



The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

Henry David Thoreau loved the spring. As one of you said to me, perhaps one reason was that winter was so hard on his lungs, tinged as they were with the tuberculosis that one day would cause his death. Whatever the reason, when the air started to warm, and the ice at Walden Pond started to crack and

“boom” as it began to melt, Thoreau’s heart would lift.

“I have an appointment with the spring,” he wrote in his journal. “She comes to my window to wake me, and I go forth an hour or two earlier than usual.”



Perhaps you love the snow, perhaps you don’t, but I think for us all it has been a long winter. I, for one, will be listening for those early-morning bird songs! At First Parish, it will be a spring to remember. Our fundraising season begins March 6, and we will ask one another once again for a generous financial

“pledge” or gift. You told us in the “listening sessions” last year that you treasure our core “pillar” programs of music, religious education and social action. Certain costs — like fuel oil and snow plowing! — rise every year, so to preserve these programs we cherish, we need to raise more money than last year. You told us that this community, and the “enduring values” it represents, helps you and your family stay grounded. Thank you for your generosity; it is especially important during this time of transition and change.

This spring, too, will see a grand celebration of **Gary Smith’s** 23-year ministry at First Parish. Worship with us on Easter, April 24. Celebrate First Parish as a “teaching congregation” on May 8, when former ministerial interns return to lead worship with Gary. Come to the fabulous musical directed by **Tom and Sue Beck** (May 13 and 14)! Enjoy special music by the choir on Sunday May 22. Be sure to join us for Gary’s final sermon on June 5, one worship service at 10 a.m.

This congregation has gone from “strength to strength” in the past 25 years, and it will continue to grow and evolve in the years ahead, in part because you are here, lending us your ideas, your energy, your spiritual strength, your generosity. Together, let us tend this community we love, passing it on to future generations as it has been passed to us, a sanctuary for us and a force for goodness in the world.

—*Jenny Rankin*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 6

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – **First Parish Choir**
and Children’s Choirs

March 13

Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 – **Gospel Choir**
11:00 – **First Parish Choir**

March 20

Youth Service
9:00 & 11:00 – **Youth Sunday**

March 27

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 – **Chris Randall**, guitar & vocals
11:00 – **First Parish Choir**

Don’t Miss...

WPA SPRING CONCERT AND TEA

Tuesday, March 15

3:00 New New Orleans Jazz Concert

4:00 Tea in the Parish Hall and Parlor

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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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, March 21
Monday, April 25
Monday, May 23

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

PARISH NOTES

Watch for Much More to Come . . .

On January the eighth, the Nominating Committee hosted a meeting for over 50 lay leaders and First Parish staff, with homemade soup to nurture the body, conversation to nurture the soul, and a goal to explore the paths people have taken to participate in our First Parish community. In the coming weeks we will share with you what we have learned from that meeting and the ways *you* can get more involved.

New Directories Available

The new 2011 Parish Directory is here! Pick one up on the table outside the office. Please, only *one* per family.

Dedicate the Sunday Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the Sunday flowers as a memorial or celebration, please contact **Peg Hedstrom** at 978-369-1562.

Wanted: Drum Set to Rock First Parish

Has your teenager abandoned his or her dream of playing in a rock band? Would you like to clear out your basement/attic/garage, and get a tax deduction for it? Various music groups at First Parish, including the ensemble backing up the musical "OMG Broadway!" and the Gospel Choir, would be grateful for the donation of a jazz or rock drum kit (bass, toms, snare, cymbals, bells, anything you have!). We'll even come to your house for pickup! Call **Roselyn Romberg** at 978-505-5778 or e-mail roselyn.romberg@gmail.com.

Marvelous Monday Dinners in March

See the Membership Corner on page 9 for more details.

Jazz Concert and Tea — March 15

Sick and tired of winter? The Women's Parish Association cordially invites you to their annual spring concert, which will take place on Tuesday, March 15. The New New Orleans Jazz Band, led by Larry Zuk, will remind us of Mardi Gras and usher in spring with the gusto and joyful sounds of its critically acclaimed musicians and period instrumentation. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by tea in the Parlor and Parish Hall. All women, men and youth are cordially invited. There is no charge for this event and no reservations are necessary. It's not necessary, but if possible, please bring along some plated cookies, brownies, bars, etc., to share with others.

"Mmmm, Mmmm, Good!" Soup Sale — March 20

The Women's Parish Association will be selling homemade soup at the coffee hours on Sunday, March 20. Proceeds from the sale will be used for various maintenance projects of First Parish. Stay tuned for future detailed announcements about the soup sale!

Spring Equinox Celebration

Come one, come all, to celebrate the Spring Equinox in community with the Women's Circle on Sunday evening, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Together we will joyously invite in the season of longer, warmer and greener days, we will plant seeds to take home, and we will reflect on our own personal growth. Everyone is most welcome at this intergenerational event!

