has their photo taken will receive one free 8 x 10 color photograph plus a free directory. The privilege of being included in the directory is reserved for pledging members, but we welcome anyone to come to have their pictures done. Those who register for the earlier slots are guaranteed to receive their photos in time for the holidays. There are two ways to sign up, either in the Parish Hall during coffee hour or online. A link to the photography sign-up will be added to the First Parish website, look for more information in the *Sunday News* and the next issue of the *Meeting House News*.

THEY'RE BACK! OCTOBER SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES

Make new friends at the October Seasonal Dinner Parties on Saturday, October 20. The parties are informal potluck suppers for 8 to 10 people, held in participants' homes. This is a great opportunity to become better acquainted with new people and deepen relationships with old friends. The dinners are open to adults — both couples and singles. Hosts provide an appetizer and beverages; guests bring the dinner. Sign up at coffee hour on October 7 or October 14, or contact **Carolyn** and **Barry Copp** at cbcopp@comcast.net or 978-287-0492.

MUSings

In Hungarian, the word for song is *ének* (ay-neck). The verb to sing is *énekel*. *Egy énekkar* is a choir. Your *énekhang* is your singing voice.

In my still very elementary study of Hungarian, as I browse through the Hungarian-English dictionary, I have noticed that *énekel* is just a few lines away from *én*, the Hungarian first-person singular pronoun. The word for “I.” The idea that these two words might be related appeals to me immensely.

I have asked several native Hungarian speakers about this, and all assure me that *ének* and *én* have no etymological connection.



Yet my quasi-poetic belief in that derivation persists. For to sing is to express oneself in a unique and unmistakable way.

When we sing, we share a deep part of our selves. Our bodies are the instruments — air passes from the lungs, through the larynx; sound vibrates in the unique resonators of each individual. No one else can make the sound that I make, that you make, when we sing.

Perhaps this is the power of a musical pilgrimage like the one the choir made this summer. We traveled to Transylvania to sing with and for our Unitarian brothers and sisters. Our voices intermingled. With our unisons and harmonies and dissonances, we created a sound community that was far greater than anything we could have created as individuals. We communicated in a universal musical language that transcends nationality and culture. Jozsef Szombatfalvi, the minister in Székelykeresztúr, would say this musical language existed long before speech. He would say that its essence is Love.

The Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály wrote, “It is not worth singing for ourselves, it is nicer if two people sing together. Then more people: hundreds, thousands, until the huge Harmony can be heard, in which we can all be just one, indeed. Then we will be able to say: ‘May the whole world be happy!’”

I love Kodály’s image of “the huge Harmony.” It resonates with Jozsef’s invocation of that primordial, universal language — the music we all know in our souls. During our two weeks in Eastern Europe the possibility of that “huge Harmony” was almost tangible. I like to think we are helping to create that huge harmony here in Concord each Sunday when we sing together.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

HOME COMING CONCERT

Save the date

Sunday, November 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Beth Norton and the Transylvania Pilgrimage Choir invite one and all to a performance of the wonderful music they brought to Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Keep an eye on the *Sunday News* and November’s *Meeting House News* for details.

Social Action Community News and Events

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

Our Social Action Community activities are in full swing. The Jericho Road Ride is on September 30 (rain date October 6), improving our fitness while raising funds and awareness of this amazing program that links professional skills here at First Parish with the needs of Lowell nonprofits. The Jericho Road project is in the process of being replicated in other areas. If you don't join the ride, please join the project!

A huge thank-you to the Special Events Committee and **Sue Beck**, who are currently selling off inventory of Fair Trade coffee products after three years of promoting these products and their cause. Sue will continue to represent the UU Service Committee and its many other programs.



Please welcome Fr. Leonel Narváez on October 11 at 7:30 p.m. (sponsored by SAC and the Wright Tavern) for his internationally acclaimed program on Forgiveness and Reconciliation, created by him in Colombia, used in other war-torn settings and in urban environments, but applicable to everyone.

