



The Meeting House News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

One frequently asked question to me is, “What are you going to do in retirement?” I have liked Ellen Goodman’s response (she and Oprah are joining me in this transition) when Ellen has said “Less!” There is no evidence Oprah is doing any less.

If you are one of the few who do not know that after 39 years in the ministry, the last 23 here in Concord, I am retiring in June. We moved from Concord to Belmont last June, where we share a two-family home with our daughter and her family. We have two grandchildren there, and two more with our son who lives in Maynard. I hope to be a bigger part of their lives and the lives of my children.



I plan to continue to teach at the Harvard Divinity School, a course in preaching that I have taught now for five years. I love working with new ministers, and I love the craft of preaching. Harvard Square is a ten-minute bus ride from our home.

I plan to offer myself for small-scale projects to the Unitarian Universalist Association and its Ministers Association in any capacity where I might be of help. I am thinking occasional, joyful, an assignment where I might be of use. Or maybe not.

I’d like to read to young children in an elementary school. I plan to return to family genealogical work, now that sites like ancestor.com do all the work. I’d like to revisit some familiar places in Maine this fall: Hallowell, Augusta, Waterville, Orono, Bar Harbor.

I will probably eat brunch some Sunday mornings at the Deluxe Town Diner in Watertown, not even a mile from my home, and check out some local Unitarian Universalist congregations on other Sundays.

I need to walk regularly. I have books to read. I hope to get into Boston more.

And I’ll miss you. I’ll miss you all.

—*Gary Smith*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 6

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Gospel Choir

11:00 – First Parish Choir

February 13

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

February 20

Margie King Saphier, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Egg Rock Quartet

February 27

Craig Nowak, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Music of Pete Seeger

March 6

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

Breakfast with the Executive Team

Please join **Gary Smith, Jenny Rankin** and **Melissa Perdue Gallo** at La Provence (in the Concord Depot area) for a delicious breakfast and informal conversation. Breakfasts are scheduled for six consecutive Thursdays (beginning January 27 and ending March 3) from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Sign-up is encouraged, but not required (sign-up sheets are in the office). Bon appétit!

Don’t Miss... ROCK ‘N’ ROLL BINGO!

Friday, February 11, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 each, \$30/family; available at the door

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 **REVeries**
Sunday Worship Schedule
Breakfast with the Executive Team
- Page 2 **In This Issue**
Parish Notes
- Page 3 **From the Standing Committee**
Letter from Rev. Jenny Rankin
- Page 4 **Pastoral Care News**
Money Matters
Sunday Forums
- Page 5 **MUSings**
Pipework
Rock 'n' Roll Bingo
- Page 6 **REflections/RE News**
February RE Calendar
- Page 7 **Senior Youth News**
Parish Notes, continued
- Page 8 **SAC News and Events**
- Page 9 **SAC News, continued**
- Page 10 **Membership Corner**
Developments
- Page 11 **Partner Church Committee**
From the Intern Minister
Annual Appeal 2011 Chart
- Page 12 **Women's News**
Miscellaneous
- Page 13 **February 2011 Calendars**
- Page 14 **First Parish Contact Info and Staff**

There is one insert at the end of this newsletter:

◆ Wright Tavern Programs

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — in print and online — 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

Monday, February 28
Monday, March 21
Monday, April 25

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

PARISH NOTES

Thank-You

We want to thank all of you who purchased Heifer gift cards this holiday season. We raised \$1000! Thank you for supporting “the gift that keeps on giving.” —**Diane and Dave Clapp**

Coffee Hour Treats

Thank you to all who have provided a snack to share during coffee hour over the past month. The February coffee hour snack schedule is:

- February 6 T, U and V
- February 13 W through Z
- February 20 A and B
- February 27 C and D

Please provide a small snack during coffee hour on the Sunday when the first letter of your last name comes up. All contributions can be put out on the plates and platters provided on the table in the Parish Hall.

Labyrinth Informational Meeting

All are invited to an informational meeting on Thursday, February 10, at 7:45 p.m. at First Parish about plans for reinstallation of the Labyrinth in the courtyard to the side of the Sanctuary and in front of the new portico. The Labyrinth Committee will present the current plan as given at Annual Meeting last June. Additional details about the design, size, structure, placement and alternatives will be provided.



While there has been support for the Labyrinth project and fundraising for it, the committee has become aware of questions and concerns about the project, particularly regarding location. We encourage everyone to attend and become fully informed about the plans and alternatives.

There will be ample opportunity for questions, comments and concerns to be expressed.

“OMG, Broadway!” Rehearsals Start February 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Come on, you singers, and join us for a Broadway collection of songs dealing with things spiritual! You don’t need previous stage or choral experience, but you do need a willingness to work and have fun. We will go from Tradition to *Godspell* to *Lion King* to *Altar Boyz* and more, with songs that comment on religious values or are just plain fun. There are solos, all-cast numbers, trios, quartets and small-group numbers. There is something for everyone! In addition, we will pay tribute to our dear **Gary Smith**.

We will rehearse on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00 p.m., with at least one additional rehearsal on May 11. Productions will be on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, with two shows on Saturday. Our first meeting is Friday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room. There is an activity in the Parish Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. that night, so parking may be tricky. Questions? Contact **Sue Beck** at 978-369-8445, or sbeck345@comcast.net.

Parish Notes

continued on page 7

From the Standing Committee

- 1) The Standing Committee is grateful for the thoughtful discussion and helpful feedback from many parishioners since the special November 14, 2010, Parish meeting, at which we endorsed coequal ministry.

Since that meeting, the Standing Committee has been carefully considering the meaning of the vote. We have concluded that the extremely close result — only a few votes above 50 percent — **does not provide a sufficiently clear and actionable mandate** for change. Because of that narrow vote and because of **Rev. Jenny Rankin's** recent decision **not to put her candidacy forward** for any new ministerial position, coequal ministry or senior ministry, (please see Jenny's letter on this page), the Standing Committee will **support a motion to rescind the November 14 vote, at the June 2011 Annual Meeting.**

- 2) The Standing Committee has decided to move forward with calling an accredited Interim Minister who will take on **Gary Smith's** ministerial duties as well as the functions that are particular to an Interim Minister in guiding the congregation through the transition period.

