

The Meeting House News

REVERIES

April is National Poetry Month and it is a big month at First Parish; Easter, completion of an all-congregation retreat, completion of the Annual Campaign, and the charge to the Search Committee. These are all moments of import in our interim process. Up until now, you may not have felt directly involved or aware that we were "doing" much. Some may have expected more visible confirmation that First Parish is moving on.

We have been working. We have been moving on. Our course is charted. Like most spiritual, personal and institutional development, progress is not always felt

as progress. Much of our interim work until now has been both direct as in First Parish Listens and the retreat, some indirect,

learning and unlearning language, developing relational skills, and appreciation for all that First Parish has managed well. We are building a strong and essential foundation to choose and support your next settled ministry and its staff structure. We are well prepared to step into that process as the culmination of our conversations and learning. The excitement, enthusiasm and anticipation are palpable in meetings, small groups, on Sunday morning and all during the week. Thank you all for your participation, and the vulnerability and honesty that have brought us

this far. As the PIT and I begin to transition into our roles in the search process, appreciate what First Parish continues to learn and unlearn to discover and name its identity and its mission. As we move into the next phase of our interim process, may "Unlearning" inspire us as deeply as learning.

Unlearning

When we have done pretending to need what we do not need, being angry both that we do not need and having learned to pretend; When we have done away with the pedestals set up on false premises, ceased hacking at the humanly imperfect idols stranded upon them; When we have strengthened our own fiber with tolerance and flexibility, have wept and accepted, stormed and accepted, defied and accepted, When we stand pure and sleek, powerful as a proud horse soaked by storms beneath a rainbow sky ... Then, we can begin.

- Much metta, Elaine Beth Peresluha

In This Issue

Page 1	In This Issue
Page 2	2012 GA Information Worship Services Schedule
Page 3	Worship Services, continued Parish Notes
Page 4	Parish Notes, continued
Page 5	Parish Notes, continued Money Matters
Page 6	Pastoral Care News
Page 7	Pastoral Care News, continued Partner Congregation Committee Standing Committee Schedule
Page 8	MUSings and Music Notes
Page 9	REflections and RE News April 2012 RE Calendar
Page 10	RE News, continued Senior Youth News
Page 11	SAC News and Events
Page 12	SAC News, continued PIT Update
Page 13	Women's News RE News, continued From the Intern Minister
Page 14	April 2012 Calendar
Page 15	First Parish Contact Info and Staff

There are five inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ♦ WPA Antiques Day Info
- ◆ The "Heard" Vermont Trip Info
- Auction Info
- **♦** Thoreau Celebration Info
- **♦** Wright Tavern Center Courses

First Parish in Concord

Unitarian Universalist
Gathered in 1636

Worship Services at First Parish

General Assembly Attendees and Delegates, Register Now!

This year's UUA General Assembly 2012 will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, from June 20 to 24. This year's UUA General Assembly delegates and attendees should register as soon as possible. The best hotel rooms go quickly! GA 2012 will incorporate many ways of engaging in

justice work with community partners in a variety of settings on important justice issues such as colonization, border issues and advocacy. All staff members and First Parish members who are planning to be delegates or attendees

should contact Denominational Affairs chair **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net, as soon as possible in order to receive credential cards and registration information.

It's not too late to sign up to be a delegate! Contact Dian if you are thinking about being a delegate or attendee at this very important GA. Refer to the UUA website for further details about the events that are currently scheduled.

Sunday Services at First Parish

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary 20 Lexington Road, Concord

Religious Education Classes

Preschool and younger start at 8:50 and 10:50 a.m.

K-6th Graders begin in the Sanctuary at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Child care is available at all services.

Sunday, April 1

"Fools Rush In" — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha

- ... Where wise men fear to tread." The Fool too often dismissed as impractical, silly, irresponsible and illogical is really quite the coura-
- geous character. We risk looking "foolish" when we take a chance, play,
- or try something new. To really fulfill our destiny sometimes we
- have to take risks. To get the most out of our human capacity, we need
- to laugh, play and be silly sometimes. Today, Jesus of Nazareth's com-
- mitment, leadership and triumphant ride into Jerusalem inspire First
- Parish with courage and vision.

• 9:00 – First Parish Choir and Junior Choir

- *Make a Joyful Noise* Collins
- Hallelujah Cohen

11:00 – Gospel Choir & Chalice Choir

- One Voice Moody
- Hallelujah Cohen

• Thursday, April 5

Maundy Thursday — Rev. Jenny M. Rankin and Craig M. Nowak

- This Thursday we honor our Christian roots with a service and
- . communion. Maundy Thursday is a traditional remembrance of the
- Last Supper. This year the time has been changed to 7:00 p.m. to allow time for Open Table. They will not serve their dinner this week and
- will only distribute food to accommodate the service.

Sunday, April 8 – Easter Sunday

His Pain — Whose Gain? — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha

- Easter is a time for the celebration of life's rising, its victory over
- · death. We will evoke the wisdom of Jesus, his life and death, offering
- understanding of each human heart's need to claim hope to be able to
- . rise to life.

• 9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir and Festival Brass

- *I Thank You God* Pfautsch
- *Alleluia* Thompson
- Hallelujah Chorus Handel

Sunday, April 15

· Sabbath Keeping — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha

- On the seventh day God rested. Must one be God to take a day off?
- · When and how do we rest? How do we acknowledge and celebrate a
- Sabbath? Today we will define the nature of Sabbaths and honor their
- place in the ever-growing complexity of church, and conscious living.
- 9:00 Music TBA
- 11:00 First Parish Choir
- Slow Me Down, Lord Spevacek
- Deep Peace Douglas

Worship Services at First Parish

Services at First Parish

continued from page 2

Sunday, April 22 Earth Day! — Rev. Jenny M. Rankin

What do you get when you mingle a 13th century monk, giant Musketaquid puppets and (perhaps!) an animal visitor? You guessed it: Earth Day at First Parish! St. Francis of Assisi came from riches but was never happy with them. He felt more at home on the mountainside or out under the open sky, believing God called him to live a more simple life. To him, religion wasn't about words or ideas; it was about experience. What kind of life are we living day to day? What message does this medieval spiritual teacher bring to inform our lives today? Celebrate Earth Day in song and story and with a festive brass quintet!

9:00 & 11:00 - Concorde Brass

Sunday, April 29 Get Up, Stand Up! — The Heard and SAC Service

The First Parish youth and Social Action Community lead the congregation in the movement for social and environmental activism. The Heard and SAC will embrace the fire that pushes us to stand up and put our mojo behind our beliefs. "Now we see the light, we gonna stand up for our rights!" — Bob Marley

Music TBA 9:00 & 11:00 – Youth Sunday Gospel Choir

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

Friday, April 20 Friday, May 18 Friday, August 24

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

PARISH NOTES

Finding Your Interim Minister

Elaine, AKA Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha, will be in Texas at the Interim Minster's Annual Meeting April 16-20. Jenny Rankin will be available for administrative or pastoral emergencies. Elaine's normal office hours resume on April 21, when you will find her in her office at 20 Lexington Road, Concord; 978-369-9602, extension 411.

Tuesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In addition to these regular office hours, Elaine makes appointments to see people at other times. Please e-mail our ministerial assistant **Christy McKellips** at cmckellips@firstparish.org to schedule an appointment. Monday is Elaine's day off and Friday is her sermon writing day.

You Can Sponsor the Flowers Any Sunday

If you would like to provide Sunday flowers for a memorial or celebration, please contact **Peggy Brace** at 978-369-1373.

Ferry Beach Registration — This Month!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat

Weekend, May 25-28 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families, couples and singles from our own 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 on April 22 and April 29. Look for the Ferry

Beach information table in the Parish Hall beginning

• Sunday, April 15. For questions before then, contact **Darien**

Smith (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471). As of April

15, the registration packet can be downloaded from www.firstparish.org/forms. Also, check out the excellent

summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at www.ferrybeach.org.

Save the Date — June 9 Flea Market/Recycle Sale

The Women's Parish Association will hold its Flea

Market/Recycle Sale on Saturday, June 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to rent a table, contact **Pat Kane**

at cstmcloth@vahoo.com, or 978-369-8418, as soon as pos-

sible. Tables go fast! Table rentals are \$35.00 per table. We

will **NOT** be doing a general collection of items, so if you

want to sell items, one or two families could get together to rent a table. Snacks and lunch items will be sold throughout

the day.

Save the Date — Antique Evaluation Event on May 15

Family favorite or valuable antique? Join the Women's Parish Association for an exciting event on Tuesday

evening, May 15, at 7 p.m. at which our ministerial intern

Parish Notes

Parish Notes

continued from page 3

will give an evaluation/educational presentation about various antiques owned by First Parish folks. Among his many talents, Craig Nowak is an antique expert in many areas. Contact Claudia Nimar as soon as possible at 978-771-8716, or cnimar@aol.com, if you would like to have a family treasure evaluated by Craig. The sooner you give Claudia information about your item, the more comprehensive the evaluation can be. Photographs of items can be submitted after a discussion with Claudia. Craig does not evaluate stamps, coins, jewelry, firearms or weapons. Desserts, coffee and tea will be served. There is a five-dollar charge and reservations are required. Contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by May 11 for reservations. All men and women of First Parish and their friends are welcome

Travel Task Force Update

The Travel Task Force (TTF) has continued working on coordinated travel policies for congregational travel as well as cosponsoring travel-related congregational meetings. We are coordinating with **Elaine Peresluha**, the staff and the Standing Committee on drafting and approving travel policies. Please join us for congregational TTF meetings to review travel policies on Sunday, April 29, after the second service and Tuesday evening, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. Watch the *Sunday News* and the all-parish e-mail for details.

On March 18, along with The Heard (the First Parish Youth Group), we cosponsored an open congregational meeting to review the first version of their proposed youth travel cycle. Based on the feedback from that meeting, The Heard will consider revisions to the cycle and hold another congregational meeting if changes are indeed made.

Lillian Anderson (Convener), Suzie Weaver, Dana Booth, Lili Wallace, Rodger Mattlage

Sybarite5 Returns! Brahms/Brubeck/Radiohead

First Parish's own violinist **Sarah Whitney** is returning to Parish Hall with her eclectic New York-based string quintet for a double-show weekend Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 15, at 3:30 p.m. The First Parish Music Events Committee presents a lively evening of mixed genres — including tango, jazz, classical and more! Winner of the prestigious 2011 Concert Artist Guild competition in New York City, Sybarite5 continues to delight audiences of all ages. Tickets are available now online at www.Sybarite5.org, and will soon be available at upcoming coffee hours. Don't miss this mesmerizing, talented ensemble!

Buy Tickets NOW for the First Parish Auction!

Please join us Saturday, May 5, at 6 p.m., for the gala First Parish Auction and Cinco de Mayo ¡FIESTA! in the Parish Hall. This biennial event is an important fundraiser for the church and we hope you all will attend!

Tickets are \$35 per person, and are now on sale at Sunday morning coffee hours and during the week in the church office. Your ticket includes participation in the live auction with our own auctioneer, **Jim McCloy**, a fabulous Mexican dinner prepared by First Parish chefs (with many helpers!), and the chance to win wonderful

raffles and compete for the amazing Grand Prize!

- The online auction opens Wednesday, April 25, and offers a
- unique slate of items to bid on. Watch for e-mail news and
- visit www.firstparish.org for details on how to access the First
- Parish online auction at Bidding for Good.
- The auction is a wonderful social event! Don't miss out on the
- chance to bid on fantastic offerings from First Parish friends and neighbors!
- Can you offer your time to help? Come volunteer at the auc-
- tion table at coffee hour or contact auction cochairs **Shawna**
- Reid, <u>shawnareid@gmail.com</u>, or Kelly Roberts, <u>kbr5@cor</u>nell.edu or 978-287-4249.

"One World at a Time" — A Thoreau Commemoration

- Gather on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary for dra-
- matic readings, period music and a reflection by Michael
- Frederick, Executive Director of the Thoreau Society, to mark
- the 150th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's funeral,
- which was held in the First Parish Sanctuary on May 9, 1862,
- · and to celebrate the legacy of Henry David Thoreau. The pro-
- gram is based on memorable words spoken during Thoreau's
- last days, at his funeral, and in the days after. This event will
- be followed by a reception at Wright Tavern or a guided walk
- to the Thoreau family gravesite in Sleepy Hollow led by
- * Thoreau interpreter Richard Smith. Those who choose the
- walk to Sleepy Hollow are invited to bring along favorite
- Thoreau quotes to share at the gravesite. This event is spon
 - sored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish, the
- . Thoreau Society, Thoreau Farm Trust, and the Walden Woods
 - Project.

First Parish Humanist Council Update

- This newly formed council was created as a result of interaction with Concord Area Humanists in jointly sponsoring the
- recent Darwin birthday party. It arose from a perceived inter-
- est for greater recognition of Humanism within the Parish.

Parish Notes

Parish Notes

continued from page 4

Shawl Ministry Well Under Way

Calling all knitters and crocheters. The two meetings in March have been well attended, a number of shawls are in production, and at least three have been finished so far. We have two dropin meetings each month — on the first Wednesday at 4 p.m. and the third Sunday at 3 p.m. — so please join us. We have at least three under fabrication in our "share-a-shawls" option, so if knitting a whole shawl seems too daunting, please drop by or e-mail and we will try to locate a shawl for you to add a few inches to.

The meetings for April will be on April 4 at 4 p.m. and April 15 at 3 p.m. All are welcome, and **Regina Hugendubler** will provide instruction if you are a beginner. We also welcome new patterns and yarn ideas.