Keep an eye on our bulletin board for upcoming events and don't forget the Crop Walk on October 14 and Ned Wight from Veatch on October 21! Please contact me with your causes and concerns at FBade@FirstParish.org.

— *Faith Bade*
Social Action Associate

GREEN SANCTUARY REORGANIZATION

The Green Sanctuary Committee, a SAC program, has been reorganized, with **Bob Andrews** and **Peter Nobile** now serving as cochairs. **Andy Proulx**, **Maria Cox** and **Jay Barnes** have joined Peter and Bob as a core group responsible for committee leadership. An application will be submitted to the UUA seeking accreditation for First Parish as a Green Sanctuary church. Accreditation requires documented achievements in six areas: energy conservation and environmental practices; recycling and reuse; church communication; RE; worship; and environmental justice. Subsequent newsletter articles will describe our projects in each area. Contact Bob (978-369-2876) or Peter (978-369-5857) to see how you can be of help.

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

The Wright Tavern Center and the Social Action Community are proud to cosponsor Fr. Leonel Narváez for an evening lecture and reception. The program will be about Forgiveness and Reconciliation, and will take place on Thursday, October 11. The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the reception will start at 9 p.m. Tickets are available for \$15 in the office during the week or at coffee hours on Sundays.

How do you practice forgiveness? What is the impact of forgiveness? How do you arrive at the place where you're actually able to forgive? And what does reconciliation mean? Come hear Fr. Leonel Narváez, internationally recognized founder of the Foundation of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Bogotá, Colombia, and visiting scholar at Harvard University, answer these and other questions as he speaks about how to build a culture of peace by bringing the experience of forgiveness and reconciliation to the daily lives of victims of injustice or violence; provide a process to heal the wounds of past injustice or violence and engage in peaceful conflict resolution; and promote personal transformation through cognitive, emotional, behavioral and spiritual engagement.

Fr. Leonel Narváez is a Colombian Catholic priest. He received his Master of Theology from Harvard Divinity School. Fr. Narváez is the recipient of an honorable mention for the 2006 UNESCO World Prize for Peace Education.

WALK WITH JENNY! CROP WALK 2007

The 2007 Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry is on Sunday, October 14, with registration at 1:30 p.m. at First Parish. The walk raises funds for Church World Service to use for disaster relief and development projects around the globe, and also for seven local area food pantries and suppers. **Jenny Rankin** will be walking, and invites us all to join her; this is a great event for the whole family. You may pick up sponsor forms or make a donation to sponsor Jenny at coffee hour. Online pledging is available; see concordcrop.org to find out how to join the First Parish team, or sponsor Jenny or other team members.

GREEN CHEMISTRY SPEAKERS AT CONCORD CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL

Green Sanctuary, the new Concord Climate Action Group, and Adult and Community Education urge you to attend an October 16 (7:30 p.m.) program at CCHS. Amy Cannon and John Warner will speak on the topic of "Green Chemistry," which seeks to find ways to reduce or eliminate hazardous materials at the design stage of a materials process. These two really interesting speakers are pioneers in the new field of green chemistry research and are powerful advocates for pushing manufacturers to produce environmentally benign products. Imagine a world where all consumers, retailers and manufacturers insisted on such products!

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/, e-mail our Social Action Associate **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org, or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.

Wright Tavern Center

WELCOME TO WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

Thinking of signing up for a course? Check out the Fall 2007 Course Schedule. For full course descriptions, pre-



for *Spiritual Renewal*

sender bios and registration forms, please visit our beautiful and user-friendly updated website with downloadable catalog at www.wrighttavern.org. Questions? Contact **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Director, at FPTavern@aol.com or at 978-369-9602. Check the white board

in the lower church entryway for course locations.

