

# The *Meeting House* News



## REVERIES

I can still hear the sounds of the squawks in my ears! Yesterday, a contingent from “Chicken Man” made a surprise appearance as we joined millions around the globe to honor International Earth Day. Small critters, children, eloquent testimonials, a giant red-tail hawk, and a contest between “Hope” and “Fear”: you just never know what is going to pop up around here!

There are new initiatives rippling through this community! Small task forces, out of the April 1 weekend, are working to follow up on ideas. If you were not present, but are curious or want to get involved, speak with someone on the Parish Interim Team, Elaine Peresluha, or me. This is a broad grassroots effort; we want as many members and friends engaged as possible.

May brings many new opportunities. On May 5, we will have the chance to mix and mingle at the Auction. It’s a great way for us to gather as a community, meet someone new, share food and fellowship, and “give something back” to this institution. On May 6,

we are celebrating our evolving new organ and enjoying special music in worship. On May 20, we’ll listen to our teenagers reflect on what it means to “come of age” as a Unitarian Universalist. And, at month’s end, we’ll gather “off campus” for the treasured intergenerational retreat at Ferry Beach.

Also in May, I will be leading a group to the United Kingdom to explore our roots. We will walk in the footsteps of Unitarians and Transcendentalists like Channing, Parker, Emerson, Fuller, Clarke and the Alcotts; listen to their stories; consider their ideas; and seek to connect with these spiritual ancestors who helped create our modern-day Unitarian Universalism. We’ll meet with congregations in Edinburgh and London. We hope to bring some of the spiritual energy and power of touching these “roots” back to the congregation. “Roots hold us close, wings set us free.”

Being part of a spiritual community can mean so many things to different people. For some, it is a chance to slip into a pew, listen to music, sink into a few precious moments of silence. For others, it’s a chance to “go deeper” by trying a spiritual practice. Or your children are grown and gone and you want to teach religious education. You’d like to visit elders. You’ve recently moved here and just want to belong somewhere. You’ve always wanted to be more of an activist but need a way to get connected. You have a child or teen and want them to have a moral compass. Or a hundred other reasons.

In a world that moves quickly, where cynicism and materialism are powerful forces, it is quite a thing to belong to a community that has lasted for over 300 years, a community that even now is looking ahead, imagining all it could be.

We are glad you are here.

— *Jenny Rankin*

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- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Courses
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**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Gathered in 1636

**The Formal Charge Issued**

*The Standing Committee has issued a formal charge to the Ministerial Search Committee:*

The Standing Committee of First Parish in Concord charges the Ministerial Search Committee to act on the behalf of First Parish to recommend the best Senior Minister they can find to the Congregation. Background information for this search should include: the congregational input gathered from the data and energy of the Spring Forward Weekend, the congregational survey data on senior minister competencies, UUA guidelines on senior minister competencies and the most recent reflections on First Parish mission and vision, as well as other sources the committee deems appropriate.

Please check the First Parish website for regular updates from the Search Committee.

**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 during all services.**

- **Sunday, May 6**
- **Music Sunday** — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha and Beth Norton
- This Sunday we will celebrate our newly restored organ and enjoy a Sunday full of music.
- **9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir with Eric Huenneke, organist**
- *Laudes Organi* – Kodály

- **Sunday, May 13**
- **Craig’s Last Sermon** — Craig Nowak
- Today we celebrate Craig Nowak’s two years of internship with First Parish and send him off into a bright future as a UU minister.
- **9:00 – First Parish Choir**
- *Promised Land* – Social Harp
- *Parting Friends* – Social Harp
- **11:00 – Al Armenti, mandolin and Rob Castillo, guitar**

- **Sunday, May 20**
- **Coming of Age Sunday**
- **9:00 & 11:00 – Gospel Choir & Youth Musicians**

- **Sunday, May 27**
- **ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.**
- **Memorial Day**
- Today we will remember what is important, celebrate those who have given their lives for what they believe in, and let go of what must remain in the past. Memorial Day is a time to reflect and learn what it is we must embrace to truly honor the fallen.
- **Nancy Ackerman, clarinet**

**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, May 14, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (may be moved to May 7)
- Monday, June 11, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

## Finding Your Interim Minister

Elaine, AKA Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha, will be in her office at the church. You may contact Elaine at [uurevdoc@gmail.com](mailto:uurevdoc@gmail.com), or at 20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA 01742, or at 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 [cmckelips@firstparish.org](mailto:cmckelips@firstparish.org) to schedule an appointment. Monday is Elaine's day off and Friday is her sermon writing day.

## Congregational Meeting on Compensation and Budget

Would you like to learn more about how the Trustees determine their contribution to the annual budget? Would you like to know more about First Parish's ministerial and staff compensation? Would you like to hear about next year's budget? Then please come to one of the financial meetings — on Sunday, May 6, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, May 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; or Tuesday, May 15, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. — when you'll hear presentations from the Trustees, the Human Resources Committee, the Treasurer and the Business Manager.

## Past Sunday Services Available on CD

Would you like to listen to a Sunday service you missed or a sermon or reading you'd like to hear again? CD's recorded from the full Sunday services may be borrowed at any time. Currently available CD's include last year's and this year's services. See the shelf to the right of the

fireplace in the Parlor, where you can choose a CD and check it out by writing your name in the notebook there. Sermon recordings are also available via podcast at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org) under Worship. Please allow up to a month after a service for recordings to be available.