So that we can better understand the role of an Interim Minister and the logistics and implications of the selection process, there will be an All-Parish Meeting with Keith Kron of the UUA, the Ministerial Settlement Representative assigned to First Parish. The meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 6, in the Sanctuary after the 11:00 o'clock service, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

- 3) The Standing Committee looks forward to a spring-time where we can all honor **Gary Smith's** departure, a summer where we can prepare to welcome our new interim minister, and an autumn where we can together move forward into our 375th year with renewed vigor. ♦

From Rev. Jenny Rankin:

January 27, 2011

"Life can only be understood backwards," wrote Soren Kierkegaard, "but it must be lived forwards." Looking back on these past months at First Parish, there has been much learning, and there are things I "understand backwards" in a new way.



Now, it is time to "live forwards." After careful deliberation, I have decided not to be a candidate for Senior Minister or a candidate for the coequal structure.

I will continue my role as a called minister of this congregation. I look forward to working with the interim and next called minister.

The collaborative leadership model has been a vision of mine and one I've worked to embody. However, pursuing this now at First Parish could lead to further divisiveness and a weakening of the fabric of this community. I cannot do that.

"Life is too short, time is too precious and the stakes are too high to dwell on what might have been," said Hillary Clinton. "We have to work together for what still can be." This spring we will celebrate the ministry of **Gary Smith** and this congregation and move forward into our 375th year, creating the next chapter as we go. ♦

— Jenny Rankin

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday, February 14, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the Wright Tavern sunporch. Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. The March Standing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 14. ♦

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

I apologize to **Carolyn Shohet**, pastoral care lay minister, for accidentally omitting her name last month when I listed the lay ministers. Carolyn has been part of pastoral care since before I arrived!

I am often asked, “What do the pastoral care lay ministers do? Why do we need them when we have ministers?” It is true that **Gary Smith**, **Jenny Rankin** and I are available to meet with you, but we don’t have the time to see parishioners over an extended period of time. The pastoral care lay ministers receive ongoing training at our monthly meetings so they can walk with or companion



parishioners who are going through transitions, whether grieving after the death of a loved one, receiving the diagnosis of a life-threatening illness, or living the challenges and vicissitudes of chronic illness or the challenges of aging.

The list goes on, because pastoral care is about being with another during the changes of life. Of course life is always changing. I am convinced that it is in our loving another and experiencing loss that our compassion can deepen and we can eventually find meaning. When we remember a loved one who has died and remember our shared stories, we can gain new understanding, which can bring compassion and forgiveness. So what does a pastoral care lay minister do? They listen compassionately. Some changes are wonderful: graduation, getting married, landing a job, having a baby, buying a home, being successful — however one defines success. Pastoral care is about bearing witness to and remembering and celebrating the milestones — recognizing that the milestones of life come out of endings. When we are young, the gains usually outweigh the losses; but as we age, the losses begin to outweigh the gains. Life offers again and again the lesson to love and to care deeply and to let go. The path is not easy, but when it is shared, the sharing may enlighten both with a sadder, deeper wisdom that may also be filled with gratitude. ♦

In faith,

— *Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

MONEY MATTERS

Beginning February 2, **Pamela Hathaway** and I will be having a series of budget conversations with a number of committees and groups: the Adult Choir, the Social Action Council board, the Membership Committee, the Religious Education Council, and the WPA. We will also be giving the same presentation at a Forum on Sunday, February 27. The purpose of these meetings is to explain the current process used to develop the budget (the “how”), to explain the different components of the budget (the “what”), and to answer questions. At the end of the month the presentation will be available on the website. I am looking forward to meeting with all these groups! ♦

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

SUNDAY FORUMS

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Charles Lowell** or **Robert Hilsinger** (rhilsinger@bedfordma.gov) if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker. ♦

February 13, 2011

Drinking Water in Single-Serving PET Bottles
Jean Hill

Jean Hill, First Parish member, began her crusade against bottled water three years ago after her grandson told her about the Pacific Garbage Patch, a vast area of floating plastic debris in the ocean that is harming fish and birds and other ocean life. After two successful trips to Town Meeting in 2009 and 2010, Jean is returning in 2011 with a proposed bylaw that focuses on drinking water in single-serving plastic bottles. Join Jean to learn more about this important issue and what we can all do to make a difference this year in Concord

February 27, 2010

Our First Parish Budget: A Primer
Melissa Perdue Gallo and Pamela Hathaway

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager, and **Pamela Hathaway**, Development Director, will present a primer on the First Parish budget. The presentation will provide a general description of budget categories and an explanation of the decision-making process regarding the budget.

MUSINGS

I can't remember the first song I learned. But I'm willing to bet that a song by Pete Seeger was among the first. My sisters and I sang together as a trio during our '60's childhood. Our voices naturally fell into the Peter, Paul and Mary harmonies and we knew all of their albums. It was through them that we learned Pete's most famous songs. They are still a part of me. "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" filled me with sorrow for the futility of war; "If I Had a Hammer" inspired me to action; "Turn, Turn, Turn" reminded me that everything happens in its time. There is no question that Pete Seeger had an early and lasting effect on my musical life and my aspirations for the world and humankind.



Pete Seeger will be 92 years old this year. For most of the past century, his voice has rung, like that "bell of freedom," strong and clear on just about every issue — civil rights, fair labor practices, world peace, immigration, the environment. Through his own songs, his actions, and his inimitable performances and adaptations of traditional folk songs, he has called us to come together, to care for one another and to take a stand. You simply can't listen to Pete Seeger sing and be apathetic.

I got to meet Pete Seeger at General Assembly in 2005 during a rehearsal for an event where we were both performing. He received my starstruck, tongue-tied and utterly inadequate thanks with a distracted grace. I wasn't really sure he heard me. He looked distressingly frail. Waiting by himself in that large arena and for his cue to go onstage, one could be forgiven for passing him by and not realizing you were in the presence of a legend.