MBSR MEDITATION MAINTENANCE

Pam Ressler

3 Wednesdays 10/3, 11/7 & 12/5 7:00–9:00 p.m.
\$45/\$15 drop-in

T'AI JI

Mae Pagan

3 Fridays 10/19, 11/16 & 12/14 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
\$80/\$25 drop-in

LISTENING FOR GOD

Rev. Gary Smith

October selection: *Mrs. Cassidy's Last Year*, by Mary Gordon. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage.

2 Wednesdays 10/24 & 12/5 12:15–1:15 p.m.
No charge

RISE UP SINGING

Beth Norton and Others

3 Fridays 10/26, 11/16 & 12/14 7:30–9:30 p.m.
No charge

WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

Darien Smith, AM and Siri Smedvig, PM

October selection: *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan.

2 Mondays 10/29 & 12/3 7:30–9:00 p.m. No charge
2 Tuesdays 10/30 & 12/4 9:30–11:00 a.m. No charge

T'AI CHI — MEDITATION IN MOTION

David Zucker and Sue Wood

5 Tuesdays 10/2–10/30 6:00–7:30 p.m.
\$75/\$20 drop-in

**REGISTER NOW
SPECIAL FALL RETREAT!**

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Rev. Jenny Rankin and Rev. Carl Scovel

Friday – Saturday, November 9–10

5:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. Margaret's Convent, Boston, Mass.

\$170 (includes overnight stay and three meals)

Join Rev. **Jenny Rankin** and the Rev. Carl Scovel for an exceptional retreat at St. Margaret's Convent on a hill overlooking Boston. We will explore spiritual exercises for Unitarian Universalists, with an emphasis on investigating and discovering the spiritual practices that might work best for each of us. There will be time spent in silence, as well as in group conversation and exercises, and individual time to speak with Jenny or Carl in private. Guests may attend St. Margaret's worship services if they wish. Meals are taken in silence.

Sixteen spaces are available, so early registration is encouraged. Registrations will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. No registrations will be accepted after November 1. To secure a space for the retreat, please either pick up a registration form in the First Parish office or download one from the Wright Tavern website (wrighttavern.org) and send payment in full made out to First Parish in Concord to Wright Tavern Center, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742. Please contact **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Center Director, at 978-369-9602 or FPTavern@aol.com if you have any questions or specific needs requests.

RESTORATIVE YOGA

Edi Pasalis

5 Wednesdays 10/3–10/31 5:30–7:00 p.m. \$70/\$20 drop-in

KRIPALU YOGA: THE YOGA OF COMPASSION

Edi Pasalis

9 Wednesdays 10/3–12/19 (no class 11/21) 7:30–9:00 p.m.
\$126/\$20 drop-in

Reflection and RE News

On Demand. Our kids are growing up in a world that is all about the individual, about having what you want, *now*. Changing your experience is always a click away. Our children can watch it now, eat it now, play it now, hear it now. If they like something, they can hear it again. If they don't agree with someone, they can turn it off. This hyper-connectivity is a very new form, ironically, of isolation. Having things your own way.

It is hard, if not impossible, to avoid this new trend. It allows for so much convenience, so much entertainment. I don't have to wait for what I want. I can always have it now. I think of baseball in our home. It is October and it is okay to talk about baseball in a spiritual way. We have two schools of thought in our home on the best way to watch the ball game. The first way is to record the game on TiVo and then hurry up and watch it without the commercials. The second way is to watch it live, in HiDef. We argue, I mean discuss, this incessantly at dinner. I am part of the second group and I have to admit we have a big advantage. We just accidentally hit the "Live TV" button and presto, everyone knows the score, so we might as well watch it in "real time." It's not just about the HiDef for me. Instead, it is really about watching it live, in the moment, in reality. I feel the energy of everyone experiencing the same thing at the same time. And I love that.

I encourage you to look for ways to experience life as it is unfolding with your child. The drama of leaves changing color, the excitement of a crisp apple from the tree, the experience of being together in worship, and that elusive grand slam. It is these common experiences, experiences that must be appreciated in the here and now, that give life that feeling of something sacred, something magical, and something to be savored in that essential moment now.