Parish Notes

continued on page 9

Developments: The Annual Appeal

Annual Appeal 2011 has officially begun! The theme for this year's Appeal — **Looking Forward, Giving Back** — reminds us that we are part of a community that for 375 years has been a source of energy and leadership for the world. This year's theme also underscores the responsibility that each and every one of us has for sustaining our congregation's journey. First Parish exists because of the generosity and vision of faith leaders over many generations. Your financial contributions are essential to sustaining the First Parish community as we continue to engage in spiritual growth and inquiry; deepen our sense of connection with each other; educate ourselves and our children in a climate of openness; develop and carry out practices that sustain our organization; and reach out to the larger world in a spirit of service.

This year's Appeal is critical for three reasons:

- Total pledge dollars have been declining over the last three years.
- Costs continue to go up for nondiscretionary budget items like building expenses and health insurance. Those who give the same amount year after year are buying less programming each year.
- Cuts to programs over the last three years have reduced core support for programs. A flat fundraising year (\$843,000 in pledges) will not maintain the status quo in the "pillar" programs of Ministry, Music, Religious Education and Social Action. A flat fundraising year will result in layoffs, furloughs, and/or a hiring freeze for nonministerial staff, further reducing the number and type of services available at First Parish.

By this time, I hope you have seen **Melissa Gallo's** informative presentation on the First Parish budget process (if you missed it in person, you can view it on the

- website). The presentation includes an overview of income and expenses — most important, pledges make up approximately 74 percent of our annual budget.
- Pledging in a generous and timely manner — pledges should be submitted no later than May 1 — will help ensure that next year's budget accurately reflects your commitment to our community.

What pledge level is appropriate?

- Your pledge should be a thoughtful contribution that expresses the role First Parish plays in your life. Here is the Unitarian Universalist Association's fair-share giving guide:

- First, reduce your income to reflect medical expenses, child care and education costs. Then, consider giving at the Supporter or Sustainer level — or more — as your commitment and belief in First Parish and Unitarian Universalism grows.

- **Supporter:** The Church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth. The Supporter level ranges from 2- to 5-percent of household income.

- **Sustainer:** The Church is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs. The Sustainer level ranges from 3- to 6-percent of household income.

- Please see the website or the brochure that accompanies your Annual Appeal mailing to peruse a chart and diagrams that will help you determine your fair share pledge.

Who can I talk to about this?

- Feel free to contact Annual Appeal Chair **George Gagliardi** (ggagliardi@gmail.com) or First Parish Development Director **Pamela Hathaway** (plhathaway@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602) to talk about stewardship at First Parish.

MONEY MATTERS

I have just completed a month of budget presentations to a variety of committees and boards within the church. This work culminated in a Forum on Sunday, February 27. If you have yet to see the budget presentation, it is now on the website, at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/budget>. I've also been attending the Executive Team breakfasts at La Provence each Thursday.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to meet with so many people over the past month. What have I heard? In no particular order — folks wanted to talk about budget matters, pledging, membership, our youth, and the ministerial

- transition. I heard a lot of concern and fondness for our community.
- Our Annual Pledge Appeal kicks off Sunday, March 6. There is good information in **Pamela Hathaway's** Developments column (above) about the Appeal. I won't repeat that here, but I hope that each of you will carefully consider your pledge in the context of what First Parish has meant, and will continue to mean, in your life. If we can complete this campaign by May 1, I will be communicating the impacts on the budget to the parish throughout May. ♦

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

The pastoral care lay ministers covering the month of March are **Dana Snyder-Grant** and **Carol Boris**. Because of travel and work demands, Dana will cover the first half of March and Carol will cover the second half. If you are in need of transportation to a medical appointment, or would like a Caring Connection meal delivered to you, or would like to have a compassionate listener visit you, please e-mail Dana at danasg@newview.org or call at 978-266-9409 during March 1 to 15. During the second half of March, contact Carol at 781-259-8038 or at cboris312@verizon.net.

Fred Van Deusen was the pastoral care lay minister for February. When he visited **Eloise Smith** at Concord Health Care, they talked about the covenant group of which they are both members. Fred made arrangements for the group to meet at Concord Health Care in a private room so Eloise would not miss this important spirit-filled time together. I share this as an example of how the lay ministers help to make pastoral care a richer and more meaningful experience.



A big thank-you goes to **Kathleen Elcox** for printing photos she took of First Parish to be placed on the "Thinking of You" pastoral care notes. The photo was taken in the spring, with First Parish behind a beautiful pink blossoming tree. The photo gives hope that spring may just spring eternal. Another big thank-you goes to **Tracey Hurd** for taking the donated photos and affixing them to sturdy note cards.

We are truly blessed by the many generous and caring folks of First Parish. ♦

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday, March 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 April Standing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 11. ♦

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

"What is your spiritual practice?" This is a question seminarians are asked with some frequency. My usual response to that question is "contemplation." But in reflecting on the past few months, during which I've struggled with finding time and patience for contemplation, I've begun to realize that finding and maintaining a regular spiritual practice is not that simple.