But once he took his place onstage and strapped on that big baritone guitar, there was no question that the legend was in the house. The same energy that inspired thousands at peace marches, union rallies and concerts beamed from him, lifted us out of our seats and brought us together in song. Commitment simply poured from him in the words he sang and spoke. No question, he still had "it."

On February 27, all of our service will feature the music of Pete Seeger. Come and sing with full heart and voice! ♦

Blessings,

— Beth Norton

PIPEWORK

As of this writing toward the end of January, the Russell Company is working hard on building the Strings for the organ's Swell division. These take time to get right and will be a key color we do not have yet in the new organ. In addition, there are four other ranks of pipes in production for this same part of the organ.

Some of you may have noticed a cipher from a pipe, which occurred during the first service a few weeks ago. The pipe continued to sound as long as the organ was getting wind, even when all stops were turned off. We were able to pull the pipe between services and leave it for the builders, so they will know just where the problem is occurring when they are next working at the church. This was probably due either to some dirt that got into a pipe or more likely from a needed fine adjustment of the valve or screw that needs to be tightened in the chest below the pipe. This is not particularly unusual, as there are many adjustments to be made on the mechanical components of such a complex thing as a real pipe organ as it is being built. Some of these things will be working their way out as the organ continues to be played more and more. So, we appreciate your patience with these little glitches from time to time and always hope that they happen during practice times rather than during a service. ♦

Time to Twist and Shout at Rock 'n' Roll Bingo!

Perhaps you heard it through the grapevine. It's time again for those between 3 and 94 to be "glad all over" in the Parish Hall! Time again for Rock 'n' Roll Bingo on Friday, February 11, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Bring the family, friends of the family and the kids in the neighborhood too! The evening will include a raffle of youngster-friendly items. Snacks, soft drinks and pizza will be for sale.

Tickets are \$10 per person (\$30 per family) and can be purchased at Sunday coffee hours or at the door on the day. With thanks for your much-needed support, all proceeds will be in aid of this summer's Youth Service Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr... Rave on!

On Sunday morning, the small child asks, “Why do we go to church?”

You may struggle with the right words, as you struggle with the coats and boots, the hats and scarves, the pieces of toast in hand for the car ride.



When I was in California, attending to the sudden death of my younger brother, I fell upon an answer for you. And while it is just one answer of many, it is the answer that raced through my heart in the middle of the night when

I was far away from the people who have become the fabric of my life.

I believe we come to church to hold each other in both joy and sorrow. Sometimes we will need to be held; and sometimes we will need to hold others. We come to church to connect to the lives of others in a deeper way, in a way that understands that life, and the risk we take living it, can be filled with awe and mired in sadness. Church is like a beautiful garden, a place to learn about living and dying, a place to learn about what it means to be human, a place to tend to each other’s needs and a place to learn how to be a good person in confusing times. Is it that way for you too?

This is my congregation, my family. It is a congregation that held my smaller family when we needed it most. Yes, we could all stay home on Sunday morning, but then....we would miss it, we would miss it all, we would miss the unfolding of life’s deepest mystery. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Second- to Sixth-Grade Workshop Rotation — Winter Term: Wisdom from the World’s Religions

February 6: Rituals Around Tea

Grades 2 & 3: Tea as Meditation – Buddhism and Finding the Stillness

Grades 4 & 5: Tea as Restoration – Hinduism and the Journey to the Center

Grade 6: Youth Group in the Wright Tavern – Making Breakfast

February 2011 RE Calendar

- Sun., Feb. 6 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths
8th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 13 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 9 a.m.
8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 20 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Pastoral Care Bags Craft Workshop, K-7th Grades
- Sun., Feb. 27 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Pete Seeger Intergenerational Service, K-9th
- Sun., Mar. 6 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 8:30 a.m.
8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m.

February 13: Rituals Around Tea

Grades 2 & 3 – Tea as Meditation – Buddhism and Finding the Stillness

Grades 4 & 5 – Tea as Restoration – Hinduism and the Journey to the Center

Grade 6 – Youth Group in Wright Tavern – Making Soup with Carolyn Shohet

February 20: Public School Vacation, Pastoral Care Workshop

February 27: Public School Vacation, Intergenerational Service

March 6 – Rituals Around Tea

Grades 2 & 3 – Tea as Restoration – Hinduism and the Journey to the Center

Grades 4 & 5 – Tea as Meditation – Buddhism and Finding the Stillness

Grade 6 – Youth Group in Wright Tavern – You Choose

Orientation for RE Teachers for 2011

**Workshop Rotation Program
Second to Sixth Graders**

Spring Term, March 30 at 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

February is the month of youth generosity at First Parish. The youth are organizing and running three different fundraisers that support organizations and efforts close to their hearts.

For the **Super Bowl Sunday Chili Fundraiser** on February 6, the youth are selling chili, cornbread, and salsa to parishioners to take home and enjoy during the big game. This fundraiser is important not only because it raises money for First Parish, but because the youth often feel that they are not truly part of "First Parish." This act of generosity is their way of expressing that they are a contributing part of the larger church community. Their effort not only helps teach them long-term planning and organization; it is also a community-building activity, as the youth will participate in a cooking overnight lock-in at First Parish on February 4.

On Friday, February 11, **Rock 'n' Roll Bingo** is back. This fun, family-oriented event features music, bingo playing, costumes, and a raffle. The money helps provide scholarships for youth to go on the youth service pilgrimage to Transylvania every other year.

The following night, February 12, is **Latin Dance Night**, a community event that will get you up on your feet. With great music and a free dance lesson, this is an excellent choice on this Saturday night. The proceeds will go to support the Art Center for Peace, which the El Salvador Youth Trip will be visiting in April.