Mark Your Calendars! Tenth Annual First Parish Photography Club Exhibit — Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13

Come to enjoy this year's exhibit of club members' photographic art; their favorite photographs, slide shows large and small, and a 3D exhibit and demonstration. There will be photo cards and calendars for sale, and experts ready to answer your photography and camera questions. Refreshments too.

Back by popular demand: the Photography Club Portrait Studio. Celebrate Mother's Day with a free family portrait.

When and where: Sunday, May 13, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and Parlor. Free! Bring your friends and family to enjoy an afternoon of fun at First Parish.

MONEY MATTERS

Uniting in Stewardship — Thank You for Your Amazing Response to the Annual Appeal

Your response to this year's Annual Appeal has been both fast and generous! We're on our way but still need another \$400,000. So please fill out those pledge cards and keep an eye on the Green Monster Scoreboard.

Sean Kavanagh kicked off this year's Annual Appeal with the statement that we would be direct and transparent and move purposefully toward our goal — con-



tributions of \$906,000 and 600 pledges. As I write, we are halfway to our goal in only three weeks, good evidence that you have embraced our sense of purpose. Like public radio, we hope to conclude this appeal early.

Throughout the month of March, we have talked about why First Parish adds meaning to our lives and why we give. Sean Kavanagh's remarks focused on his rich connections to the congregation and the support we provided as he faced personal and professional challenges.

Cam Villain spoke about growing up in the church and enjoying both its spiritual and financial support.
She was excited to celebrate these gifts with her pledge to the Annual Appeal.

Winslow Pettingell reminded us of the extraordinary support we received from our partner church in Székelykeresztúr — a gift equal to one-third of their operating budget to renew our Meeting House.

Gianna Drew noted that to teach is to learn. She has seen how "our children truly understand, appreciate, and need the spirituality that imbues our religious education." For myself, the children's message is often the thought that I carry back out into world as I walk out the doors of the Parish Hall.

Jim Reynolds remarked that the serenity that comes from being part of this place also only comes when we dive in with all we have. He quoted Sister Peggy "All of life is a procession, and we process together." We process together as we worship, as we teach, as we serve and as we give.

Please, pledge as generously and as soon as you are able. Thank you for your support of First Parish.

— John Petersen, cochair, Annual Appeal

From Jenny

One of the things I have most enjoyed this year has been the opportunity to go "off campus" and visit you in your home, apartment, assisted living center, hospital room, or wherever else you have invited me to come. Would you like a visit by a minister? Please let us know. With Margie Saphier's departure last June, pastoral care has shifted to my portfolio, although Elaine Peresluha, Craig Nowak and I all make visits, calls and see people in our office. It is easy to arrange for a visit with a minister, but we do ask for your help. Please let us know if you or someone you know would like a phone call or a visit. Call me at 978-369-9602, ext. 14, or e-mail me at jrankin@first-parish.org.

It is a common perception that there needs to be a big "reason," a problem or a crisis, if you are going to ask to meet with a minister. That is not true. We meet with people for all sorts of reasons. Perhaps you are new to this area or to Unitarian Universalism or to First Parish and want to feel more grounded, more connected. You are wondering if this is the spiritual home for you. Perhaps you have been coming for years and years but feel you have never really gotten to know one of the ministers or chat face to face. You'd like us to know a little more about your family. You are in transition. You have a question or concern. You are starting out in a new direction. You are dealing with an issue or an obstacle and want to talk it over with someone.

—Jenny Rankin

Pastoral Care Library Available

The Pastoral Care Library is available for all church members to check out books on diverse subjects, such as spirituality, relationships, children's development, illness and wellness, mental health, addiction and related issues, dying and death, and loss and grief. The library is located in the hallway behind the stage just before the Brooks Room.

Experiencing By Your Side Singers as a Member, Patient and Singer to Parishioners

At the founding of the then-called "Threshold Choir" at First Parish, I was intrigued by its concept and purpose, which is why I joined. The evenings of practice were for me very relaxing, not only through the simple and soothing music, but also by the congeniality of the members, the exchange of experiences and **Beth Norton**'s excellent instructions. It was like meditation.

Then I had a very serious accident at home that hospitalized me for six weeks. During this time the By Your Side Singers came to sing to me. During practice, I had not realized how emotionally touching this experience could

be. We were all moved to tears. For the moment, I forgot my pain and weak condition by going spiritually inside of me. It felt like a healing in my body and soul. The harmonious and comforting music had a very calming and peaceful effect on me that lingered on for a long time.

After coming home from the hospital, the Singers sang to me in our garden, which was again very spiritual and healing. But this time, it was highlighted by the appearance of goldfinches fluttering around us and joining in our singing with their tweeting.

Singing to parishioners has a very meditative and beneficial effect. It helps the comforting relaxation and self-healing of body, mind and soul, which is now also recognized by hospitals. Patients as well as singers will experience inner peace. — **Ursula Kristoffy**

By Your Side Singers

By Your Side Singers is First Parish's pastoral choir. Through our singing, we offer a musical presence with people who seek comfort and strength during times of illness or transition.

By Your Side Singers sing songs and chants from our hymnals and other sources. Through singing we support and comfort one another as we share our own challenges and hopes. When invited, we go to parishioners' homes or hospital rooms in groups of three or four to share soft, soothing songs. Our singing has evoked smiles, tears, laughter — even dancing!

As many as 25, both male and female, singers, those in the choir and some who are not, participate. Coleading the

Pastoral Care News

continued on page 7

The Pastoral Care Team at First Parish Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

The Lay Minister for April is **Carolyn Shohet** at <u>careshohet@aol.com</u>, or 978-369-6231.

Ministers: Rev. Jenny Rankin (<u>revjenny@comcast.net</u>) and Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha (<u>uurevdoc@gmail.com</u>) Or call 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers:

Contact **Diane Clapp** (<u>d.clapp@comcast.net</u>)

Caring Connection: Contact **Tracey Hurd** (thurd@aol.com) for meals or rides.

Pastoral Care Advisory Council:

Contact Judy Dembsey (dembsey@verizon.net).

Pastoral Care News

continued from page 6

singers with me is Laurie Corelle.

By Your Side Singers welcome adults who love to sing and long to serve through music. We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A visit from By Your Side Singers can be arranged through a minister, a pastoral care lay minister or by contacting **Beth Norton** directly at music@first parish.org.