In some ways spiritual practices are not unlike the clothes we choose wear. Sometimes they fit, sometimes they don't. Some are right for one season or occasion and not another. In the fall, spring and summer I like to take my canoe out on the pond behind my house and find a setting for contemplation. I can't do that in the winter, and this winter that hit me especially hard, as opportunities to be in deep solitude have been hard to come by. So, over the last several weeks I've been trying on different spiritual practices, including writing prayers and using a modern daybook of hours. Nothing I've tried so far has fit particularly well, but sometimes such things take more time than we'd like them to. What about you? How does your spiritual practice fit these days? ♦

Blessings,

—*Craig Nowak*

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. ♦

March 13, 2011

Come Hear from Bill Clinton

Want to start a healthier lifestyle? What influenced Bill Clinton to change his eating habits? A video with Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn from the Cleveland Clinic and T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D., from Cornell University talks about the reasons behind President Clinton's dietary shift. **Kathryn Shane** will present three short videos, which will be followed by a Q & A and discussion.

March 27, 2011

An Overview of Electronic Devices for the 21st Century

We will have a panel discussion about recording devices and electronic books for those who don't have daily exposure to this type of equipment.

MUSINGS

I have been using public transportation a lot lately and I have been struck by the ubiquity of mp3 players. It seems that the majority of folks riding the subway and train are plugged into ear buds and are listening to something — music, podcasts, who knows what else.

I had a fantasy recently as I rode the Red Line, immersed in my own musical sound track: What if I could randomly listen in through the ear buds of my fellow travelers? What if there were a musical “thought cloud” with a snippet of what they were hearing? What would I learn about my companions on the journey? Is there an “app” for that?



My fellow travelers and I rarely show an outward response to the music in our ears (this would be viewed as eccentric, no doubt). And yet, we are (I hope!) moved by what we are hearing. Doubtless we each have chosen music to evoke a particular emotion — to energize

us, to calm us or to surprise us. Yet, our faces and our bodies remain neutral to the public.

Can it be a coincidence that in this time of extreme individuality in music listening, musical “flash mobs” have appeared in shopping malls and other public spaces? The many YouTube films of “Hallelujah Chorus” flash mobs that went viral during the holiday season were a testament to the power of the shared musical experience. Did you notice the pure wonder that appeared in the average shopper’s face as live music suddenly surrounded them?

I have mixed feelings about the personal mp3 player phenomenon. I realize it is here to stay and I confess I am overly fond of my own iPhone. But I don’t want to lose the communal musical experience. I love riding in the car with my sons, who plug their mp3 players into the radio and reveal — literally — what has been going through their heads. I treasure Sunday mornings when we sing as a congregation or listen to the organ, or one of the choirs, or the soloist of the day. Our response is clear in our expressions, the tear in the eye, the shared smile. Communal music making and listening is relatively rare in our society. Yet it is a vital and regular component of our worshiping community. Through it we reveal ourselves in a unique way to one another. May we continue to treasure our rituals of shared music. ♦

Blessings,

— Beth Norton

PIPEWORK

Steve Russell, our organ builder, is continuing with the construction and installation of the winding system for the Great organ main chest right behind the façade. The step-up blower and wind system for the new high pressure solo



Tuba stop, which we have to look forward to, is now installed and has been tested. Work on new pipe fabrication continues at a steady pace in the Russell shop in Vermont. More ranks have been completed and are awaiting general voicing before they can be brought to Concord and installed. We are expecting to see some additional ranks of pipes installed during the month of March.

Though work on the organ continues steadily, we know it will not be complete this spring. However, for Music Sunday on May 22, we are planning the Haydn *Missa Brevis Sancti Johannes de Deo* for choir, orchestra and solo organ as well as other works that will highlight the qualities of the organ as it has been installed by then, and celebrate the progress we have made on this major project. ♦

Sarah Whitney Returns to First Parish with NYC String Quintet Sybarite5

On Saturday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m., the Sybarite5 string quintet, featuring our own **Sarah Whitney** on violin, will appear as part of the First Parish Concert Series, sponsored by the Music Events Committee, which will mark the ensemble’s first Boston-area appearance. The group recently played sold-out concerts at Lincoln Center and the Library of Congress, and has pioneered their performance style, *THE SHUFFLE EFFECT*, in which the audience program lists the group’s repertoire, but an iPod on stage determines live what will be played.

Tickets (\$23 general, \$17 student/senior w/ID) are available at coffee hours March 6 and 13, and at the church office M-F, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See the insert in this newsletter for information on ordering tickets online or by phone.

In April, we will begin our registration process for next year. I have already begun planning the curriculum. Often, our curriculum is inspired by both parents and children. Our curriculum is

inspired by what is happening within our community, by what is going on in the world. I like that our curriculum is homegrown. I like that we can create what we feel we need based on the passions and interests of our congregation.