— Pam Howell

WORKSHOP ROTATION #1

Our workshops have gotten off to a great start, thanks to the creativity and organization of **Liz Davis-Chaffin**, our Workshop Rotation Coordinator, and **Jane Barnes**, our RE Administrator. Each week our children will be exploring our Unitarian Universalist principles and sources. This rotation will give our kids a better understanding of who we are as Unitarian Universalists and what we believe.

OCTOBER RE CALENDAR

Sun., Oct. 7	Regular RE for Pre-K, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Chapel Sunday for K-6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. No class for 7th and 8th Grades
Fri., Oct. 12-14	9th Grade COA Retreat, 5:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 14	Regular RE for Pre-K-6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Pre-K begin in classrooms K-6 begin in the Sanctuary Regular RE for 7th and 8th Grade 11:00 a.m. <i>sharp</i> 7th Grade begins in Parlor at 11:00 a.m. 8th Grade begins on Wright Tavern Sun Porch at 11:00 a.m.
Sat., Oct. 18	RE Orientation for Workshop Rotation #2, 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 21	Regular RE for Pre-K – 6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Regular RE for 7th and 8th Grade, 11:00 a.m. 9th Grade Coming of Age, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 28	Regular RE for Pre-K, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Surprise Visitor – Matt Meyers for K-6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Regular RE for 7th and 8th Grade, 11:00 a.m. 9th Grade Coming of Age, 4:00 p.m.

OUR SURPRISE VISITOR!

Please don't miss it! On Sunday, October 28, we will have a visit from Matt Meyers in the Chapel for our 2nd through 6th Graders. Matt is a unique person who brings the art of drumming to a new level. Some of you may recall his worship service from last year. This is also a chance for our children to be together in a mixed-age setting.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE FALL PROGRAMMING

Our 7th Graders have begun their fall curriculum of Lessons of Loss. We have three dedicated leaders for this important program: **Mary Crane Penniman**, **Chris Popov** and **John Peterson**. The program will meet through November. Our young adults will discuss rituals surrounding death, experience the Day of the Dead, and take a field trip to Dee's Funeral Home in Concord.

We have dynamic 8th Grade leaders as well. This year we are exploring one's personal creativity and what it means in the world. This is an active program that builds and explores many aspects of personal creativity, while allowing our youth time to build relationships with one another. A special thank-you to **Maria Cox**, **Deb Dormitzer**, **Heather Wilson** and **Eric Kilburn** for leading this program.

RE NEWS continued on page 9

REQUIRED RE ORIENTATIONS

Our RE Orientations are critical to the success of our programs. We have organized them by curriculum and rotation. Teachers are required to attend. If one person doesn't know the expectations, it could really throw the whole program off.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR '07-'08 RE:

Workshop Rotation #2

Thursday, Oct. 18, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #3

Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Caregiving, Story Play and Spirit Play
Rotation Terms 4 and 5

Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #4

Thursday, Feb. 7, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Coming of Age Mentor Orientation
8th Grade

Sunday, February 10, 2:00-6:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY NOTE

If you are missing a calendar, we have included calendars for all of the programs on our First Parish website, firstparish.org. Are you late in registering? Please use our First Parish website for all the forms necessary for registration (firstparish.org). We hope you find our website a useful resource this year.

Senior Youth News

We are off to a terrific start, thanks to the hard work of our youth leaders! We spent the month of September building community by getting to know each other and developing trust. A big part of that experience is our annual fall retreat, where the youth love to “chill out” before the craziness of fall sets in.

The YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) wants all First Parish youth to know that they can drop by *any* Sunday and join us. Look over the calendar on the First Parish website and find something that interests you. It is our hope that youth feel connected to First Parish in whatever way best fits their schedule and interests.