## General Assembly Attendees and Delegates: Don't Forget to Register!

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 right away. 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 [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@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 general attendee. Refer to the UUA website for further details about the events that are currently scheduled. The schedule of events is updated frequently.

## Flea Market/Recycle Sale — June 9

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@yahoo.com](mailto:cstmcloth@yahoo.com), or at 978-369-8418, as soon as possible. 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. Tell all your friends and neighbors about this popular event!

## SARASA Chamber Music Series Returns to First Parish on Sunday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Come hear an exceptional evening of chamber music in the Parish Hall. This spring's concert, *Fortepiano Trios* with Maggie Cole, features trios of Stephen Storace and Haydn, and Beethoven's Op. 1, No. 2, in G major. The musicians are Maggie Cole on fortepiano, Christina Day Martinson, violin, and Timothy Merton, cello. Tickets are available online through the SARASA website or at the door. Prices are \$24 general, \$20 senior, \$12 student, and free for children. SARASA's guiding mission is to bring professional-quality classical music to enrich the lives of the broadest possible community, especially those who do not have easy access to live chamber music. More information is available at <http://www.sarasamusic.org/>.

Parish Notes

continued on page 4

*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, May 18  
Friday, August 24  
Friday, September 21

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

### WPA Antiques Evaluation Event — May 15

Family Favorite or Valuable Antique? Join the Women’s Parish Association for an exciting event on Tuesday evening, May 15, at 7:00 p.m., at which our ministerial intern will give an evaluation/educational presentation about various antiques owned by First Parish folks. Among his many talents, **Craig Nowak** is in antique expert in many areas. Contact **Claudia Nimar** as soon as possible at 978-771-8716, or at [cni-mar@aol.com](mailto:cni-mar@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 discussions with Claudia. Craig does not evaluate stamps, coins, jewelry, firearms or weapons. Desserts, coffee and tea will be served. Entrance fee is five dollars. Reservations are required. Contact **Dian Pekin** at [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@comcast.net) by May 11 for reservations. All men and women at First Parish and their friends are welcome! Even if you don’t submit an item for evaluation, this event will be a great educational experience to start you thinking about some of the treasures in your household that you may want to give to family members or charities.

### 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.

### June 17 Coffee Hour Garden Party

Back by popular demand! One of the most delightful places on our First Parish campus is the Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Herb Garden. The Women’s Parish Association cordially invites all men, women, children and youth to gather in the herb garden for a Coffee Hour Garden Party on Sunday, June 17, at 11:00 a.m., following the worship service. Special herb-flavored snacks and beverages will be served. We are very grateful to **Doug Baker** and the Herb Garden Committee for creating and maintaining this beautiful sanctuary for us over the years. In case of rain, the gathering will be held in the Parish Hall with special photographs of the garden reminding us of its beauty.

### The 10th Annual First Parish Photography Club Exhibit Is Coming on 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.

### Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

The Jewish Awareness affinity group will meet on Friday evening, May 18, from 7-9 p.m. at First Parish. **Bob Harper** will lead us in a showing and discussion of “The Gefilte Fish Chronicles,” a documentary about the annual seder of the Dubroff family, who immigrated from Russia to Brooklyn in 1904. “This is a loving, living album of the Seder.” All are invited.

### Travel Task Force Progress Report

On April 29 and May 1, the Travel Task Force (TTF) members reported to the congregation on the progress we have made during the past six months as we have worked with the staff, the Parish Interim Team (PIT) and the Standing Committee. Our report included the following:

- A brief history of travel at First Parish
- Why and how the TTF was formed and to whom it is responsible
- The TTF’s mandate
- Decision-making responsibilities and working with the staff, Standing Committee and the PIT
- The proposed Travel Policy framework
- Financial implications and fairness issues
- Process transparency and inclusivity
- Multiyear calendar coordination
- Recommendation for a formal, ongoing Travel Coordination Team.

The charge for the proposed Travel Coordination Team is to continue the travel policy and guidelines work, to provide guidance services to groups considering and creating travel opportunities, and to coordinate travel planning across the congregation to ensure fairness, transparency, inclusiveness.

We look to wrap up our work by the end of the church year and hand it off to the new Travel Coordination Team after the Annual Meeting.

— **Lillian Anderson, Dana Booth, Rodger Mattlage, Lili Wallis, Suzie Weaver**

### Tracing the Steps of the Transcendentalists in the United Kingdom

From May 9 to 20, **Jenny Rankin** will be leading a group of 27 travelers on a spiritual pilgrimage to trace the path that Emerson, Fuller, Parker, Alcott and others took to experience

the sources of inspiration within Western culture that helped them to create Transcendentalism, which, in turn, led to the Unitarian Universalism we practice today. They traveled to London, the Lake District and Edinburgh and so will we. They met with scholars and ministers and so will we. We will be greeted at the Unitarian headquarters in London, attend services and lunch at the New Unity Unitarian Church in London (whose minister is Andy Pakula of Lexington), and have a pot-luck supper at St. Marks with the Edinburgh Unitarian congregation members and minister Maud Robinson. Our travelers will be eager to share their experiences and understanding of Unitarianism with you when they return.