— Beth Norton, Director of Music

Caring Connection Notes

Caring Connection continues to help us reach out to each other. Each week we deliver two or three meals to parishioners. The bags used to hold the meals have been decorated by children in RE; the food prepared by people — from our list of more than 40 possible volunteers who were able to attend our last First Parish cooking, and then delivered with care by our meal deliverers. It's very simple and it means so much. Thanks to all who make that possible! Thanks, too, to all those on our "ride provider" list, including Dianne Weiss who helped out this month. We had lovely new spring photos at our "thinking of you" note card table, thanks to Kathleen Elcox. Regina Hugendubler and Holly Cratsley have launched a "shawl ministry" with warmth and good planning. Many people are involved (see Parish note on page 5) and two shawls have been created through collaboration. The ministers are now able to give shawls — as an outreach from all of First Parish — as part of their care and ministry. And thanks to Kitsy Rothermel for writing notes on behalf of the Caring Connection each week to parishioners who are held in our time of prayer and meditation.

— Tracey Hurd, Caring Connection Team Leader

One-Time Help Needed: Easter Rides

The Caring Connection would like to offer rides to parishioners who would like to attend an Easter service, but are not able to routinely attend church because of transportation issues. Would you and your family consider providing a ride to and from a First Parish service on Easter? It could make all the difference to someone! If you're interested in helping out on this one day, please contact **Tracey Hurd** at 978-369-2366 or thurd@aol.com.

PARTNER CONGREGATION COMMITTEE

The flights are booked and the plans continue for the arrival of the special delegation from our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr on September 20. For biographical information and pictures of the six youths and six adults, along with pictures of past Keresztúri pilgrimages, and for our all our latest PCC news and information, be sure to surf over to: http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-congregation and follow out the links (or use this short URL http://bit.ly/xc0nvc).

If you're interested in helping out — by serving as a host to a couple of the Keresztúr pilgrims in your home, or by assisting with home-stay and activity logistics, or (especially) by joining with us on some of our fundraising activities and events — please contact **Ken Estabrook** at ken.estabrook@gmail.com.

The Partner Congregation community was well represented at the March 18 congregational meeting sponsored by the Youth Group (aka The Heard) and the Travel Task Force to review and comment on proposed revisions to both the Youth Service Pilgrimage cycle and the Youth travel cycle in general. As it continues to be "a work still in progress," another congregational meeting will be held for further discussion in the near future. See the Travel Task Force item in Parish Notes on page 4 of this issue for more information.

We would like to remind those who are sponsoring a Keresztúr student that **Dana Booth**, the Student Sponsorship Committee's communications facilitator, is available to offer advice on how to "make the most" of your sponsorship. He can be reached at dana.a.booth@gmail.com, or by phone at 978-369-5702.

As ever, we invite you to join us at our next Partner Congregation Committee supper meeting, which will be held at the home of **Rodger Mattlage** and **Pat Brinkman** on Thursday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. For further information, drop us a line.

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"

— Winslow Pettingell, PCC chair,
LondonSW11@comcast.net

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Spring 2012 schedule for Standing Committee/ Executive Team meetings, which are being held at 33 Bradford Street in West Concord, is as follows:

Monday, April 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Monday, May 14, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (may be moved to May 7)

Monday, June 11, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

At the beginning of a recent choir rehearsal, I said to the singers, "OK. Let's start with *Hallelujah*." And several people asked, "Which one?"

This year, early April is the season of Hallelujahs. Our traditional Easter anthems and hymns are chock full of them. "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Hallelujah," "The strife is o'er . . . Hallelujah," "Lo, the day of days is here . . . Hallelujah." And there are our favorite Easter anthems, Randall Thompson's emotionally complex *Alleluia*, and Handel's triumphant "Hallelujah Chorus."

The word *Hallelujah* is a transliteration of the ancient Hebrew for "Praise

God." Alleluia is the Latin spelling. Both are similar to the Arabic Alhamdulillah proclaimed by Muslims. Hallelujah! Alleluia! Alhamdulillah! All arose from our human impulse to express joy, triumph and thanksgiving.

This year, at Elaine Peresluha's request, both the First Parish Choir and the Gospel Choir added another musical Hallelujah to our repertoire. The Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen wrote his famous and cryptic take on the word in 1984. Since then, his *Hallelujah* has been covered by an almost unimaginable range of pop, rock and folk artists. Additional lyrics added by Cohen and other artists over the years have expanded the song to incorporate as many as 15 verses.

In keeping with Cohen's belief that "many hallelujahs exist," the interpretations of the song are as varied and numerous as the performances. In his original lyric, Cohen refers to "the holy or the broken hallelujah," giving just a hint of the range of experiences from which that human impulse to say "hallelujah" can arise.

This idea that many hallelujahs exist — sometimes simultaneously — resonates for me during this challenging season for our congregation and for me and my family. In some very difficult and dark moments I have been surprised by a hallelujah of gratitude; and in moments of joy, my hallelujah has been tinged by grief.

The last line of Cohen's final verse goes, "And even though it all went wrong/ I'll stand before the Lord of Song/ with nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah." In the end, perhaps, Hallelujah is all that can be said. So, sing "Hallelujah." It doesn't matter which one.

Blessings,

- Beth Norton

Music Director

Dust off those Messiah Scores! Easter Is Coming!

Singers from the congregation are invited to come to the choir loft during the final hymn on Easter Sunday, April 8, and join the choir, organ and brass in our traditional

Easter postlude, G. F. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." If you have a copy of the *Messiah*, please bring it with you. If not, there will be some extra music available, and choir members are always willing to share. Even if you don't wish to make the climb to the balcony, feel free to join in this joyous chorus on Easter morning.

Rise Up Singing for Our Earth! — April 27

By special request of First Parish's Environmental Leadership Team and to celebrate Earth Day, our monthly Rise Up Singing folk night will have an environmental theme in April. Come and share your favorite songs about the world of nature, our fellow creatures, the earth and our environment. As always, singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome to this informal and spirited evening of shared music making. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one. Copies will be available for those who don't.

Oriana Consort in Concert at First Parish

The Oriana Consort, a 27-voice chorale based in Cambridge, sings at First Parish on Sunday, April 22, at 5 p.m. Director Walter Chapin and Assistant Director Caroline Harvey will lead the group in "Many Voices of Spring," a program of choral music that includes selections from Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*,
Benjamin Britten's *Five Flower Songs*, motets and sacred concertos by Heinrich Schütz (accompanied by an ensemble of 17th-century instruments), and four *Passover Songs* by the Israeli composer Yehezkel Braun.

A recent Oriana reviewer for the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* wrote of having been "...duly impressed by the amateur chorus's technical proficiency, ensemble, timbral blend, clear differentiation of musical styles, and expressive musical readings..." A reception in the Parish Hall for the audience, singers, and players will follow the concert.



Sixteen of Oriana's twenty-seven singers, including First Parish's own Irl Smith.

April 2012 · 8 · The Meeting House News

Our Garden

The First Parish Garden is an example of much of our shared values as a faith community. Our garden has been bringing people together now for four years. Some would say it is becoming a tradition.

Traditions occur when a community embraces the work of an event because the event becomes more

than just a task. This has become true about our garden.