As you can tell, the youth are highly engaged in their communities both here and at home. None of this would be possible without the great support of all the youth's parents and advisors. As a way to say thank you, the youth are inviting **all** the youth's parents to join them for **PARENT TALK**, Sunday, February 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. Please feel free to join this conversation even if your own child is not involved in YRUU or COA. Parents will be paired or grouped with a youth who is not their child, as sometimes it is easier to have an open conversation with a person you don't know well. Both parties will have the opportunity ask questions about issues in their heart, and will hopefully gain insight into where their own parents and youth are coming from. ♦

May we always practice being in community with one another.

—*Anastassia Zinke*

Youth Program Director

Parish Notes

continued from page 2

WPA Luncheon Meeting — February 15

Join old and new friends on Tuesday, February 15, for a buffet luncheon and presentation by **Barbara Wheeler** and **Kazue Campbell** on a recently published book about the late William Wheeler, the great-uncle of Barbara's husband, the late **Harvey Wheeler**. If one were to ask the average person in Japan about William Wheeler, they could go on at great length about the American professor who came to their island and over the course of three years and engineered numerous canals, roads and bridges. Among his many accomplishments: He surveyed railroad lines, established the first Astronomical Observatory in Sapporo, and helped establish Sapporo Agricultural College (presently Hokkaido University). He was one of the first foreigners to receive the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun. Come and hear about this fascinating man of Concord and relative of many current Concordians. Social time: 11:30 a.m. lunch at noon. Charge: eight dollars. All women and men are welcome. Contact the office or **Dian Pekin** at pekinc@comcast.net by February 12 for reservations, transportation, or to specify any food restrictions. Note: This presentation was not given in January because the luncheon meeting had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Save the Date — March 4

Friday, March 4, is World Day of Prayer 2011. Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer this year. The women of Chile have written the service around the theme "How many loaves have you?" We will stand in solidarity with the people of Chile as we engage in prayers and songs for their health and wholeness and for a world of peace and justice. In this past year, Chile has been challenged by a devastating earthquake and the collapse of a mine in which many miners were trapped. Concord's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at Holy Family Church in Concord Center at 11:00 a.m. on March 4, followed by a festive luncheon that will celebrate the people and culture of Chile.

Items from Chile Needed

Folk costumes, posters, decorations and art objects from Chile are needed for this year's World Day of Prayer service and luncheon which will be held on Friday, March 4. As soon as possible, please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekinc@comcast.net if you can lend such items for use in the service and at the luncheon celebrating the people and cultures of Chile.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Do you know what our Social Action Community does? What we do as members of First Parish? Do you know why we are called a Social Action community? We have new Social Action Web pages <http://sac.firstparish.org/cms/> that provide information on SAC programs and events, but I have listed the programs below so you can quickly see just how powerful we are. (Plus remember you can always talk to me about any new program you would like to start!) Our faith community can do amazing things! Our unity, our ability as a community to make a huge difference, is what we will reflect upon and celebrate on Sunday, February 27, at First Parish. Join us in worship as the songs of Pete Seeger inspire us and we reflect on how we can unite, work together, support each other, inspire each other, and make this world a better place. See you then!



— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

SAC Programs: Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, Amnesty International, Concord Prison Outreach, Cradles to Crayons, Crop Walk, Department for Peace, Diversity Committee, Ecclesia Ministries (including Common Cathedral & City Reach), El Salvador Programs (including current Youth Service Trip), Environmental Leadership/Green Sanctuary, Guatemala Recovery Project, Gulf Coast Works, Household Goods Recycling of Mass., Holiday SAC, Immigration, Jericho Road Project, Lowell Donations, Mitten Tree, Open Table, Secret Santa, UU Service Committee, UU Urban Ministry

Social Action Grants Deadline March 15

The next deadline for SA Grants is coming soon. Go to sac.firstparish.org under Grants for information on the policies and application process. Contact Grants chair **Wendy Holt** with any additional questions at wendyholt48@yahoo.com.

Activist Worship Service February 27

Join in a celebration of the strength of our community activism during both services on February 27. Let the music of Pete Seeger inspire us all.

SAC Web Pages

- Have you checked out the new Social Action Community Web pages? Go to sac.firstparish.org/cms/ and look at the program descriptions, the recent news items or the calendar. These are your web pages. Let me know what is missing! Contact **Faith Bade** at fbade@firstparish.org

GREEN NOTES

- **Mindful Living Idea:** Recycle your household goods and clothing by donating gently used items to organizations such as Home Goods Recycling of Massachusetts and Cradles to Crayons.
- **Mindful Living Statistic:** Five percent of the world's population lives in the United States but Americans produce 50 percent of the world's waste.

Can You Commit to Helping at the ELT Coffee Hour Table Just Once a Month?

- In the past few months, the Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) has introduced three Environmental Initiatives: Mindful Eating, Ride Sharing, and Energy Audit. (Go to sac.firstparish.org/cms/ to learn more about these initiatives on our SAC Web pages.) The ELT is working at coffee hour, actively asking for pledges to these initiatives. We have collected a number of names so far. But we are a large congregation and we are a small team, so we are now turning to you, our large activist congregation, for help. Please connect with our team members on the initiative that speaks most clearly to you and become involved. Commit to helping at just one coffee hour a month.

- **Kathryn Shane**, Mindful Eating Initiative: kdshane1@verizon.net
- **Nancy Harrison**, Ride Sharing Initiative: nancylph@gmail.com
- **Bob Andrews**, Energy Audit Initiative: bob.andrews3@verizon.net

Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, February 5, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

- This annual fundraising dinner will benefit the UU Urban Ministry's Funderburg Scholars Program, which provides support and a pathway for Boston inner-city youth to stay in high school, apply to college, and stay in college. This is an inspiring evening, with current and former Funderburg Scholars sharing their stories. Please join us and help make a huge difference in the lives of these youth. Sign up in the church office or contact **Loretta Ho Sherblom** at 978-369-4325 or at loretta@lhsbenefits.com for more information. Click here to learn more about this program and Roxbury Youth Programs: <http://www.uuum.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=42140&>

SAC News and Events

continued on page 9

Join in the El Salvador Youth Service Trip Latin Dance Night Fundraiser

Fiesta! Baile! Come join the El Salvador travelers for a fundraising Valentine’s Dance to support El Centro Arte para la Paz on Saturday, February 12, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the First Parish Hall. All ages invited. Latin dance lesson included. Delicious food. Great music. Free babysitting available (with preregistration by February 8). Tickets go on sale in the church office starting January 31, or during coffee hours January 30 and February 6, for \$15 per person (maximum of \$50 per family). Contact **Laurie Van Loon** with questions at lvanloon@comcast.net.