Several youth are looking for social action opportunities either to fulfill high school community service requirements or because they are compelled somehow to serve. Please watch the Youth Calendar on the First Parish website for social action details. In October, youth are invited to join the larger church in participating in Crop Walk on October 14. You can get sign-up sheets from Mary-Wren. The YAC has also decided to sponsor a high school student in Transylvania, and we will be working on raising the funds to support him or her.

Look in the mail for the monthly youth newsletter, *What's the Deal*, which outlines our Sunday night program. Our October schedule is as follows.

October 8 (Monday because of Columbus Day) – Snowballs Game

October 14 – Outdoor Games

October 21 – Vespers; bring a reading, music, quote, instrument, etc.

October 29 – Field Trip to Witches Woods — leaving First Parish at 5:30 and returning at 9:00; 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*

Women's News

WPA OCTOBER LUNCHEON MEETING

The Women's Parish Association will hold its October meeting on Tuesday, October 23. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by a catered buffet luncheon and entertainment by a local woman of many talents, Tatiana Pozwolska. In addition to being an accomplished Flamenco dancer, she writes poetry and songs. Tatiana will present parts of her musical *Dogs*. As a Holocaust survivor, her writings and life philosophy emerge from a deep-seated compassion and concern for human and civil rights for all. Her loving observations of animals in general and dogs in particular resulted in many delightful characters. All men and women of First Parish and their friends are welcome! Please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekincd@comcast.net or 978-263-0426 by October 18 for reservations as well as child care and transportation requests. The price for the luncheon is eight dollars, payable at the door.

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The October book for the First Parish Women's Book group is *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan. The evening group will meet October 29, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning group on October 30, 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, contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com. The books and dates for 2007-2008 are as follows:

- December 3 (p.m.), 4 (a.m.)
Say the Name: A Survivor's Tale in Prose and Poetry, Judith H. Sherman
- January 28 (p.m.), 29 (a.m.)
Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie
- February 25 (p.m.), 26 (a.m.)
Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin: Writers Running Wild in the Twenties, Marion Meade
- March 24 (p.m.), 25 (a.m.)
The Memory Keeper's Daughter, Kim Edwards
- April 28 (p.m.), 29 (a.m.)
One Thousand White Women, Jim Fergus
- May 19 (p.m.), 20 (a.m.)
The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

MATINEE AT FIRST PARISH

Once a month, except December, Margie King Saphier will be hosting Matinee at First Parish. On Tuesday, October 30, at 1:30 p.m., the award-winning production of *Three Sovereigns for Sarah*, starring Vanessa Redgrave, will be shown. Vanessa Redgrave portrays Sarah Cloyce, who was tried for being a witch during the Salem Witch Trials.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR ON NOVEMBER 3

It's time to get ready for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your treasures for our white elephant table to the Parish Hall on Friday afternoon, November 2. The fair committee is looking for donations of small gift items of very 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 as well. There are several fun ways to participate in this community-wide fundraiser; you can volunteer to work for an hour or so. Contact **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 family and friends to this annual event.

UU News

UU NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE — OCTOBER 27

Don't have time to attend General Assembly each year? The Denominational Affairs Committee is happy to bring to your attention the UU New England Conference, which will take place on Saturday, October 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester. This is a good opportunity to meet leaders of the UUA and the New England districts. Contact **Holli Jones-White** or **Dian Pekin** if you are interested in attending. Check the Mass Bay District's website at mbduua.org for further information.



Classifieds

HELP NEEDED

Housesitter/petsitter wanted for November/December in Westford (NW of Acton). Need help with cat. Please call **Wendy (Ford) Wolfberg** if interested, 978-496-1397. Thank you!