Our garden has become a ministry or sorts. Our garden feeds the hungry at Open Table. Our garden teaches our sixth and seventh graders about growing food organically. Our garden teaches kids how to pump valuable water by hand, the

old-fashioned way, and carry it to care for each seedling. Our garden teaches us that if we do the work as a community, produce will thrive. If we don't, produce with wither and die. Our garden provides materials for our RE program for our second to fifth grades instead of buying more "stuff." Our garden gets our kids outside and dirty. Our garden is intergenerational and open to all. Our garden is faith without certainty, the foundation of a liberal theology such as ours.

This season, **Susan Ryan** is stepping down from growing our First Parish garden in order to step up toward growing our First Parish community. Because of her critical stewardship role in our parish serving on the Parish Interim Team, I was worried we would have to drop the garden. But that did not happen. Like many traditions that are worth having, someone stepped forward to pick up this important piece of the RE world — **Ellen Matheson**. Magic? Maybe. But maybe what we truly have here is more like the Holiday Craft Workshop — a tradition that is carefully being passed from one set of Unitarian Universalist hands to another.

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Sixth Grade Youth Group

Our sixth graders will be working in our Community Garden for the spring term. They are literally growing the RE Program for next year!

Each week, starting on April 1, they will walk to

April 2012 RE Calendar

Sun., Apr 1 Regular RE for Babies-4 years

Regular RE for 2-5th Grades (Emerson Room)

6th Graders –Field Trip to the Garden

(Wright Tavern)

7th Grade Neighboring Faiths – No program

8th Grade OWL at 4:00 p.m. (Emerson Room)

9th Grade COA at 6:30 p.m. (Chapel)

Sun., Apr. 8 Regular RE for Babies-4 years

Easter Sunday – Intergenerational Services

Sun., Apr. 15 Vacation Week - No RE

Sun., Apr. 22 Vacation Week – No RE

Sat., Apr. 28 Musketaquid River Celebration at 10 a.m., Lowell Road

Sun., Apr. 29 Regular RE for Babies-4 years

Regular RE for 2-5th Grades (Emerson Room)

7th Grade Neighboring Faiths - Common Cathedral

the garden, work and then return to First Parish by 15 minutes past the hour. They will be digging, planting, sowing and weeding. We hope that each one will take a portion of the plot to call his or her own over the summer and check in with it once a week. It takes many hands to deliver fresh, organic produce.

Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather. We go rain or shine. And please bring a rake.

In addition to our sixth graders, the garden will be open to all parishioners every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. Please come and work with me starting April 26.

RE Registration, April 29 and May 6

We will be sending home a mailing in April with your registration forms for next year. We will also have two Registration Sundays on April 29 and May 6. If you already know what you want to teach,



send in your forms right away so you won't be disappointed. If you don't know, then come to our Registration Sundays to "shop" for the right teaching assignment for you.

I really mean this. Your assignment can fulfill many needs you may have. Some want to have a worshipful

RE News

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS: THE HEARD



experience with their child, and so they choose a teaching assignment that matches their child's age. Others see it as an opportunity to meet a new peer by choosing an assignment that they can teach together. And still others choose an assignment that may reflect a personal passion in their own spiritual

lives. There are a lucky few who manage to combine all three of these needs!

Please look at all of our programming carefully. We have many varied roles for you to pick something where you grow as well as your child. That is how I became the DRE of First Parish. It started with one teaching assignment and I discovered something I truly loved and still love doing. Church does that.

Please register as soon as possible and include all of the required materials (the form, your assignment and the check). It is so difficult when pieces are missing or registrations are late. We are not charging a late fee this year because I can't seem to bring myself to penalize people I care about in that way. I know how busy you are, but you could make our life much easier if you could do this promptly for us. RE assignments are given on a first-come-first-served basis. Do you have questions about what would be the right fit for you? My door is open!

Musketaquid Earth Day River Ceremony — April 28

Last year, we had such a nice time launching our home-made rafts at the Musketaquid Earth Day celebration at the bridge on Lowell Road. This year, we will do the same. Please meet **Pam Howell** on Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m. She will have all of our rafts there waiting for launch.

Second- to Fifth-Grade Workshop Rotation

Last term, we explored aspects of what it means to be a "Good Person." One of our Unitarian Universalist principles

is the inherent worth and dignity of each person.

We grouped our kids by gender for part of this term. This has created smaller groups and gave our kids a chance to make more connections with each other. I have heard very positive feedback from this experience. Pam would love to hear from

continued on page 13

Arise my beloved friends, and come away, for lo the winter has passed, flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come!*

On April 19 to 22, we head north for the Vermont Flood Recovery and Farming Adventure! We will be staying at

Liberty Hill Farm and helping plant

trees, clean up debris, working with the animals, and playing in the Green Mountains. Please RSVP to avifirstparish@gmail.com.

On Sunday, April 29, we'll be taking our spirit to the pulpit for the Get Up, Stand Up worship service! The Heard and Social Action Community will lead the

congregation in the movement for social and environmental activism. We will embrace the fire that pushes us to stand up and put our mojo behind our beliefs. "Now we see the light, we gonna stand up for our rights!" — Bob Marley

Looking ahead, we'll be teaming up with famed musician/engineer **Eric Kilburn** for the Heard Recording Session at Wellspring Studios! We will be rehearsing this spring to prepare for the session. Tentative date is June 3 — stay tuned!

These are the days my friends •

Yours truly,

— Avi Salloway

Youth Program Director

*Adapted from the Song of Solomon

We are already planning for next year here at First Parish and within our Social Action Community. How can you become part of Social Action? A great place to start is with me — or with any of our

> Social Action board members. Or get online at sac.firstparish.org and see what is happening by reading through the calendar or the news articles. Or sign up to receive our new SAC e-newsletter! It comes out usually on the first week of the

month, thanks to the hard work of Lynn

Randall and Kim Novick and a rotating SAC board "monthly editor." Do you have an idea for a new program? Gather just two other First Parish members and come talk to me about it. The mission of the Social Action board is to "honor, educate, act, and lead on environmental and social justice issues." We are here to support you! Please let me know what we can do make social action become more integral in your life! •

- Faith Bade

Social Action Program Director fbade@firstparish.org

Go to sac.firstparish.org for news and calendar information.

Social Action Grants Public Comment Period

First Parish allocates 7.5 percent of annual pledge income to Social Action grants. Grants applications are accepted twice a year, October 15 and March 15. From April 1 to 10, 2012, the Social Action Grants Committee welcomes comments on the recently received Spring 2012 grants applications. There are two methods of viewing the applications. A summary of the applications is available online, or go to sac.firstparish.org/cms/grantscomments. A copy of the complete applications is available in the church office as well. To comment on these applications, you can send an e-mail to Wendy Holt, chair, at wendyholt48@yahoo.com, put a note to Wendy in the church mailbox of Faith Bade (SAC Program Director), or mail a comment to Wendy Holt, First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742. Only First Parish members are allowed to comment on these applications. Remember, comments will be accepted only until April 10, 2012.