The UUSC in Haiti — One Year Later

Through the generous contributions of members and supporters, the UUSC has raised nearly \$1.9 million for the UUSC-UUA Haiti Earthquake Relief fund, and has also received a very generous matching challenge grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, New York. So far, the UUSC has provided over \$750,000 in grants to 11 grassroots organizations in Haiti. With many Haitians still living in the emergency phase, the UUSC is working to strategically leverage funds through collaborative efforts and pilot projects — and, with the additional support that UUSC is actively seeking, will work to scale up successful models. The UUSC is committed to accompanying our partners not just through the immediate response but also through the long-term recovery and reconstruction phases in the years to come.

Still Have the Guest at Your Table Box??

Please return your Guest at Your Table contribution and fill out the information that allows you to become a member of the UUSC. Each new member makes our voice louder, our calls and actions for justice more powerful, and our cause more credible. Visit www.uusc.org for information about our partners, blogs from Pres. Bill Schulz, updates on current initiatives, and ways that you can become more involved. A donation of \$100 or more is eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by a generous gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York.

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, sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist; visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at FBade@firstparish.org.

Seventh Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum

Ending Homelessness: Recent Successes and the Next Steps

Family homelessness remains a severe crisis in Massachusetts, with record high foreclosures and layoffs. Over 33,000 families in housing crisis applied for emergency shelter in the year ending July 2010. Lt. Gov. Tim Murray will be the keynote speaker at the seventh annual forum of the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, on Sunday, March 6, at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord, from 3 to 5 p.m. Tina Brooks, coleader of Mass. Commission to End Homelessness, will describe the successes and innovations of the pilot regional network programs that involve preventing homelessness, and will outline the proposed plans for growth of these regional programs. Tina Close, coconvenor of the MetroWest Regional Program, will discuss successful work in our region in homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapidly rehousing families from shelters. The forum is presented by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, a SAC grant recipient. For information, contact **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520 or jane_blumberg@mac.com.

The Journey of Membership

I've asked this before, and I ask again — where are you on your membership journey at First Parish? Membership is a dynamic process rather than a single act. It begins when people make the conscious choice to formally affiliate themselves with a particular congregation — yet that decision marks the beginning of the membership journey rather than its end.



At First Parish, we provide a range of opportunities for people — newcomers and longtime members alike — to experience the richness of congregational life, which is essential to expanding membership that is sustainable. An upcoming opportunity for social gathering and connection is the Marvelous Monday dinner and vesper series.

Marvelous Mondays at First Parish

Please bring your entire family, take a break from cooking, and join with others in our vibrant First Parish community for four Monday evenings in March. A home-cooked, family-friendly dinner will be followed by a half hour worship service. All ages welcome. Children's activities and child care are provided.

When: March 7, 14, 21, 28

Where: Parish Hall, First Parish

Time: 6:00 p.m., Appetizers

6:15 p.m., Dinner

7:00 p.m., Worship in the Chapel

You can also find many opportunities for events and information about our programs here: [First Parish Program Guide](#)

Opportunities abound, in one form or another at First Parish, to share a common interest or pursue a common goal; to be inspired by our connection to one another; and to be renewed by our shared humanity for the greater good of our church community and the larger world. See some of these opportunities in the 2010-2011 Program Guide at: http://www.firstparish.org/cms/files/Program_Guide_2010-2011.pdf

If you have questions about Membership, programs and opportunities at First Parish, please contact **Jane Foley**, Membership Director at jfoley@firstparish.org. ♦

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

Annual Appeal 2011: Here We Go!

This year's Annual Appeal will run from March 7 to May 1. I wanted to use this month's column to review the neighborhood process that we will use for collecting pledges from the majority of First Parish members. This process, which we used last year, will be familiar to you unless you're a new member (in which case, welcome!). Please refer to the chart of the pledge process on page 11 of this *Meeting House News*. If you have questions at any time, please feel free to contact me at 978-369-9602, or plhathaway@firstparish.org.

We have divided the parish into approximately 50 neighborhoods, which cover Concord, Acton, Carlisle, Sudbury, Maynard, and Lexington. If you live in a different community — including Lincoln, Boxborough, Wayland, or Waltham (each of which had bags last year) — you will be receiving a letter, but will not be on a bag route (so you can disregard the information presented in this column!).

All members and friends of First Parish will be receiving a letter in early March with information about the Annual Appeal, including a pledge card and return envelope. (The letter will indicate whether you are on a bag route or not.) Some time between March 6 and May 1, a blue bag (remember these from last year?) will arrive at your home, dropped off by one of the neighbors on your route. Your job is to place your completed pledge card in the sealed envelope in the bag and pass it along to the next person on the list. You need not solicit a pledge from your neighbor, but we hope you'll take the opportunity to stop and chat for a bit!

Circulation of the bags through the neighborhoods will be managed by volunteer neighborhood captains — **if you can serve as a captain this year, please let me know!** The role of the captain is vital, but you will not be asked to solicit pledges. What you will be asked to do is:

- Attend an orientation session (in February; date TBD).
- Track a mailbag as it makes its way around to all the First Parish members in your neighborhood (there are between 7 and 15 households in each neighborhood).
- Report back on your experience.
- If you like, you could also choose to host a gathering of neighbors on your list (during which you could choose to allow people to submit their pledges, or not, as you prefer). Please note that this is not required or expected; we are simply putting it out there for you to consider if you love to entertain!