**March with the Diversity Committee**

The Diversity Committee will take a group of parishioners to march with our First Parish banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 9; the parade starts at noon. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show our support for the LGBT community. E-mail Sara Ballard at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org), or sign up at coffee hour on June 3 if you'd like to participate.

**First Parish Humanist Council**

The Concord Area Humanists (CAH) had a very successful meeting on April 4, when over 60 attended a talk by Peter Alden, well-known local author and international tour leader. He gave an illuminating talk on how Concord fauna and flora had changed since Thoreau's time. On Wednesday, May 2, Doug Muder, a frequent author and blogger on Humanist topics, spokr on "A Humanist Approach to Death." For further information on CAH or FP Humanist Council, please e-mail Patrick Everett at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com).



**First Parish Auction This Saturday, May 5!  
Online Auction until Friday Noon, May 4!**

The First Parish Auction and Cinco de Mayo ¡Fiesta! is this Saturday, May 5!

For all ticketholders, see you at the gala festivities that begin at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. You will enjoy a delicious Mexican dinner (*muy deliciosa!*) and a delightful Live Auction evening with good friends (*buenos amigos!*) whom you can bid against. The Cinco de Mayo ¡Fiesta! Auction is hosted by First Parish's auctioneer **Jim McCloy** and emceed by our own **Sean Kavanagh**.

During the Cinco de Mayo ¡Fiesta! Auction evening, you can also sign up for parties and special events!

Don't forget to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a pair of Red Sox tickets, a brand new iPad, or the amazing opportunity to ring the bell at First Parish before Sunday services next fall on Homecoming Sunday! (You don't have to be present at the Auction to win.)

**An Amazing Grand Prize!**

Last but not least — At the auction, you can buy your beads to participate in the ever-popular Heads or Tails game for a chance to win the Grand Prize — a one-week stay at the Mayan Palace Resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. (You must be present May 5 to win!)

**Can't make it to the Fiesta? Bid at the Online Auction!**

There is still time for all parishioners to participate and bid in the fabulous First Parish online auction, where nearly 100 great items are featured. To preview all items in the Online and Live Auction, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/FirstParishAuction2012>.

**Remember** — the Online Auction closes Friday, May 4, at noon!

*Muchas gracias* to everyone for your generosity of time, goods and services in making the 2012 First Parish Auction a successful fundraiser and a wonderful community event.

**Happy Bidding to All!**

**Learning to Say "No" or "Yes" as a Spiritual Practice**

We all know what it feels like when we are asked to do something and we say "yes," and then later we resent the time and energy it takes to fulfill that "yes." I am suggesting that when we are asked to do something, we first say, "Thank you for asking but I want to think about it." Then we have time to really consider if this is what we want to do. If it is, say "yes" and then give your full soul and heart to it. If it is not, you can say, "I have given it thought and right now in my life I am going to say "no." By learning to think before we say "no" or "yes," we become more authentic and real, and that is a way to acknowledge the true spirit within.

—Diane Clapp, Team Leader, Lay Ministers

**Easter Plants Delivered**

Thank you, **Caitlin Selle**, for organizing the distribution of the Easter plants to those on the pastoral care list. Also, thank you to those of you who delivered the flowers — **John and Karen Sullivan, Lillian Braden, Maura and Sarah Perkins, Lois Whitney, Debbie Clark, Marilyn Lowitt and Caitlin Selle**.

**Caring Connection News**

This has been a busy month! Thanks so much to many people for providing rides to parishioners — including **Lillian Braden, Dave Dawson, Dianne Weiss, and Marty Wallace. Louisa Paushter and Bridget Neale Paris** stand at the ready to help First Parish families welcome babies, but they have not had to do so all year! Thanks to **Kitsy Rothermel** for sending notes to congregants in need or transition. **Kathleen Elcox's** stunning photographs have been inspiring participation at our "Thinking of You" card table at coffee hour. Each week we mail an average of ten cards lovingly written at coffee hour to First Parishioners. Recipients appreciate them. We hear thanks for those thoughtful cards during a visit from ministers or lay ministers, or in written notes. One parishioner wrote, "Those cards made all the difference to me."

We continue to nurture each other through our Caring Connection food outreach. Thanks to the delivery team, **Bev Bringle, Pat Kane, Petra Betts, and Tracey Hurd** for delivering an average of three meals each week. Leadership from **Kathy Madden** has made it possible for us now to have a wonderful vegan dish available for food deliveries in our freezer as well. We are grateful to **Bev Bringle, Pam Howell and Jenny Rankin** for hosting an intergenerational activity to provide us with beautiful new collage-decorated food delivery bags.

The First Parish Shawl Ministry continues to bring many people into the Caring Connection circle. Lovely, hand-crafted shawls are being created. The ministers give these to parishioners who are experiencing transition or loss. The shawls warm recipients, reminding them of the love and care of First Parish. This open group has two drop-in meetings each month — the first Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. and the third Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Come on Sunday May 20 if you can.

Seven shawls are underway and at least three have been completed. Those presently involved in Shawl Ministry include: **Lillian Anderson, Becky Blodgett, Carol Boris, Pat Brewer, Sue Cornwall, Holly Cratsley, Judy Dembsey, Lauren Evans, Lou Fackert, Linda Hardiman, Val Holt, Regina Hugendubler, Tracey Hurd, Ginger Lang, Jan Lipcon, Marilyn Lowitt, Kathy Mayer, Dinny McIntyre, Craig Nowak, Donna Peterson, Jenny Rankin, Mimi Samour, Marcia Schloss, Carolyn Shohet, Darien Smith, Lois Whitney and Sue Wood**. Thanks so much to **Regina Hugendubler** and **Holly Cratsley** for their leadership. And thanks to **Elaine Peresluha**, who raised the idea of bringing this ministry to First Parish. All are welcome to join this open effort, including beginners. Please contact **Regina Hugendubler** [ode2joy@usa.net](mailto:ode2joy@usa.net) with any questions.