HOUSEMATE WANTED FOR CHURCH GREEN COTTAGE

Two small rooms available — bedroom and study(?). Share living room, kitchen, single bath, garden-level room, fireplaces, companionship and laughter with woman in early 50's. Rent \$700. Call **Karen Kashian** at 781-799-4248 or e-mail kjk.aurora@juno.com

MONHEGAN ISLAND HOUSE RENTAL AVAILABLE — MAY 10-14, 2008

Please call **Karen Kashian** for details at 781-799-4248 (cell) or e-mail kjk.aurora@juno.com

October 2007 Calendar

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

Every Week...

<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/8)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 p.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Meditation from World Tradition</i>	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 (not 9/5)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 (not 9/5)
<i>Restorative Yoga</i>	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 10/7)

Mon Oct 1	7:30	RE Council
Wed Oct 3	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee
	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-in</i>
Thu Oct 4	10:00	<i>InterPlay</i>
Sun Oct 7	12:15	Nominating Committee
Mon Oct 8		Holiday—Office Closed
	7:00	YRUU
Tue Oct 9	9:00	WPA Board Meeting
	3:00	<i>Tea and Poetry</i>
Wed Oct 10	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>
Thu Oct 11	7:30	<i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>
Fri Oct 12	5:30	Coming of Age Dinner
Sat Oct 13	9:00	Photo Club
Sun Oct 14	1:30	Crop Walk
Mon Oct 15	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	7:00	Standing Committee
Tue Oct 16	7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
Thu Oct 18	10:00	<i>InterPlay</i>
	12:00	<i>Peabody Sisters</i>
	7:30	<i>Finding Your Calling</i>
	7:30	Workshop Rotation Orientation
Fri Oct 19	11:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
Sat Oct 20	6:00	Seasonal Dinners (off-site)
	7:00	Trivial Pursuit Night

Sun Oct 21	1:00	Social Action Lunch
	3:00	Coming of Age
	4:00	Really Eclectic String Quartet (RESQ) Concert
	7:00	Honor All Beings Affinity Group
Mon Oct 22	7:30	<i>Beyond Belief: The Five Faces of God</i>
Tue Oct 23	11:30	WPA Luncheon
	7:00	Diversity Committee Workshop
Wed Oct 24	9:00	Newsletter Mailing
	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
Thu Oct 25	12:00	<i>Peabody Sisters</i>
	7:30	<i>Finding Your Calling</i>
Fri Oct 26	7:00	<i>Yoga Date Night</i>
	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Sun Oct 28	4:00	Coming of Age
	7:00	Sarasa Concert
Mon Oct 29	7:30	<i>Spirituality of Imperfection</i>
	7:30	Women's AM/PM Book Group
Tue Oct 30	9:30	Women's AM/PM Book Group
	1:30	Matinee at First Parish
	6:00	<i>Cooking from the Bible</i>



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

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OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

The November Newsletter deadline is Monday, October 15, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, October 24.

News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

TRANSYLVANIA POTLUCK

Saturday, September 29

6:00 p.m.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, October 20

7:00 p.m.

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister
Jenny M. Rankin, Minister
Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education
Jane Barnes, Religious Education Administrator
Liz Davis-Chaffin, Workshop Rotation Coordinator
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
Rebecca Johnson, Jericho Road Ministerial Intern

A. Bigay, Assistant to the Ministers
Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
Jane Johnson, Office Manager
Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector
Caroline McCloy, Director of Member Services
Faith Bade, Social Action Associate
Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff

TRIVIA?! WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON METAL IN THE EARTH'S CRUST?

First Parish will host its first Trivial Pursuit Night on October 20, beginning at 7 p.m. Create your own team of eight or take this opportunity to compete, have fun and test your skills with new First Parish friends. A fast-paced night of entertainment with many categories guaranteed to challenge. Tickets are \$10 per person, on sale at coffee hour. Tickets will be limited, so sign up while they're still available. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale, and hors d'oeuvres served.

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00*

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: fpconcord@aol.com

Website: firstparish.org

**Note: new closing time*

Ministers' E-Mail:

Gary E. Smith: garyesmith@firstparish.org

Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net

Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net