This year, we were inspired to teach our children about Yom Kippur and atonement. Several of our children helped create spiritual lessons around caring for animals. One child brought in a quilt and a book, suggesting a hands-on art project focusing on our Community Garden. Others want to share a love for children in Transylvania, in Jhamtse Ghatsel, in El Salvador. **Kazue Campbell** shared the ancient art of the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Whatever it is, we try to build a program using the talents and values within our congregation as its foundation.

Each year, parents choose a teaching assignment. Pick with care. Try to pick a term that has a topic that interests you. And when you do choose, know that I look very carefully at each term and who is teaching. You are not anonymous. I actually plan my lessons based on the passions that I know you have. You are not just a name on an RE Assignment Grid. Instead, you are someone who is filled with potential to unlock these curriculum dreams that have grown from within our congregation.

If you have topics you feel would be meaningful for our children to explore, give me a call. Maybe we could build something together. Would it mean you would have to commit? Well, yes! It is the commitment that builds relationships, and relationships based on shared values are the most treasured gift. ♦

A VERY Special Thank-You

We had a problem in early February. There was a mix-up in the calendar and suddenly we realized we were expected to host Common Cathedral on February 13. Should we cancel? Should we leave 150 homeless, cold people hungry on Boston Common at twelve noon? No. Somehow we had to marshal our resources and make it happen.

March 2011 RE Calendar

- Sun., Mar. 6 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11 a.m.
8th Grade Our Whole Lives at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 13 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11 a.m.
8th Grade Our Whole Lives at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 20 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 12 p.m.
8th Grade Our Whole Lives at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 27 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11 a.m.
8th Grade Our Whole Lives at 4 p.m.

Tom Hammond and **Cynthia Ellis**, two of our Coming of Age mentors, and two very committed adults to First Parish and to our RE community, stepped up and said they would take it on. And they did. They gathered youth and adults to make sandwiches and bring soup on a very cold morning in Boston.

I would also like to thank our Youth Director, **Anastassia Zinke, Elizabeth Seabury, Victoria Rizzi, Jay Copeland, Kirk Doggett, Gianna Drew, Cam Villain, Jess Atkins, Joan Wesolowski, Sam Copeland** and **Isabel Peterson**. As Tom wrote, “Common Cathedral was more work than we originally thought, but well worth it. The consensus was the afternoon was an important experience for all of us.”

How deep are we? Deep. When we need it, we have the people who say, “Yes” and do the work. And while it is work, it is worth it. How many of us remember what we did on the afternoon of February 13? When you do something real like this, in your own backyard, you remember it. You remember it.

— *Pam Howell*

Director of Religious Education

Orientation for RE Teachers for 2011

Workshop Rotation Program: Second to Sixth Graders

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

RE News

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**Second–Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation
Winter Term – Wisdom from the World’s
Religions**

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 the Wright Tavern – You Choose.

March 13 – Rituals around Tea

Grades 2 & 3: Tea as Restoration – Hinduism and Personal Altars
Grades 4 & 5: Tea as Meditation – Buddhism and Japanese Tea Ceremony
Grade 6: Youth Group in the Wright Tavern

March 20 – Rituals around Tea

Grades 2 & 3: Tea as Restoration – Hinduism and Yoga
Grades 4 & 5: Tea as Meditation – Buddhism and Jhamtse Gatsal
Grade 6: Youth Group in the Wright Tavern

March 27 – Rituals around Tea

Grades 2 & 3: Tea as Restoration – Hinduism and Mandalas
Grades 4 & 5: Tea as Meditation – Buddhism and Jhamtse Gatsal
Grade 6: Youth Group in the Wright Tavern

April 3 – Spring Term Begins – Transcendentalism

Grades 2 & 3: Musketaquid – River Floats
Grades 4 & 5: Quilt Project for our Community Garden
Grade 6: Youth Group in the Wright Tavern

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

Last month, the youth devoted themselves to serving others — by participating in a Common Cathedral service day and by raising money for First Parish, the El Centro Arte para la Paz in El Salvador, and for their upcoming youth service pilgrimage to Transylvania. As one youth recently said, whenever she thinks of First Parish, she thinks of doing good works whether that is for this community, for our neighbors or the people of New Orleans, or for our brothers or sisters abroad. For her and others, to be a Unitarian Universalist at First Parish means serving others.

This month, we will focus on a different type of service — offering spiritual resources and points of reflection to the congregation by leading the March 20 Youth Worship Service. The service will focus on the theme of technology in our lives. High school-aged youth are welcome to come on Sunday evenings, March 6 and 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. to help plan this service. We will then have an overnight lock-in and rehearsal beginning on March 18 at 6 p.m. and ending March 19 at 9:30 a.m.

To recognize and support each other in community, the youth will also be selling First Parish T-shirts (and potentially sweat-shirts). These are great to have and wear as a visible sign that we intentionally identify ourselves and our good works with this faith community. I hope that you will consider making a purchase during one of the coffee hours following the youth worship service.