There are many ways to help with the Caring Connection. If you think you might be interested, please contact **Tracey Hurd**, [thurd@aol.com](mailto:thurd@aol.com).

—Tracey Hurd, Caring Connection Team Leader

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

The Lay Minister for April is **Carol Boris** at [cboris312@verizon.net](mailto:cboris312@verizon.net), or 781-259-8038.

Ministers: **Rev. Jenny Rankin** ([revjenny@comcast.net](mailto:revjenny@comcast.net)) and **Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha** ([uurevdoc@gmail.com](mailto:uurevdoc@gmail.com))  
Or call 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers:  
Contact **Diane Clapp** ([d.clapp@comcast.net](mailto:d.clapp@comcast.net))

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

Pastoral Care Advisory Council:  
Contact **Judy Dembsey** ([dembsey@verizon.net](mailto:dembsey@verizon.net)).

## MUSINGS

Over the past two years, this congregation has listened as a new church organ comes to life, rank by rank, in our Sanctuary. As our organ builder, Steve Russell, skillfully constructs this new instrument, we have heard the expanding palette of sounds expertly woven into preludes, offertories and postludes by our Parish Organist, **Erick Huenneke**.

The story of this instrument is much longer than these two years of building. The journey began in 1999, when we considered how best to address issues of maintenance, deterioration and sound quality in our century-old Austin/Skinner pipe organ. The road to engaging Russell & Co. Organ Builders to construct this instrument was long and at times quite rocky. We sometimes disagreed about what direction to take; we took some detours — even hit a few dead ends along the way. Now, as we approach the final destination — a new instrument that incorporates salvageable pipework from the former instrument — it is clear that Russell & Co. is building an exceptional organ that fulfills the goals of the project and will support our music ministry for generations to come.



On Sunday, May 6, we will celebrate this developing instrument, though it still some months from completion, with the presentation of Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály's breathtaking *Laudes Organi: Fantasia on a XIIIth Century Sequence* for organ and choir. Kodály wrote this unusual piece on commission from the American Guild of Organists in 1964. The Latin poetry of the 12th century sequence, or chant, upon which the work is based invites us to appreciate the variety of sounds that are possible on the organ. The choir sings the descriptive text as it is vividly illustrated by the virtuoso organ solo.

The word *organi* had multiple meanings in the 12th century. It could refer to organs of the human body or any musical instrument — not just the emerging pipe organ. *Organum* was a specific type of polyphonic singing. After considering several titles for his fantasia, Kodály chose *Laudes Organi* (Praise of the organ) to celebrate the full range of music and musicians — singers and players — in body and spirit.

Kodály's *Laudes Organi* combines several themes for First Parish — Our connection to Hungarian culture through our Partner Church in Transylvania; our stewardship, over the centuries of several pipe organs; and our strong support of music as a vehicle for expression, praise and community.

We look forward to sharing the *Laudes Organi* with you on May 6, celebrating our rich musical heritage and our stewardship of a beautiful new pipe organ. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

## PARTNER CONGREGATION COMMITTEE

We'd like to begin this month with a brief letter to the First Parish congregation from Rev. Ferenc Mikó, the delegation group leader for this fall's visit:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from Székelykeresztúr! We are excited about seeing you in September and are now preparing for our visa interviews at the American Embassy in Bucharest in hopes that all applications are approved.

This visit is one of the very best ways to celebrate the 20-year partnership between our Concord and Keresztúr congregations.

We all look forward to being with old friends again, while making new ones, sharing experiences together and exploring new possibilities for our evolving partnership.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Ferenc Mikó, Group Leader  
2012 Keresztúr Delegation to Concord

Ferenc Mikó and 13 Keresztúr delegates will arrive on September 20. We are looking for folks who are interested in helping out, either by serving as a host to a couple of our Keresztúr pilgrims or by assisting with homestay and activity logistics, or (especially) by helping us with some of our fundraising activities/events (including a Sunday luncheon). Please contact **Ken Estabrook** at [ken.estabrook@gmail.com](mailto:ken.estabrook@gmail.com).

For information and pictures of the six youths and eight adults, along with pictures of past Keresztúri pilgrimages, and for the latest PCC news and information, go to: [www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-congregation](http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-congregation) and follow out the links (or use this short URL <http://bit.ly/xc0nvc>).

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Student Sponsorship Coordinator, **Sue Beck**, for all her hard work through the years. Sue has announced her retirement from the position.

If you are sponsoring a Keresztúr student, do note that **Dana Booth**, the Student Sponsorship 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](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com), or by phone at 978-369-5702.

As always, we invite you to join us at our next Partner Congregation Committee supper meeting, which will be held at the home of **Dana and Kathy Booth** on Thursday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. For further information, drop us a line. ♦

*Minden jót!* "Best wishes!"

— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,  
[LondonSW11@comcast.net](mailto:LondonSW11@comcast.net)

In April, I attended the Spring Forward retreat weekend at First Parish. I was so thrilled to see the excited engagement this congregation has for our future. We told stories, shared ideas, wrestled with our vision for the future, and began the work of defining the mission of this place.

Our mission is important. A good mission statement should be like a mirror, reflecting back an accurate image of our uniquely prophetic community. Everything we do — from our youngest babies, to Neighboring Faiths, to Coming of Age, to the Women’s Parish Association, to the Recycle Sale, to the Standing Committee — should be held up to our shared mission. It is the mission, above all else, that owns this place. A religious institution serves its mission; and therefore it is important we create a statement that reflects us, and all that we dream we will become, clearly.



One initiative that came out of the Spring Forward weekend was an effort to be more active in building our RE community. We have strong programming, amazing kids, lots of joy but we yearn for

more connection and more opportunities to simply enjoy each other’s company and meet our newest families. First Parish is filled with people who share common values and similar dreams for their children as they grow up within their parish community. Doesn’t it make so much sense to want to spend time together and get to know one another?

I was excited to see this initiative. This is what I, too, want for our RE Community — more community, more connection, more child-CARE (as **Gianna Drew** so aptly said in her poignant chalice lighting). The RE Council, the RE Project Team and I want to make this initiative a reality. Let’s get it done. Together.

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

### May 2012 RE Calendar

Fri., May 4-6	Coming of Age Vision Quest Retreat
Sun., May 6	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Regular RE for 2-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
	6th Grade – Field Trip to the Garden (Front Steps)
	7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Cult Discussion
	8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m. (Emerson Room)
	9th Grade COA at 6:30 p.m. (Chapel)
Sun., May 13	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Regular RE for 2-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
	6th Grade – Field Trip to the Garden (Front Steps)
	7th Grade Neighboring Faiths – No program
	9th Grade COA at 6:30 p.m. (Chapel)
Sat., May 19	Coming of Age Rehearsal, 1 p.m.
Sun., May 20	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Regular RE for 2-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
	6th Grade – Field Trip to the Garden (Wright Tavern)
	7th Grade Neighboring Faiths – Attending the Coming of Age service
Sun., May 27	Memorial Day Weekend – No RE
Sun., June 3	10 a.m. Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
	Regular RE for 2-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
	5th & 6th Graders – Field Trip to the Garden

### RE Registration Is May 6

We have sent home a mailing with all of the registration forms. Please fill them out as soon as possible, especially if you have your heart set on a particular assignment. Registration can be done in person on May 6 at both coffee hours. The RE Council and I will be present to answer all of your programming questions that day!

### Second- to Fifth-Grade Workshops

This term we will be exploring the many ways we can experience spiritual connection to our earthly home. In the coming weeks we will be planting seeds for the garden, making fairy houses, and participating in a drumming circle. We also will be celebrating each week with some snacks in the Greeley Room after RE ends. Come and join us there. It will be a chance for you to connect with other RE families and share a moment or two together before moving on to your busy life.



RE News

continued on page 9



### 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 Sunday, they will gather on the front steps of First Parish and at five minutes past the hour, they will walk to the garden, work and then return to First Parish by 15 minutes past the

hour. They will be digging, planting, sowing and weeding. Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather. We go rain or shine. And please bring a rake or shovel.

In addition to our sixth graders, the garden will be open to all parishioners every Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. Later in the summer, we will meet on Thursdays at 4 p.m. to pick produce for Open Table. Please come and work with me and other First Parish members throughout the summer.

### Seventh-Grade Neighboring Faiths

As always, Neighboring Faiths continues to be an engaging program that serves to open our seventh graders to the many ways human beings find to experience their spiritual nature. Under the leadership of **Patty Popov, Roberto Rodriguez, Nic Hammond, Connie Johnson, Natalie Bartlett** and **Susan Ryan**, our children have visited many faith communities. By seeing other worship services, our teens learn a lot about how Unitarian Universalists are both similar and different. By comparing and contrasting, we end up understanding our own complex faith tradition better. A special thanks goes out to these amazing leaders who make all of this possible for our youth.

### Eighth-Grade owl

Our Whole Lives (OWL) has experienced another very successful program this year. This is primarily because of two factors: our great kids and our excellent parent leaders. **Gianna Drew, Lora Venesy, Peter Nobile** and **David McGaffin** were a dynamic team and really worked well with each other and our eighth graders.

## SENIOR YOUTH NEWS: THE HEARD

**Holy Vermont!** On April 19 to 22, the Heard traveled north for an epic mission of flood recovery and farming work. We stayed at Liberty Hill Farm, a beautiful cow farm nestled in the Green Mountains. Last Labor Day, Hurricane Irene swept through this valley, wiping out houses, bridges, and farms. We spent our time cleaning up debris and household belongings from the fields behind the Rochester school, helping with farm chores, and venturing in the mountains. The Heard also climbed Mount Abraham, one of the five, 4,000-foot peaks in Vermont and many jumped into the bone-chilling White River! It was sad to see the wrath of Irene, but the community really appreciated our help. The Heard is going to make moves to decrease our impact on the environment. Here's a lyric from a song we wrote in Vermont.