Let the fun begin! ♦

—Pamela Hathaway

Development Director

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

As seen in the special announcement on page 5 of this issue of the *Meeting House News*, we ask kids of every age to save Friday, February 11 (from 6 to 8 p.m.) for Rock 'n' Roll Bingo. The proceeds will help to fund our Youth Service Pilgrimage (YSP). Preparation for the fifth YSP to Székelykeresztúr is picking up the pace for our July 6 departure. If any high-school-aged youths are interested in joining us, there are still a few seats available. We are also looking for one more adult chaperone. Contact **Winslow Pettingell** (e-mail below) for further information. For ongoing updates about the YSP program in general, be sure to check the PCC Web page (as noted below).

For those interested in our partner church relationship, be it through a sponsored student or a past trip to Transylvania, the UUA has a special organization devoted to supporting partnerships such as ours. The UU Partner Church Council (UUPCC) provides travel services and money transfers to Transylvania, the Philippines, India, Africa, and numerous other places where UU partnerships are burgeoning. The UUPCC also provides toll-free "virtual teleconferences," a members-only PCC-chat e-mail list, and a monthly newsletter. Please consider joining this essential organization. To find out more, go to <http://www.uupcc.org/> or e-mail **Rodger Mattlage** at rmattlage@yahoo.com.

Our next First Parish PCC (supper) meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17, at the home of **Rodger Mattlage** and **Pat Brinkman**. We would love to have you join our happy group. For further information, drop Winslow a line and for our all our latest PCC news and information, see firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"
 — **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,
LondonSW11@aol.com

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

As many of you are aware, I recently spent ten days at the US/Mexico border (most of that time in Mexico) as part of a delegation studying immigration. Since my return several people have asked me what I found most compelling or moving about my trip. As I've engaged in the long task of processing all that I experienced, one thing that continues to stand out in my memory was the warm, generous hospitality offered to me and my colleagues, a hospitality that seemed innate, natural.

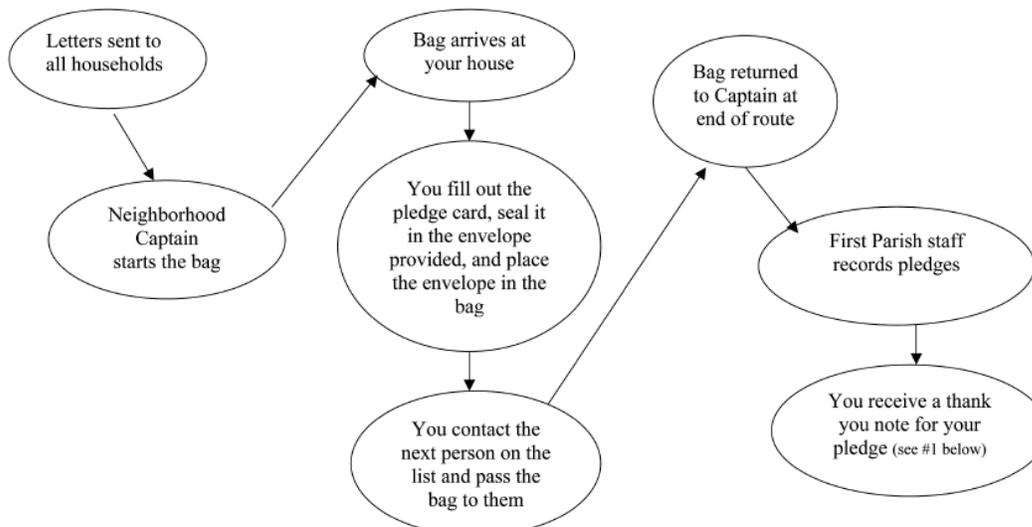


Reflecting on the seemingly effortless hospitality offered by the people I met in Mexico, I'm reminded of all the hard work put into talking about and demonstrating "radical hospitality" within Unitarian Universalism over the last few years. Indeed, when I was chairperson of the Welcoming Congregation Committee in West Hartford, Connecticut, I developed a program called "Radical Hospitality" and even preached a sermon of the same name. I think the people I met in Mexico would be surprised to hear us speak of hospitality as "radical." Don't get me wrong. I understand and appreciate the impulse behind the idea of "radical hospitality," but isn't it a shame that we have arrived at a place on this side of the border where to offer hospitality has become a radical, rather than a natural, way of engaging with others. ♦

Blessings,

— *Craig Nowak*

Annual Appeal 2011: The Pledge Process



¹ At year's end, you will receive a statement of your pledge for tax purposes.

WOMEN'S NEWS

New Year, New Book! The Women's AM/PM Book Group

The Women's Book Group will discuss *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*, by Jeannette Walls. The evening discussion will be Monday, February 28, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, Tuesday, March 1, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Both meetings are at First Parish.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the monthly 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 or 978-369-1471. ♦

Remaining Books and Dates for 2011:

Mar. 28, 29	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> , by Khaled Hosseini
Apr. 25, 26	<i>The Help</i> ,* by Kathryn Stockett
May 23, 24	<i>Still Alice: A Novel</i> , by Lisa Genova
June TBD	Potluck and book choosing

*Recommended also as a good audio book

MISCELLANEOUS

• Seeking the Sacred in Scripture and Poetry: • An Experience with *Lectio Divina*

• *Lectio Divina*, or "sacred reading," is an ancient method
• of reading scripture that lets it sink deeply into us for its
• meaning in our lives. We will use it with scriptures from
• different traditions as well as secular poetry, which so
• often touches the spiritual.

• Saturday, March 19, 2011

• 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (home-cooked lunch included)

• Cost: \$50.00

• Living Water is about an hour and a half north of
• Portland. To register, call 207-872-2370
• or info@retreatinmaine.com. Registration is required by
• March 5.

• *Please note:* Living Water's required registration date is
• very firm. Living Water cancels events that are not
• sufficiently subscribed two weeks in advance. People
• have waited to register until a few days before only to
• find their choice already cancelled!

• **Karen Lewis Foley**, a Unitarian Universalist minister,
• has been teaching *lectio divina* since 2000. A graduate
• of the Shalem Institute's Spiritual Guidance and
• Retreat/Group Leadership programs, she offers spiritual
• direction, retreats, and pastoral care consultation for
• congregations.