On March 27, the youth group will return to normal programming. That night’s activity will be “Agree or Disagree,” where youth will have a chance to express their views and values along a spectrum a beliefs.

YRUU programming for March:

- March 2: YAC meeting – planning for April
- March 6: Worship planning; T-shirt designs
- March 13: Worship planning
- March 18-19: Rehearsal/Lock-in
- March 20: Youth Service and T-shirt Sales!!!
- March 27: Agree or Disagree

As always, call or e-mail me with any ideas, questions or comments. ♦

— *Anastassia Zinke*

Youth Program Director

I am currently preparing for our worship on February 27 celebrating Pete Seeger’s music. The power of these songs and the lyrics are incredible. These are the songs I played on my guitar as a teen, in our folk services at church, or with my friends in college. They feel so personal to me. They make you want to stand up and be a better person, to do more, to change the world. Isn’t that amazing? Our worship on Sunday February 27 was all about that power — about the ability of all us of to come together, as a faith community, as a group of friends, as a group of future friends, and through our combined efforts do something, anything, to change the world. I often hear from new members that they are drawn to join First Parish because of the social action opportunities we offer here. And I also hear from people that once they participate in a SAC event, they want to do more. It is the power of our combined efforts, the bonding that we create, that makes this such an inspirational faith community. Join us!



— Faith Bade

Social Action Program Director

Position with Domestic Violence Services Network in Concord

Domestic Violence Services Network in Concord is seeking an amiable, highly-skilled assistant to support the executive director. The candidate must be a highly organized self-starter who responds quickly to shifting priorities and needs and maintains the confidentiality that the work requires. This 30-hour-per-week position includes management of financial transactions; coordination of donations, grants, and fundraising activities; organization of meetings, trainings, and outreach activities; collaboration with volunteers, staff, and law enforcement. A bachelor’s degree and experience with nonprofits are required. Word and Excel skills are essential; QuickBooks and PowerPoint are important. Send your resume and cover letter to dvvap@concordma.gov. For more information, call 508-397-3678.

Wanted — Usable In-Season Clothing

The Acton Pantry is particularly looking for men’s pants, but also needs in-season clothes for all needy individuals and families. Donations can be dropped off on **Bill Seaver’s** porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. Contact Bill at billseaver@earthlink.net if you have any questions. *Note:* Bill is no longer collecting other household items for Lowell — instead they can be donated to Household Goods Recycling (HGRM <http://www.hgrm.org/index.htm>) in Acton.

- HGRM will pick up or you can leave items at Bill’s house and he will make sure they get to HRGM.
- **Join “Chicken Man,” a First Parish Intergenerational Musical!**
- The Social Action Community is planning an intergenerational musical, “Chicken Man,” written by First Parish’s own **Jane Blumberg**. It will be performed in March 2012. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as we move through our ministerial transition. Since the cast is very large, we are beginning some of the preliminary auditions this spring: May 1, 3-6 p.m. and May 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room. All interested in any capacity, please come! Scripts are now available in the church office. Everyone will be asked to read and sing along at the scheduled auditions. Private auditions may be scheduled. Help with the lighting, publicity, costumes, make-up and set design is needed as well. For information, call **Claudia Nimar** at 978-771-8216 or e-mail cnimar@aol.com.
- **Thank-you First Parish Activists!**
- We had an incredibly busy start to the 2011 year.
- The Home Drop-off Day was a huge success, with over 50 volunteers of all ages. We filled a pod for Cradles to Crayons and two trucks for HGRM. Well done **Alice Hogan, Gretchen Nelson, Abby White** and **Diana Page!**
- The El Salvador Latin Dance night was a wonderful success — raising almost \$2,000 for the Art Center for Peace, plus improving the dance skills of our First Parish membership! Thanks to the youth and chaperones.
- The Urban Ministry “Sources” event was a moving and successful experience — raising over \$7,000 for the UUUM, with a \$2250 match by SAC Grants. Thank you, **Beth Norton, Gail Carey** and choir members.
- **SAC-Sponsored Marvelous Monday Dinner March 7**
- Join together in this wonderful annual tradition of sharing a community meal. Dinner is at 6:15 p.m., with vespers to follow. Sign up in the office or through **Jane Foley** at jfoley@firstparish.org. Cost is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family.
- **SAC Program Leadership Event March 13, 7-9 p.m.**
- Join fellow First Parish social activists and **Craig Nowak**, our ministerial intern, as we explore the spiritual roots of our work. Contact **Alec Walker** at alecwalker@aol.com for more information.

SAC News and Events

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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.

Marvelous Mondays at First Parish

One of the great First Parish social events is approaching! Attend any or all of the Marvelous Monday dinner events in March. The evenings begin at 6 p.m. for social time, with dinner served at 6:15. Each meal is prepared by a committee of the church and is sure to be pleasing to the palate. A vesper service led by one of our staff follows at 7:00 in the Chapel. Child care is available, and the cost is \$5 per person/\$20 per family. Sign up during coffee hour, in the church office, or by contacting **Jane Foley** at jfoley@firstparish.org.



March 7

Dinner prepared by Social Action Community
Vespers led by **Rev. Jenny Rankin**
Music TBD

March 14

Dinner prepared by the Religious Education Council
Vespers led by **Anastassia Zinke**, Youth Director
Music provided by Chris Randall

March 21

Dinner prepared by the First Parish Choir
Vespers led by **Rev. Gary Smith**
Music provided by **Beth Norton** and the First Parish Choir

March 28

Dinner prepared by the Standing Committee
Vespers led by **Craig Nowak**, Ministerial Intern
Music TBD

Programs To Complement Your Evening Out

Rev. Carl Scovel will present “**Job, a Man for All Times.**” The story of a rich man who loses everything and then must deal with his losses is as old as the Pharaohs and as new as today’s headlines. Carl Scovel will lead a study of Western culture’s classic retelling of Job’s story. Please read the first two chapters of Job before the first meeting. Presented Mondays, March 7 to April 4, 7:30–9:00 p.m.; program fee: \$50/5 sessions. To register, go to: www.wrighttavern.org.

The Concord Area Humanists have two offerings: March 7 at the Wright Tavern — social gathering at 7:00 p.m. followed by the program from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. John Hooper, president of UUA’s national HUUmanist group, will talk about “UUA HUUmanists, Past, Present and Future.”

March 14 in the Emerson Room — social gathering at 7:00 p.m. followed by the program from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. We will continue the “Necessity of Virtue” workshop with a session on justice. A video presentation by Galen Guengerich will be followed by a discussion led by Alice Shafer. ♦

—*Jane Foley*

Membership Director

First Parish Closed

On Monday afternoon, March 28, First Parish will be closed beginning at noon, as the staff gathers together off-site to reflect on **Gary Smith**’s ministry, honor him and wish him well as he heads toward retirement.

First Parish Passover Seder

The First Parish Cooperative Passover Seder will be on Saturday, April 23, the day before Easter, beginning at 5 p.m. This is a special dinner participants enjoy being part of each year. We cook the very special foods together or set the tables together or serve the meal together or clean up together on that day, or help with the shopping the day before. The cost for those between ages 13 and 85 is \$17. For children between ages 6 and 12, the cost is \$5. All other ages are free. Tickets will be on sale on the three Sundays before the Seder during coffee hour or in the First Parish office during the week. All reservations and payments must be made before Friday, April 22, for that is the food shopping day for the Seder. Members of First Parish, their families and friends are all welcome. Please call **Rhoda Miller** at 978-369-6639 or e-mail her at rhodamill@aol.com for your important “job placement.”

“OMG, Broadway!” Is Coming in May — Save the Dates!

“OMG, Broadway!” will be performed on Friday, May 13, at 8 p.m. and on Saturday, May 14, at 2 and 8 p.m. in the marvelous First Parish Hall. A cast of over 40 First Parish singers will present 20 Broadway songs that deal with all things “religious.” And as if that isn’t enough, there will be a surprise guest who just happens to be retiring soon! So save the dates and keep an eye out in April for ticket sellers.



Sun, Fun and Friends — Ferry Beach Time Is Coming!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend, May 27-30 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families from our congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registrations for the weekend will be taken at coffee hours in April (more information to come in the April issue of *The Meetinghouse News*).

For questions before then, contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471). Also, to learn more about the Ferry Beach campus and to check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages there, see www.ferrybeach.org.

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Partner Church Committee

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Rock 'n' Roll Bingo — especially to our many volunteers who donated (truly exciting) raffle items; helped organize; set up and take down; gave their time to make things run and participated as members of the fine band that made the evening rock. We garnered just over \$1,300 and these proceeds are essential to making our Youth Service Pilgrimage (YSP) possible.

Preparation for the fifth YSP to Székelykeresztúr continues for our July 6 departure. For ongoing updates about the YSP program in general, be sure to check the PCC Web page (as noted below).

The PCC is pleased to announce that there are now 55 Keresztúr students (with nine new students this year) who are receiving vital educational funding through our First Parish Student Sponsorship program. This year's sponsorships add up to \$27,980, and since the program began in 1997, over \$257,518 has been raised. We are grateful for your support. If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact our coordinators: **Sue Beck** (e-mail, sbeck345@comcast.net) or **Ivan Kristoffy** (e-mail, IvanKristoffy@cs.com).

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. 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, March 10, at the home of **Lillian Anderson**. 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, go to: www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church

Minden jól! "Best wishes!"

— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,
LondonSW11@aol.com

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's AM/PM Book Group

The March selection for the Women's Book Group is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The evening discussion will be Monday, March 28, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, Tuesday, March 29, 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:

- Apr. 25, 26 *The Help*,* by Kathryn Stockett
- May 23, 24 *Still Alice: A Novel*, by Lisa Genova
- June TBD Potluck and book choosing
- *Recommended also as a good audio book

MISCELLANEOUS

Media Expert to Speak at Arlington Street Church

On Thursday, April 7, Dr. Robert McChesney, whose most recent book is *The Death and Life of American Journalism*, will be the featured speaker. He has written nine other books, has been a speaker at several UUA General Assembly gatherings and is a world renowned media expert. His talk will be "The Golden Age of Propaganda! Understanding and Reforming Today's Media." The 7 p.m. gathering is free and open to the public.

Ferry Beach Work and Play Week — June 19–25

Come to this first conference of the season at Ferry Beach for the deep sense of camaraderie and satisfaction that shared projects can bring. The week begins on Sunday and runs during the Ferry Beach staff training week. Parents work on Ferry Beach projects and children join the Ferry Beach Children's Program. In exchange for working on Ferry Beach projects each morning, Work and Play Week participants pay for meals only. This summer's projects will be focused on landscaping around the new Ferry Beach dining facility, as well as carpentry and painting projects. For further information, see the Ferry Beach website, at ferrybeach.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gospel of Mark Special Lenten Presentation

The Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord invites you to a Lenten presentation of the Gospel of Mark, as told from memory in word and song by Rev. Bert Marshall. Hear the Gospel, Mark's entire incredible and mysterious story, from beginning to end, as it may have been told aloud in the early Christian communities. Bert gives a very moving rendition of Mark's Gospel, entering into the story and bringing the audience into the story as well. The event will be held on Saturday, March 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit gospelofmarkalive.com.

MARCH 2011 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 3/20)
Marvelous Mondays Dinner	Monday	6:00 p.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Job, A Man for All Seasons</i>	Monday	7:30 p.m.
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Child and Teen Yoga</i>	Wednesday	4:15 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Hatha Vinyasa Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>The Power of Myth: A Spiritual Exploration</i>	Thursday	6:15 p.m. (video)
<i>The Power of Myth: A Spiritual Exploration</i>	Thursday	7:15 p.m. (discussion)
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 3/31)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Men's Group</i>	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Tue Mar 1	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Sun Mar 13	7:00	SAC Board Meeting
	9:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>	•		7:30	Transcendentalists in France
	10:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Mon Mar 14	6:30	Standing Committee
Wed Mar 2	6:00	Jericho Road Meeting	•		7:00	<i>Humanists</i>
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	•	Tue Mar 15	3:00	WPA Spring Concert
	7:30	<i>Mindful Practice</i>	•		4:00	WPA Spring Tea
Thu Mar 3	6:30	Immigration Discussion	•	Wed Mar 16	12:15	<i>Sandwiches & Short Story</i>
	7:30	Threshold Choir	•		6:30	Membership Committee
Fri Mar 4	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Thu Mar 17	7:30	Threshold Choir
	10:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Fri Mar 18	6:00	YRUU Overnight
Sun Mar 6	12:30	Congregational Meeting	•	Sat Mar 19	7:30	SYBARITE5 Concert
	5:00	El Salvador Meeting	•	Sun Mar 20	3:00	Needleworkers
Mon Mar 7	7:00	French Language	•		7:00	French Language
	7:00	<i>Humanists</i>	•		7:30	Spring Equinox Celebration
	7:30	RE Council	•	Mon Mar 21	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
Tue Mar 8	7:30	Concord Clergy Laity Group Meeting	•		7:00	Jericho Road Board Meeting
	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•	Wed Mar 23	10:00	<i>Food for Life</i>
	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Fri Mar 25	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	10:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Sun Mar 27	12:30	Ministerial Search Committee
Wed Mar 9	7:30	<i>Mindful Practice</i>	•		12:30	Nominating Committee
Fri Mar 11	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•		6:00	Youth Service Project Meeting
	10:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Mon Mar 28	7:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	•	Tue Mar 29	9:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
Sat Mar 12	9:00	<i>Managing Energy, Not Time</i>	•	Wed Mar 30	10:00	<i>Food for Life</i>
	9:00	Photo Club	•		7:30	RE Teacher Orientation

Green Notes

Mindful Living Idea: The Yellow Pages Association announced the launch of a new one-stop website (www.yelowpagesoptout.com) for residents to opt-out of receiving telephone directories.

Mindful Living Statistic: A year after Haiti’s catastrophic earthquake, two researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) discovered that much of the concrete rubble could be recycled, which could be a big help in a country short on cash for new materials and with little landfill space.

Social Action Grants Deadline March 15

Our benediction encourages us to “go out into the world” and First Parish has an incredibly strong and active grant-making program to do just that. Join in making these grants powerful. Do you know of a nonprofit that would be an ideal applicant? Any applicant must have a First Parish member as a sponsor. Go to sac.firstparish.org under Grants for information on policies, process and application. Contact Wendy Holt, chair, at wendyholt48@firstparish.org or any of the Grants Committee members (CC King, Claudia Nimar, Dave Dawson, John Lowe).

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER
The April Newsletter deadline is Monday, March 21, at noon.
The Newsletter is published the following Monday.

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00
Phone: 978-369-9602
Fax: 978-369-8701
E-Mail: FPConcord@firstparish.org
Website: www.firstparish.org

Ministers’ E-Mail:
Gary E. Smith: gsmith@firstparish.org
Jenny M. Rankin: jrankin@firstparish.org
Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@firstparish.org
Craig Nowak: cnowak@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister
Jenny M. Rankin, Minister
Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Cassy Bosworth, Assistant to the Ministers
Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager
Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director
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Craig M. Nowak, Ministerial Intern
Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education
Lorrie Clark, Religious Education Administrator
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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 Koplw, 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

"Classically trained to rock your ***** socks off."

-Tim Sukits, Creative Loafing Magazine

SYBARITE5



Mozart vs. Radiohead

The Shuffle Effect

CONCORD NATIVE SARAH WHITNEY
RETURNS WITH ACCLAIMED STRING QUINTET

Saturday, March 19th 2011, 7:30 pm
First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord MA

24-HOUR TICKET HOTLINE 1-800-838-3006 or
brownpapertickets.com/event/155569

TICKETS: \$23 General Admission, \$17 Seniors/Students (w/ID)
www.sybarite5.org

Jazz and Tea in the Afternoon

Tuesday, March 15th

Concert: 3:00 p.m. – Tea: 4:00 p.m.

First Parish in Concord

**The New New Orleans Jazz Band Brings
Mardi Gras Joy and Old Time Jazz To Concord!**



Presented by

The Women's Parish Association

All women, men, and youth are cordially invited.

There is no charge and reservations are not necessary.



for Spiritual Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • March 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, ext. 12. 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: March 7-May 23 (not April 4 or 18) 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Tibetan Buddhism

The Buddhist group meets in the First Parish Chapel. These weekly sessions are open to all who are interested in transforming love, compassion, and wisdom into action. You are welcome to share the spirit of community at these gatherings regardless of your familiarity with Tibetan Buddhism. Donations are gratefully accepted. Contact **Bill Seaver** at 978-369-7318 if you have any questions.

Wednesday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. Thursday: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Kundalini Yoga

Kundalini Yoga is yoga for the mind, body and spirit. It uses breath, yogic postures and meditation to help you build and maintain a healthy body, increase your vitality, train your mind to be strong and flexible, and facilitate change emotionally and spiritually. At its heart Kundalini Yoga is about developing awareness, an awareness of self and others that allows you to live your life with compassion and act with excellence. Each class can help one become aware of much more than just the strength of the body. Sessions are ongoing and open to all levels of experience and abilities. Instructor: **Dharm Singh**

Tuesday: March 22-June 2 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$150/10 sessions

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: March 9-April 27 (not March 16 or April 20) 7:30-9:00 p.m. \$60/6 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. Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13, June 10 \$25/class

• T'ai Chi

• T'ai 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. March 7-April 4 \$75/5 sessions

• Concord Area Humanist Group

• John Hooper, new president of the UUA's national HUUmanist group, will talk about "UUA HUUmanists — Past, Present and Future." This meeting is part of the Marvelous Mondays program during March. Coffee will be served at 7:00 p.m.; program will start at 7:30 p.m.

• Monday: March 7 7:00-9:00 p.m.

• We will offer the third session of Galen Guengerich's workshop series, presented at last June's General Assembly in Minneapolis. Galen rejects the divine as the source of our morality, and develops Aristotle's thinking on the state of character in encouraging the fullest development of human potential. Come and enjoy the discussion: "How we can be good without God." What do we mean by this? The meeting is part of the Marvelous Mondays program during March.

• Monday: March 14 7:00-9:00 p.m.

• On Monday, March 21, there will be a small discussion group. Paul Jameson is pursuing his thinking that Buddhism is a humanist nontheistic philosophy that has developed powerful approaches for helping people understand their own minds, and enhancing their enjoyment of life and their effectiveness in

difficult life situations. Since space is limited, RSVP to paul_jameson@comcast.net to receive an update on the topic and make a reservation. This meeting will be held in the Trustees Room at the Concord Public Library from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. For general enquiries regarding the Concord Area Humanist Group, please contact **Pat Everett** at pne@aol.com.

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: March 23, 30; April 6, 13 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
\$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, that 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

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. March’s story is “Some” by Alice Munro. All stories can be found in *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, edited by Laura Fuman; Anchor Books, 2010 pb \$16.

Wednesday: March 16 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: March 25, April 22, May 20, June 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 friends’ responses to unearned suffering.

Monday: March 7–April 4 7:30-9:00 p.m. \$50/5 sessions