*This planet has a magic light  
But we people threaten its might  
We gotta stop getting in the way  
Let's make a change for today  
And now we see the light  
We gotta stand up for what's right*

— Written by The Heard to the tune of "Get Up, Stand Up" by Bob Marley

The adventures continue ... The Heard will be going to El Salvador next April! This trip will revolve around the concept of *convivencia*, the idea to co-exist and come together. This is a universal theme and especially relevant in El Salvador as it continues to regrow from the civil war. More exciting news to come!

See you soon at the Sunday night meeting. ♦

Yours truly,

— *Avi Salloway*

Youth Program Director

P.S. Visit the Heard's facebook page to see more pics from Vermont: [facebook.com/firstparishyouthgroup](https://facebook.com/firstparishyouthgroup).



# SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

I lit the SAC candle during worship on Easter while reading the words below. These words express so clearly what I believe and what I believe this congregation can, and does, do. I see so much energy coming out of this parish during this interim time. May it all continue to grow!

“Social action is about hope. Hope that change can happen. Hope that one person can make a change happen.



Hope is seen on a local level: in the 120+ meals served each week by Open Table in Concord and Maynard; in the safety provided to the women and children at the Urban Ministries domestic violence shelter; and in our rising awareness of water as a human right during our water worship.

Hope is seen on a national level — as changes are made to immigration laws impacting both documented and undocumented immigrants; with housing policies retained and changed for, or budget money allocated to, the homeless through advocacy phone calls and lobbying.

Hope is seen on the international level — in the release of, or improvement of conditions for, prisoners advocated by Amnesty International; in the empowerment of Guatemalan women through the teachings of Maya Skills; and in our teens as they learn and share the stories of El Salvador while visiting the Art Center for Peace.

Our congregation, you, as activists or supporters of activism, keeps hope alive. Today is Easter, a day of hope. Today I light the Social Action candle. This flame represents the hope of all of us and the changes we can make in the world. I hope this flame grows bigger and brighter.” ♦

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director  
[fbade@firstparish.org](mailto:fbade@firstparish.org)

Go to [sac.firstparish.org](http://sac.firstparish.org) for news and calendar information.

## SAC Grants

As we go to press the Social Action Grants Committee is preparing to announce their Spring 2012 grant awards. These awards will be announced in the *Sunday News*, online, through e-mails, and on the SAC bulletin board in the coming week. Stay tuned! To learn more contact **Wendy Holt**, chair, at [wendyholt48@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyholt48@yahoo.com).

## Walk for Hunger, Sunday, May 6, on Boston Common

Over 700,000 people struggled last year to put healthy food on the table — the highest number recorded in Massachusetts since data was first collected in 1995. Join the annual Project Bread Walk for Hunger that takes place Sunday, May 6, beginning on Boston Common and

make a difference. To learn more or preregister go to [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk). Rolling start is between 7 and 9 a.m. or start at any point along the route and register at any check point. Enjoy music, free snacks, and ice cream treats at the finish. Rain or shine!

## Activists Worship — Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Join **Craig Nowak** at his final activist worship here at First Parish. Craig will continue to challenge us to think deeply as he connects together the many issues we have explored this past year. Join us!

## Mother's Day Walk for Peace — Sunday, May 13, in Dorchester

Join this new Social Action program and teammates **Margie King Saphier**, **Jane Blumberg**, and **Pat Simon** for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Pledge to walk or support Team First Parish! Go to [www.ldbpeaceinstitute](http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute) or learn more about this program during coffee hours on Sunday May 6.

## Amnesty International Monthly Meeting — May 15, 7:00 p.m.

Group 15, the Concord-area chapter of Amnesty International, will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Greeley Room. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information, visit [www.aigroup15.org](http://www.aigroup15.org) or e-mail **Lorraine Loviglio** at [loviglio@rcn.com](mailto:loviglio@rcn.com).

## Kudos to the Environmental Leadership Team!

The First Parish ELT has worked hard this year to incorporate sustainability into the overall policies at First Parish. They recently presented their proposed changes to the Standing Committee and look forward to working in more of an advisory role to First Parish members, committees, event planners, and staff. More information on this is to come but in the meanwhile, let's thank the ELT for providing such tremendous leadership on an issue so close to our UU faith.

## Green Notes

**Mindful Living Idea:** First Parish recently adopted a policy that “tap water is the water of choice.” Try to make changes in your life that can support this.

**Mindful Living Statistic:** One pound of animal protein requires about 100 times more water than producing a pound of grain protein.

## 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](mailto:SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org); see our website, [sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacmaillist](http://sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacmaillist); visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

## PARISH INTERIM TEAM UPDATE

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### Springing Forward!

More than 325 First Parish members and friends participated in some or all of the Springing Forward weekend. This was the culmination of the Parish Interim Team's and **Elaine Peresluha's** efforts to help First Parish become the community of faith we want to be. Members and friends came together in groups, and came together one-on-one. We came together in the Sanctuary, in the kitchen, in the Parish Hall and at the High School. We talked, shared, dreamed, and forged the first pieces of the vision and actions that will carry us into the future. The Springing Forward weekend created three days of fellowship, visioning and planning for the future while connecting our past to the present.