FEBRUARY 2011 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m. (not 2/21)
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	10:30 a.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Child and Teen Yoga</i>	Wednesday	4:15 p.m. (not 2/23)
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m. (not 2/23)
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m. (not 2/23)
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness Practice</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m. (not 2/23)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Hatha Vinyasa Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m. (not 2/24)
<i>The Power of Myth: A Spiritual Exploration</i>	Thursday	6:15 p.m. (video) (not 2/24)
<i>The Power of Myth: A Spiritual Exploration</i>	Thursday	7:15 p.m. (discussion) (not 2/24)
<i>Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 2/24)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Friday	10:30 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 2/13 or 2/20)

Wed	Feb 2	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	•	Sun	Feb 13	12:00	YRUU to Common Cathedral (off-site)
Thu	Feb 3	7:30	<i>Understanding Transitions</i>	•				
		7:30	Threshold Choir	•	Mon	Feb 14	6:30	Standing Committee
Fri	Feb 4	6:00	YRUU Lock-in	•			7:00	<i>Humanists</i>
Sat	Feb 5	6:30	Funderburg Dinner	•	Tue	Feb 15	11:30	WPA Luncheon
Sun	Feb 6	9:00	YRUU Chili Distribution	•	Wed	Feb 16	6:30	Membership Committee
Mon	Feb 7	7:00	<i>Humanists</i>	•	Thu	Feb 17	7:30	Threshold Choir
		7:00	SAC Board Meeting	•	Fri	Feb 18	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
		7:30	RE Council	•	Sun	Feb 20	3:00	Needleworkers
Tue	Feb 8	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•			7:00	French Language
Wed	Feb 9	12:15	<i>Sandwiches & Short Story</i>	•	Mon	Feb 21		Holiday—Office Closed
Thu	Feb 10	7:30	<i>A Life of Power and Purpose</i>	•	Fri	Feb 25	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
		7:45	Labyrinth Information Meeting	•	Sun	Feb 27	12:30	Nominating Committee
Fri	Feb 11	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	•	Mon	Feb 28	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
		6:00	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo	•			7:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
Sat	Feb 12	9:00	<i>Oasis Discovery Workshop: Take a Breath</i>	•	Tue	Mar 1	9:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
		9:00	Photo Club	•				
		6:00	Latin Dance Night	•				

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

The March Newsletter deadline is Monday, February 28, at noon.
The Newsletter is published the following Monday.

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

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First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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• Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

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• Anastassia Zinke, Youth Program Director

• Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

• Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

• Eric Huenneke, Parish Organist

• Anderson Manuel, Youth Gospel Choir Director

• Gail Carey, Children's Choir Director

• David Huston, Music Director Emeritus

• Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director

• Leslie Koplów, Operations Manager, Jericho Road

• Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

• Jane Johnson, Office Manager

• Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector

• Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

• Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff



for **Spiritual Renewal**

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • February 2011

Welcome to the Wright Tavern Center. Online registration is available for all courses. Check our website at wrighttavern.org for schedule, course descriptions, presenter bios, registration information and policies. Questions? Contact *Cassy Bosworth* at cbosworth@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602. Please check the board in the lower church entryway for course locations..

I. Growing Your Spirit

Monday Morning Meditation

Join *Jenny Rankin* in the Chapel for silent meditation. Drop-ins welcome. No charge.

Monday: Jan. 31–May 23 (no session Feb. 21, Apr. 4 or 18)
9:15-9:45 a.m.

The Art of Living: Mindfulness Practice in Everyday Life

Is it possible to live with greater ease, joy and connection? This workshop will explore how to develop and deepen spiritual practice in the midst of the demands, stress, pace and distractions of our hyper-connected modern life. Using the practice of Insight Meditation (Vipassana) as a foundation, we will examine how to establish and maintain a personal spiritual practice in order to live with greater wisdom and compassion in daily life. No previous experience with meditation is needed to participate. Drop-ins welcome. Leader: *John Bigay*

Wednesday: Feb. 9–Apr. 27 (no session Feb. 23, Mar. 16 or Apr. 20)
7:30–9:00 p.m. \$90/9 sessions

T'ai Ji

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with qigong and the simple movement of T'ai Ji we can release blocked energy, create wellness and bring our lives into balance. This class is geared to people of all ages. It offers gentle low-impact exercise to reduce stress, enhance optimal health, and simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: *Mae Pagan*

Friday: 12:30-2:00 p.m. Feb. 18, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13, Jun. 10
\$25/class

T'ai chi

Tai chi is often called meditation in motion. In this class, we will learn the Hwa Yu form of T'ai Chi. The benefits of T'ai Chi are many: relaxation, improved immune response, better balance and stability, and lower blood pressure. The evening session includes some standing meditation and practice with the Hwa Yu T'ai Chi form. This is an ongoing class that includes new and returning students. Instructor: *Sue Wood*

Monday: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Feb. 7-Apr.4 (no session Feb. 21)
\$120/8 sessions

Concord Area Humanist Group

- First Monday speaker, Mark Lindley D.Phil, addresses the topic, "Atheism and Economic Man" The great atheist philosopher Thomas Hobbes said that the natural social condition of humans is a "war of all against all" but that ensuing difficulties (i.e. lives which are "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short") have occasioned a social contract whereby massive government reins in human nature. Does atheism have to support this view? Must scientific economic theory rely on such a view of human nature or could it incorporate instead the idea that there is something other than greed in our motivations? Mark has been an assistant humanist chaplain, is a noted musicologist, and, more recently, a historian of modern India. He has taught at various universities, in diverse countries. Read about Dr. Lindley and the writings he has authored at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Lindley.

Monday: February 7 7:00-9:00 p.m.

- The third session of our "Necessity of Virtue" workshop series, based on Galen Guengerich's eight-session workshop of same title which was presented at 2010 UUA GA in June. It will include video from that series. Galen rejects the divine as the source of our morality, and then develops Aristotle's thinking on the state of character in encouraging the fullest development of human potential. The series will be led by three of the CAH Steering Committee who attended Galen's workshop. Contact *Patrick Everett* at pne@aol.com for information on CAH events.