Community of Activists Worship, Wednesday, April 11, in the Chapel

- Join Craig Nowak as we continue to be challenged and think
- deeply about social justice issues. Gail Carey will provide our
- music as we explore issues on sustainability and the environment.

Make Your Voice Matter to Reduce Family **Homelessness**

- Workshops on April 11 and April 29 Attend a free advocacy
- skills workshop, led by Miriam Stein, advocacy consultant, and
- learn successful, easy-to-use strategies to reduce family homeless-
- ness and advocate for other issues you care about. In a supportive
- atmosphere, practice key advocacy skills for communicating your
- views to your elected representatives in person, by phone or by letter. The workshop is sponsored by the Advocacy Network to End
- Family Homelessness. Two dates and times are offered but you
- need only attend one workshop. Pilgrim Congregational Church,
- 55 Coolidge Ave, Lexington, on Wednesday evening, April 11, from
- 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. with a light supper served. Or Sunday, April 29,
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. in Wellesley. To sign up, call or e-mail Carl Miller,
- 978-369-3755, normancmiller@comcast.net; or Jane Blumberg,
 - 978-369-8520, or jane blumberg@mac.com.

Going Deeper into the Rain Forest

- Two events this month will further our understanding of the chal-
- lenges facing preservation of the world's rain forests and the wel-
- fare of their indigenous peoples. Please join us for these informative and stimulating evenings: Friday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m., Joe
- Levine, Ph.D., will present a talk, "Can Rain Forests Pay? Making
- Conservation Work for Wildlife and People." Joe is a friend of First
- Parish, and a biologist and science journalist who lectures and
- teaches widely about rain forests, ecology, evolution and climate
- change. A \$5 donation is suggested to help support Camino Verde
- and Mils Milagros, two relevant organizations. A reception will fol-
- low Joe's talk. Sunday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m., Jane Blumberg,
- Laurie Van Loon and Alec Walker are facilitating a discussion of
- Stranger in the Forest: On Foot Across Borneo, by Eric Hansen.
- Copies of this fascinating book are available through the
- Minuteman Library Network.

SAC News and Events

continued on page 12

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.first parish.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.

PARISH INTERIM TEAM UPDATE

SAC News and Events

continued from page 11

"The Economics of Happiness" at First Parish. April 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This award-winning film restores our faith in humanity and challenges us to believe that it is possible to build a better world. It rejects the conventional belief that limitless economic growth and globalization will make us happy; and it makes a strong case that it actually leads to discontent and pessimism. It shows us how an economy based on "localization" can actually make us all happier. The First Parish Environmental Leadership Team will host this event, which will include a facilitated discussion. It is cosponsored with the Tri-Con church and ConcordCAN. For more information, go to the Environmental Leadership page of the First Parish website.

Get Up, Stand Up! — The Heard and SAC Worship, Sunday, April 29

Our youth group, The Heard, and SAC will embrace the fire that pushes us to stand up for our beliefs. Stay tuned for details.

GREEN NOTES:

Mindful Living Idea: Do you recycle plant pots? The answer now can be yes if your community has a bulky plastics collection. Rigid plant pots and trays only accepted (no soft plastic 4or 6-packs). Some nurseries may take them for reuse.

Mindful Living Statistic: Some Boston-area graduate students went to Africa (Ross Lohr, Project Repat) to investigate their concern that the used clothing business hurts third-world countries. In Kenya they learned that used clothing from the United States is a benefit to third-world economies.

The Parish Interim Team would like to thank every-

one at First Parish for all of the support and time

given to the amazing Spring Forward weekend. It is

inspiring to see the transformation in our community! The Parish Interim Team would especially like to

thank the staff, the ministers, the facilitators, the RE

council, the nominating committee, the standing

committee and the ministerial search committee, the

ELT, and all those who pitched in and made the

weekend the special event that is was.

The PIT would also like to express its gratitude to Elaine Peresluha. She has brought us "much metta,"

and we are eternally grateful. Thank you for believing

in us. Spring has sprung at First Parish!!

Warmly,

The Parish Interim Team.

Parish Interim Team

Jim Smith

Rebecca Curzon rebeccacurzon@comcast.net katharinecesty@verizon.net Katharine Esty Sven Olson sven.a.olson@chase.com Mark Richards markr@upriverministries.org Susan Ryan susanryan101@comcast.net JAS@foleyhoag.com

April 2012 · 12 · The Meeting House News

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The April selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography by Jean H. Baker. The discussions will be held at First Parish with the evening discussion will be on Sunday, April 22, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and the morning discussion on Tuesday, April 24, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Remaining Book and Date for 2012

May 20, 22 Bossypants, by Tina Fey

June TBD Potluck and choosing books for next year

RE News

continued from page 10



you if you have any comments to offer as we are considering doing something similar next year during part of one term.

We'd like to thank **Dick Shohet**, **Jack** DeMuth, Kate Henchman, Carolyn Shohet, Enid Boasberg, Darien Smith and Val Holt. These parishioners came in and told personal stories from their lives about friendship, courage and growing up. It was really a blessing having adults share

with our children and made our community feel smaller to all of us. There is so much we have to share with one another, and I am thankful that so many people are willing to do so.

Next term, we will be experiencing Earth-centered traditions. We will also be building community with one another and having some fun doing so. The first week, April 1, will be a celebration party with games and food. This is an opportunity for our new leaders to just meet the kids and get to know one another.

During this term, we will learn about May Day, Drumming and Fairy Houses. We will find the spiritual in the natural world and rejoice in being together in this ancient sacred way.

April 1 – Week 1 of the Spring Term: Spiral Dance, Musketaquid Floats and RE Party

April 29 - Week 2 of the Spring Term: May Day Celebration

From the Intern Minister

Spring has arrived and with it two holidays significant to our Jewish and Christian neighbors: Passover, or Pesach, and

Easter. These holidays also figure prominently in many

Unitarian Universalist churches, including First Parish. Pesach and Easter are defining events in their respective tra-

ditions that is, they express what each tradi-

tion holds essential to its identity. Both share many common themes including deliverance, rebirth and sacrifice. Themes of deliverance and rebirth are presented with some frequency in Unitarian Universalist churches, but what of sacrifice? Sacrifice is a less often heard theme in our churches and therefore deserves some attention.

The word sacrifice, like other "religious" words, has become a "dirty word" in much of our culture, including in many liberal churches. Sacrifice seems most often associated with personal or collective deprivation. It is something we do because of a lack of something like time or money. Or it is something endured for someone or something else, our children, career, country, etc. When the motivation is scarcity or the emphasis self-deprivation, it is not surprising that sacrifice is not a theme eagerly embraced in our churches. Such a view of sacrifice in a world that already seems to ask too much of us only adds to our sense of physical, mental and spiritual exhaustion.