The PIT has been authorized by the Standing Committee to continue in the process of integrating the initiatives into the vision of First Parish so that members and participants understand how First Parish is structured, and governed. Now, as we prepare for the second year of our interim, we will integrate the energy, creativity and initiatives of the Springing Forward weekend into the life and governance of First Parish. We want everyone to have the opportunity to be part of that process. If you were unable to attend any part of the weekend, you will find on the First Parish website a slide show of the weekend and details on the schedule and process, as well as action plans for the initiatives that came out of the weekend. The PIT will communicate updates keeping First Parish informed on the initiatives, their conveners, and where we are in our process. Many of the Spring Forward initiatives have already been communicated and integrated into worship planning, RE, and new and ongoing community activities.

The first part of our integration process and Spring Forward follow-up has been to communicate with participants, and direct people to the correct staff person, or Standing Committee or other committee member. Many people have talked directly with the PIT, the Ministerial Search Committee, **Elaine Peresluha**, and other staff about their excitement and enthusiasm. We are talking about good governance, the Wright Tavern, forums, worship, belonging, stewardship, and spiritual development as vital parts of First Parish. This next interim year, we will be learning and experimenting together, adjusting how to welcome people, plan and develop resources, and provide programs that make First Parish an active, meaningful community.

All members and friends of First Parish are welcome to help in this process by asking questions, seeking answers, attending information sessions, and experimenting with the initiatives, assuring that First Parish is the best it can be.

— **Rebecca Curzon, Katharine Esty, Mark Richards, Jim Smith, Sue Ryan, Sven Olsen** and **Elaine Peresluha**, Your Parish Interim Team

## WOMEN'S NEWS

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### Women's AM/PM Book Group

Our final selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group for this year is *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey. The discussions will be held at First Parish, with the evening session on Sunday, May 20, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, May 22, 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 sessions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com), or 978-369-1471. Next month we will hold our annual potluck and book choosing evening. Watch the June newsletter for more information. ♦

### Remaining Book and Date for 2012

May 20, 22 *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey

June TBD Potluck and choosing books for next year

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### RE News

continued from page 9

Leading OWL is a ministry itself. Making sure our kids know the "rules" about strong relationships and personal responsibility when it comes to our sexual nature is important for our youth's emotional and physical health. It is our Unitarian Universalist way to provide accurate, scientific, nonjudgmental information to our youth. We discuss our values, make covenants, and explore ethical dilemmas that often present in close relationships.

Next year **Peter Nobile** will be going off the OWL team, as his son will be participating in OWL (that's right, folks, you don't teach your own child OWL!). Peter has taught OWL for at least eight years (no one can remember!). He taught many of our children, including both of my own. I hope you take a moment to say thank-you to Peter. He has been an amazing and consistent presence for our teens and an excellent mentor for all of our OWL teachers. I just can't thank him enough, so I am hoping everybody in the Parish will help me! Thank you, Peter. You are a real gift to this Parish. We love you!

## FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

Few things are as difficult to do as leaving people one has come to know and love. May is my last month at First Parish as your intern minister. Though it is hard to believe, it is time to say good-bye.

“I want to appreciate you without judging. Join you without invading. Invite you without demanding. Leave you without guilt.” In many ways, these words by Virginia



Satir reflect both my experience and current state of mind as I prepare to depart from this community. For the past two years I have been a part of First Parish, and in that time First Parish has become a part of me. It has been a time of change, tension, excitement, and uncertainty. It has not always been an easy time, but your commitment to First Parish and to each other has allowed me to appreciate you without judgment.

Through planning and participation in Sunday worship, community activist vespers, pastoral care, adult and children’s religious education and so much more, I have joined you on your journey and come to know many of you and something of your lives. We have walked this journey together in a spirit of mutuality, even as we pursued personal goals.

Before I arrived for my first day at First Parish, I was told First Parish was about to enter a period of transition. Now, as the end of my internship approaches, First Parish continues that process of transition. It is an exciting time, and I must admit there is a part of me that wishes I could remain to see the blossom that emerges from the bud so carefully tended during this time, through a consistent, yet patient, invitation to recognize and be our best selves.

Of course an end is also a beginning and a number of you have asked me what I’m doing next year and when I’m going to be ordained. I’m thrilled to tell you that in the fall I begin a new, full-time ministry as a chaplain resident at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. My ordination will hopefully take place next church year, following my interview with the UUA’s Ministerial Fellowship Committee in September.

These past two years have been among the most fulfilling, challenging and fun years in my ministerial formation. I will miss you. You have helped inform and shape me as a minister and in so doing have had a hand in shaping the future of Unitarian Universalism. And so, it would not be possible for me to “leave you without guilt,” as Satir writes, if I did not say “thank you.” Thank you for being a teaching congregation. Thank you for the opportunity to learn from and with you, and to teach you as well. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your intern minister. ♦

Blessings,

—Craig Nowak

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Want to Make a Difference? Train to Join a Lowell Nonprofit Board!

Did you know that many small nonprofit organizations don’t have enough well-trained board members to help run their organizations? The Jericho Road Project trains professionals who want to make a difference in underserved communities and matches them with nonprofit organizations that need good board members.

Our next board training begins on June 4, and runs for four consecutive Monday evenings (June 4, 11, 18 and 25) from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Raytheon IDS in Tewksbury. Graduates of the training will be eligible to be placed in nonprofit organizations throughout the Greater Lowell area.

With subject-matter expert presenters from leading organizations (including Deloitte, Harvard University and Foley Hoag), we offer a highly personalized, interactive and case study-based classroom experience that our participants rate highly.