Monday: February 14 7:30-9:00 p.m.

- On the third Monday of each month, "Third Monday Exploring" formerly "Conversations at Eight," will assemble in the Trustees Room of the Concord Public Library at 7:30 p.m. to actively discuss a subject of interest from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m., when the library closes.

A Life of Passion and Purpose

Many people tend to live each day racing around trying to beat the clock and check things off their to-do lists. Well, there is a way out of that exhausting, emotionally draining spiral! In this workshop professional life coach **Rena Hedeman** will invite participants to take time to identify what is most important and reprioritize so that their life reflects those values. No one will be required to share their thoughts or notes — writing exercises are for the writer's eyes only. Class requirements are an open mind, warm heart, and a willingness to dig deep and step a bit out of your comfort zone.

Thursday: February 10 7:30-9:00 p.m. Fee: \$20

Food for Life: Nutrition and Cooking Classes

National Cancer Institute research shows that as much as 50 percent of cancer risk may be related to diet. These four two-hour classes will present nutritional information and easy recipes that are designed to prevent and survive cancer. Class topics are *How Foods Fight Cancer* — the right food choices make a real difference; *Fueling Up on Low Fat/High Fiber Foods* — fiber helps remove toxins, chemicals and hormones from the body; *Discover Dairy and Meat Alternatives* — biological effects of various proteins, growth factors and carcinogens and possible substitutes; *Cancer Fighting Compounds and Healthy Weight Management* — immune-boosting foods, antioxidants, phytochemicals. Participants will sample tasty dishes loaded with immune-boosting nutrients, and will have access to Food for Life/Cancer project materials and discussion/question forums. Instructor: **Kathryn Shane**

Wednesday: Mar. 23, 30; Apr. 6, 13 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Fee: \$60/4 sessions

Managing Energy, Not Time

Increasing demands in our lives over the past few decades have inhibited our ability to connect with friends and family in meaningful ways, and have affected our contribution level at work.

This workshop will focus on developing and maintaining your energy to become more engaged at work and home. We will explore the principles of high energy and the benefits they can yield. By participating in this workshop you will be able to:

- Better understand the dynamics that occur when we are fully engaged
- Describe the four sources of energy
- Identify your purpose and key values
- Increase your energy to enhance your enjoyment in both work and life

“Managing Energy Not Time” is one in a series of Oasis

- Discovery workshops, which explore ways to tap into our inner resources, knowledge and strength to make a difference in how we experience our lives. Based on the book, *The Power of Full Engagement* by Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz. Instructor: **Leslie Ackles**

Saturday: March 12 9:00–11:30 a.m. Fee: \$30

The Power of Myth: A Spiritual Exploration

Journalist and public intellectual Bill Moyers interviewed the world's foremost authority on mythology, Joseph Campbell, in the year before Campbell's death. Their edited conversations formed a PBS series and a transcriptive book, both entitled *The Power of Myth*. In both, Moyers plays the intellectual in religious search: well read, quick to make connections and draw analogies, demanding rigor. Campbell, by contrast, is the metaphoric thinker, often setting aside the academic to offer myth as a pointer to universal transcendent experience.

In eight conversations we will visit together the dance between these two archetypical thinkers. We'll consider our own journeys in the light of these conversations, using them to explore who we are, why we're here, and how to live fully.

Participants will prepare by watching an episode of the video or reading a chapter of *The Power of Myth* each week. Instructors: **Jiffy Read** and **Alec Walker**

Thursday: Feb. 3–Mar. 31 (no session Feb. 24)
Video (optional), 6:15 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.
Discussion, 7:15–9:00 p.m. Fee: \$25/8 sessions

Oasis Discovery Workshop: Take a Breath!

Do you feel like you are running 100 miles an hour through life? Are you experiencing symptoms of stress? Do you want to feel a moment's peace and tranquility? Then this workshop is for you! We live in stressful, turbulent times, at an accelerated pace, with busy schedules, obligations, and troublesome economic news looming every day. How we respond to this stress, what this response does to our bodies, and how we can work on reversing the consequences of stress is what we will cover in this workshop. We all have the tools and inner resources to make a difference in how we experience our lives. The key is discovering and using those tools. One of the tools, or techniques, we will practice is the Relaxation Response, by Herbert Benson, M.D. “Take a Breath!” is one in a series of Oasis Discovery Workshops, where we explore ways to tap into our own oasis of inner resources, knowledge and strength to make a difference in how we experience our lives. Instructor: **Leslie Ackles**

Saturday: February 12 9:00-11:30 a.m. Fee: \$25

II. Creativity As A Spiritual Path

These classes are offered throughout the year.

Sandwiches and Short Story

Bring lunch and enjoy an hour of discussion with **Rev. Gary Smith** about the short story choice of the month. February's story is "The Women of the House" by William Trevor. All stories can be found in *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, edited by Laura Fuman; Anchor Books, 2010 pb \$16.

Wednesday: February 9 12:15–1:15 p.m.

Rise Up Singing

This informal monthly musical gathering of adults and children provides participants with an opportunity to sing and share traditional and contemporary folk songs, spirituals, hymns, rounds and chants in fellowship. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you own one. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Leaders: **Beth Norton and Others**. No charge. No registration required.

Friday: Feb. 25, Mar. 25, Apr. 22, May 20, Jun. 24 7:30 p.m.

III. Sources of Unitarian Universalism

Job, A Man For All Times

The story of a rich man who loses everything and then must live to deal with his losses is as old as the Pharaohs of Egypt and as new as tomorrow's headlines. **Carl Scovel** will lead a study of Western culture's classic retelling of this ancient story in the book of Job.

We will study its precursors; examine the text and the explanations that Job's four "comforters" bring him as well as Job's reply; and then God's response to all of them. We will study Christian and Jewish interpretations of the book, and contemporary retellings of it in story and drama. Finally, we will consider our own and our family's and friend's responses to unearned suffering.

Monday: Mar. 7–Apr. 4 7:30-9:00 p.m. Fee: \$50/5 sessions