Yet the root of the word *sacrifice* points to a deeper, more significant act than our popular understanding of the word permits. The English word sacrifice comes from the Latin sacrificium, meaning "to make sacred," that is, to set apart for some special purpose. In Hebrew the root of the word for sacrifice, korban, is kuf, reish, beit, which means to draw near (as in to draw near the Holy/God).

Understood this way, a meaningful sacrifice carries with it the intention to make manifest that which is Holy, to draw near to that which gives and sustains life. It is a response to life's abundance rather than a reaction to scarcity. It is what we do when we give time to gather for worship together or set aside time to call or visit a friend in need of companionship. It is what we do when we stand in solidarity with the oppressed or abstain from a social event to give ourselves some time alone. It is what we do when we end an unhealthy relationship or welcome a stranger as a friend. It is what we

do when, faced with any of life's limitations, we ask, "What

can I give?" rather than, "What must I give up?"

True sacrifice is not an act of reluctant self-depravation; it is an act of courage, a willingness to be surprised by life's twists and turns. We demonstrate this by inviting that which is Holy to dwell in and among us, and in the process, risk being changed in ways we can't imagine.

Blessings,

—Craig Nowak

APRIL 2012 CALENDAR

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

Every Week		
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
Music Together	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
T'ai Chi and Qi Gong	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Buddhist Group	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Transylvania Troubadours	Wednesday	6:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Music Together	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Buddhist Group	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Music Together	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Tue Apr 3	1:30	First Tuesday Group			7:00	Labyrinth Committee	
Wed Apr 4	4:00	Shawl Ministry			7:00	"The Stranger in the Forest"	
	6:15	Concord Area Humanists	•	Mon Apr 16	First	Parish Closed	
Thu Apr 5	7:00	Maundy Thursday	•	Tue Apr 17	1:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers Meeting	
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•		7:00	Amnesty Meeting	
Fri Apr 6	7:00	Play Reading	•		7:00	UK Trip Orientation	
Sat Apr 7	5:00	Seder	•	Wed Apr 18	1:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	
Sun Apr 8	6:30	YRUU	•	Thu Apr 19	7:30	By Your Side Singers	
Mon Apr 9	First Parish Closed		•	Sun Apr 22	12:30	Ministerial Intern Committee	
Tue Apr 10	9:00	Networking Group	•		5:00	Oriana Concert	
	9:00	WPA Board	•		7:30	Women's Book Group	
	7:00	A Delicate Balance	•	Mon Apr 23	First	Parish Closed	
	7:00	UK Trip Orientation	•	Tue Apr 24	Netw	orking Group	
Wed Apr 11	7:00	Community of Activists' Vespers	•		9:30	Women's Book Group	
Thu Apr 12	2 7:00	Conversations about Wright Tavern	•	Wed Apr 25	Pasto	Pastoral Care Advisory Council	
	7:30	Little Women Educational Series	•	Thu Apr 26	6:00	Conversations about Wright Tavern	
Fri Apr 13	7;30	Levine Talk	•		7:30	Generational Perspectives	
Sat Apr 14		Photography Club	•	Fri Apr 27	7:00	ELT Film	
	1:00	Spirituality and Art, Concord Art	•		7:30	Rise Up Singing	
		Association Tour	•	Sat Apr 28		Ushers' Brunch and Training	
	7:30	Sybarite5 Concert	•	Sun Apr 29	12:30	Travel Task Force	
Sun Apr 15	12:30	SAC Grants	•		3:00	Thoreau Anniversary Meeting	
	3:00	Needleworkers Affinity Group	•		4:00	Auction Team Meeting	
	3:00	Social Action Reflection Group	•		4:00	OWL Potluck with Parents	
	3:30	Sybarite5 Concert	•		3:00	Thoreau Anniversary Reception	
	6:30	YRUU	•		6:30	YRUU	

APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

The May Newsletter deadline is Friday, April 20, at noon. The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, May 1.

Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Phone: 978-369-9602 Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: <u>FPConcord@firstparish.org</u> Website: <u>www.firstparish.org</u>

* PLEASE NOTE: The office is CLOSED on Mondays.

Ministers' E-Mail:

Elaine Beth Peresluha: <u>uurevdoc@gmail.com</u> Jenny M. Rankin: <u>jrankin@firstparish.org</u> Craig M. Nowak: <u>cnowak@firstparish.org</u>

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Staff

Elaine Beth Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister Jenny M. Rankin, Minister Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus

Christy McKellips, Assistant to the Ministers Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director

Craig M. Nowak, Ministerial Intern **Becky Blodgett**, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education **Avi Salloway**, Youth Program Director

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
- Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
- Cassy Bosworth, Office ManagerPeggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector
- Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Copy Editor

.



¡Cínco de Mayo! Saturday, May 5

6pm Cocktails, Silent Auction
7pm Mexican Dinner
8pm Live Auction
Raffles & Special Grand Prize!
Tickets \$35 include dinner and
auction bidding number.
Watch for the Online Auction,
coming soon to FirstParish.org!
Here's what you can do...

Donate...

Offer any one of these donations, or suggest one of your own! Vacation Home – near or far, large or small, a week or weekend Tickets – sporting events, BSO, Tanglewood, theatre...

Dinner (or brunch, or a romantic picnic)

Artwork – photography, jewelry, painting

Services - Your specialty! Do what you do!

Food or flowers, delivered to your door

Pet-sitting or baby-sitting

Handy-man for a day

Guided tours

Host a party, a holiday celebration, a dance!

Do you own a business? Please consider a donation

Smaller items welcome – gift cards, food, wine and more

Come see us at coffee hour or contact Mary Lou Toussaint at

mlou512@yahoo.com. We have a million ideas of what you could do!

Cash donations welcome. No second-hand items, please.

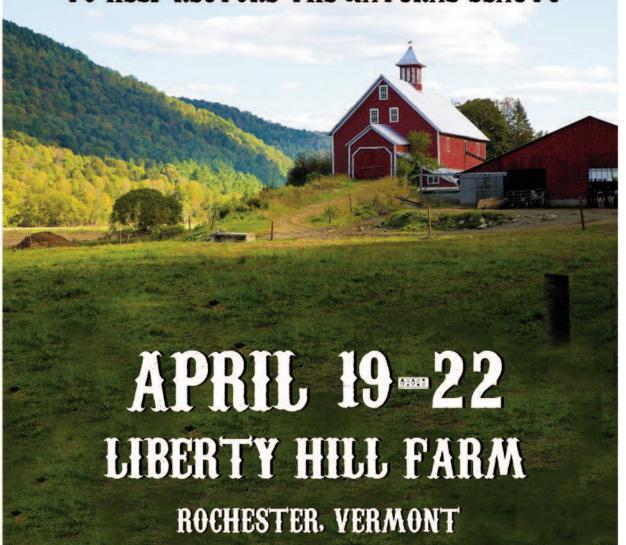
Get involved...

Volunteers are needed for party decorations, cooking, hosting/serving, set-up and clean-up; your offer will be gratefully received at coffee hours, or contact Auction Co-chairs, Shawna Reid at shawnareid@gmail.com or Kelly Roberts at Kelly.Roberts@frontier.edu.

The First Parish auction is a great social event, an opportunity to bid on unique offerings from First Parish friends and neighbors, and an important fundraiser that's also lots of fun!

THE HEARD
THE VERMONT
FLOOD RECOVERY
AND
FARMING TRIP

TO HELP RESTORE THE NATURAL BEAUTY



PLEASE RSVP TO AVI SALLOWAY: AVIFIRSTPARISH@GMAIL.COM

Ome World at a Tinne



on the 150th Anniversary of His Death Remembering Henry David Thoreau

Sunday, April 29, 3:00 pm, First Parish in Concord

Join us to mark the 150th anniversary of that event and to celebrate the legacy of Henry Thoreau's funeral was held in the First Parish Sanctuary on May 9, 1862. Henry David Thoreau.

- "Thoreau and Springtime: Discovering the Eternal in Walden," a reflection by Michael Frederick, Executive Director of The Thoreau Society
- Dramatic readings based on memorable words spoken by, to, and about Henry Thoreau.
- I: One World at a Time: The Last Days of Henry Thoreau
- II. The Funeral
- III. Remembering Henry Thoreau
- Period music by Dillon Bustin, Artistic Director of Hibernian Hall, Boston.
- Reception at the Wright Tavern.
- Concord Historian Richard Smith. Participants are invited to bring along A guided walk to the Thoreau family gravesite at Sleepy Hollow, led by favoriteThoreau quotes to share at the gravesite.

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA Free and open to the public

Co-sponsored by: Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord The Thoreau Society Y Thoreau Farm Trust The Walden Woods Project

Thoreau portrait: Wood engraving by Barry Moser.



Join the Women's Parish Association at First Parish Concord to learn about YOUR family treasures with Ministerial Intern and Antiques Expert

Craig Nowak. Desserts and coffee served.

Reservations required. Please email Dian Pekin at <u>pekindc@comcast.net</u> or call the church office at 978-369-9602 by May 11th. Five dollar donation.

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • April 2012

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

Inviting Applications for Fall Semester 2012

for Spiritual Renewal

Do you have an idea for a class or program you'd like to teach at the Wright Tavern in the fall of 2012? If so, we ask you to contact **Christy McKellips**, Assistant to the Ministers, cmckellips@firstparish.org, for a Teacher Application form. Please submit by June 1 to be considered for the Fall 2012 semester. Class applications will be reviewed by the ministers and a small task force. We expect to finalize the fall semester class selection by June 30.

Conversation about the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal

We invite your participation at a conversation to share views, vision and ideas on adult life-long learning opportunities at First Parish and the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal. Thursday, April 12, 7:00-8:30 p.m. OR Thursday, April 26, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (with pizza!). The conversation will be facilitated by Jenny Rankin, with help from Donna Davis. We hope this conversation will be the first step in a process to revitalize and strengthen the Wright Tavern Center.

Growing Your Spirit

Tibetan Buddhism

The Buddhist group will continue to meet in the First Parish Chapel Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings. 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.

T'ai Ji

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with qi gong 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, to enhance optimal health and simply to create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: *Mae Pagan*
- Mae Pagan has studied t'ai ji and qi gong for 22 years. She fol-
- · lows the teachings of Chungliang Al Huang and his nontradi-
- tional style of teaching t'ai ji movement as a joyful approach to
- · life as well as a path to wellness. With a background in Tibetan
- · Qi gong and Reiki, she provides a gentle mix of t'ai ji move-
- · ment with the healing aspects of qi gong. She also holds degrees
- in philosophy, psychology and education.
- Friday: May 11, June 8 12:30-1:30 p.m. \$ 25/session

Understanding Generational Perspectives Can Transform Congregations

Someone who grew up before television often sees the world differently from someone formed by the turbulence of the 1960's, or the rise of postmodernism, or the constantly connected world of the Internet. Come talk about generational impacts of being of the Greatest Generation, the Baby Boomers, Generation X, the Millennial Generation, or i-Generation. *Rev. Jim Sherblom* will lead a discussion of some of the implications

Rev. Jim Sherblom is a longtime member of First Parish in Concord, and Cominister of First Parish in Brookline.

Thursday, April 26 7:30 p.m.

of this generational transition.

Concord Area Humanists

This is an independent group participating in the Wright Tavern program. The American Humanist Association summarizes our aspirations as follows: "Humanism is a progressive

- philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our
- · ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfill-
- ment that aspire to the greater good of humanity." UU
- · HUUmanists summarize this as "Those who consider them-
- selves Humanists within the UUA." We are affiliated with both
- national organizations. Take your pick! They both emphasize
 our responsibility for our actions.
- We meet in the Parlor on the first Wednesday of the month, for social at 7:00 and featured speaker at 7:30 p.m. followed by discussion. \$5 donation to keep roof over heads, etc., and sexton

available. E-mail *Patrick Everett*, pne@aol.com to be on the e-mail list, with "Announcement" on the subject line. We also have a weekly open discussion group meeting in Concord Public library one evening each month. Details on www.MeetUp.com.

Our April 4 meeting will bring Peter Alden, well-known Concord author, to speak on changes in Concord since Thoreau's time. Then, over 90 percent of New England south of the White Mountains was a sea of grazing fields and farms, sprinkled with tiny patches of woodland. The landscape has changed drastically over the last 150 years. You will learn, with illustrations, how and why it changed and the effect upon the birds, mammals and plants over the years. Peter Alden is a world renowned naturalist, lecturer, ecotourism guide and author of 15 books on North American and African wildlife, including the National Audubon Society's Regional Field Guide Series. He is an authority on birds and larger mammals of the world and is consulted by the media and the ecotourism industry for his expertise. Peter is also a highly entertaining and widely sought-after lecturer on topics that include world wildlife, the Polar regions, invasive plants and biodiversity of the northeast.

Wednesday: April 4 6:15 p.m.

Rise Up Singing

- This informal monthly musical gathering of adults and chil-
- dren 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
- have one. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if
- . they wish. Led by Beth Norton and Others.
- * Beth Norton has been Music Director at First Parish since 1994.
- Beth believes in the power of music to express what is beyond
- · words, to deepen our spiritual experience and to build commu-
- nity. As a singer, conductor, violinist and folk musician, Beth
- enjoys making music in a wide variety of styles with people of
- . all ages and abilities. No Charge.
- Friday: April 27, May 18 7:30 p.m. No registration required

The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

- Dates given are for Sunday evening, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and
- Tuesday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Sessions will be at First
- Parish. Contact: Darien Smith
- April 22, 24 Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography, by Jean H. Baker
- May 20, 22 Bossypants, by Tina Fey