Jericho Road is offering a handful of training scholarships to qualified UU church members who would like to participate in our June 2012 training and then be matched with a Lowell nonprofit board. For all the details, please visit our website <http://www.jerichoroadproject.org/Board-Training-n-Placement/BPT-main-page.htm>.

To receive an application, e-mail Andrea Mason, Board Training and Placement Coordinator, at [amason@jerichoroadproject.org](mailto:amason@jerichoroadproject.org).

The Jericho Road Project’s (JRP’s) mission is to match the professional talents of volunteers with the needs of community-based nonprofit organizations to promote community development, strengthen services and enrich the lives of volunteers. For more details about Jericho Road, please visit [www.jerichoroadproject.org](http://www.jerichoroadproject.org).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Kitchen Items Needed

Lightly used kitchen items needed for 20-person subsidized house in Waltham. Cutting boards, baking trays, pots and pans, tea kettle, serving spoons are some needed items. Please contact Linda B. at 978-369-4294.

### Participate in a Focus Group

If you are between the ages of 55 and 79 and currently work for pay, participate in volunteer work, provide unpaid care to a family member or friend,

**Community News** continued on page 14

# MAY 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.
<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi and Qi Gong</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	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.
<i>Music Together</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Tue May 1	1:30	First Tuesday Group	•	Tue May 15	7:00	Amnesty Meeting
	7:00	Travel Task Force	•		7:00	Congregational Meeting on Finances
Wed May 2	4:00	Shawl Ministry	•		7:00	WPA Antique Event
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists	•	Thu May 17	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:00	YAC	•	Fri May 18	7:00	Jewish Awareness Group
Thu May 3	7:00	Ferry Beach Meeting	•		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	7:30	Auction Run-Through	•	Sat May 19	5:00	New Member Potluck
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Sun May 20	8:00	Ministerial Search Committee
Fri May 4		Auction Set-Up	•		12:30	Ministerial Intern Committee
<b>Sat May 5</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Cinco de Mayo ¡Fiesta!</b>	•		3:00	Needleworkers Affinity Group
Sun May 6	8:00	Ministerial Search Committee	•		5:00	Sarasa Concert
	12:30	Congregational Meeting on Finances	•		7:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
	12:30	Membership Committee	•	Tue May 22	9:00	Networking Group
	5:00	YAC	•		9:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
Tue May 8	9:00	Networking Group	•	<b>Sun May 27</b>	<b>Memorial Day Weekend– One Service at 10:00</b>	
Wed May 9	7:00	Community of Activists' Vespers	•	Wed May 30	1:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers Meeting
	7:00	Congregational Meeting on Finances	•	Sunday Jun 3	8:00	Ministerial Search Committee
Fri May 11	12:30	<i>Tai Ji</i>	•		12:30	Membership Committee Meeting
Sat May 12		Photography Club	•		5:00	YAC
Sun May 13	3:30	Photography Club Annual Show and Reception	•	Tue June 5	1:00	First Tuesday Group Meeting
			•	Wed Jun 6	4:00	Shawl Ministry
			•		7:00	Concord Area Humanists
			•			

and/or take classes on a regular weekly basis, you may be eligible to participate in a one-and-a-half-hour focus group to provide feedback on items Boston College researchers have developed for a survey measure of activity engagement in later life. Benefits include the opportunity to reflect on activities in your life that are the most meaningful to you. Participants will also receive a \$50 Visa gift card for participation. If you are interested, please contact the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at 617-552-4934 for more information.

## MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter deadline is Friday, May 18, at noon.  
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, May 29.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

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• Craig M. Nowak: [cnowak@firstparish.org](mailto:cnowak@firstparish.org)  
•

\* **PLEASE NOTE:** The office is CLOSED on Mondays.

### 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 Manager  
• Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector  
• Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor  
• Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Copy Editor



FAMILY FAVORITE OR  
VALUABLE ANTIQUE?

May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M.

**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  
[pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) or call the church office at 978-369-9602 by  
May 11<sup>th</sup>. Five dollar donation.***



# The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • May 2012

Welcome to the Wright Tavern Center. Online registration is available for all courses. Check our website at [wrighttavern.org](http://wrighttavern.org) for schedules, course descriptions, presenter bios, registration information and policies. Questions? Contact Christy McKellips at [cmckellips@firstparish.org](mailto:cmckellips@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602. Please check the board in the lower church entryway for course locations.

## Inviting Applications for Fall Semester 2012

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](mailto: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.

## 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 follows the teachings of Chungliang Al Huang and his nontraditional 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 movement 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

### Concord Area Humanists (CAH)

- The next meeting, on Wednesday May 2, will bring Doug Muder, frequent author and blogger on Humanist topics, to talk on A Humanist Approach to Death. CAH is an independent area group participating in the Wright Tavern Center. It is affiliated with, and promotes the affirmations of both the national UU HUUmanists and the American Humanist Association. We emphasize our responsibility for our actions in the world around us. We meet in the Parlor on the first Wednesday of each month, for a social at 7 p.m. and featured program.
- Wednesday: May 2 Social at 7:00 p.m. Speaker at 7:30 p.m. followed by discussion. \$5 donation.

- We also have a weekly open discussion group meeting in Concord Public library one evening each month. Details on [www.MeetUp.com](http://www.MeetUp.com). For further information on program please email **Patrick Everett** at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com).

### 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 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 community. 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: 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**

- May 20, 22 *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey