



The Meeting House News

February 4, 2014
Volume 50, No. 6

Our fiftieth year!

IN THIS ISSUE

REVERIES

It is my belief that faith should open us up to new things in life, not close us off to newness. It should make space for new experiences, new realities, and new demands. Faith should flow into new situations and new relationships, providing the lubrication needed to make them work better. If we can see that of God in each new situation and each new relationship, we can move forward with clarity of purpose and gentleness of character. We are called to times of rest and contemplation just as we are called to times of prophecy and action. To have a balanced spiritual life, there can't be one without the other. Too much



introspection leads to a narcissistic denial of the troubles of the world. Too much action leads to disillusionment, which results in fatigue, burnout, and spiritual crisis. Finding the balance between mystic and activist is the key.

To live is to constantly explore both the inner and outer life — for there is not one without the other. To be fully engaged in our own spiritual lives, we must be fully engaged in life itself. Ours is not a static faith. Rather, our faith demands that we pay attention to the changes in our lives — and in the changes in the world around us. Whether we were raised Unitarian Universalist or not, we choose this faith of ours over and over throughout our lives. Likewise, we choose to be fully present to our own spiritual lives and present to the world around us.

In coming to First Parish we have been given a glorious opportunity, you and I. Here we have a church that takes itself seriously. Here we have a church that sits right at the heart of this wonderful town. Here we have a place where we can feed our spiritual lives and where our hands might be of service. There is no reason that First Parish in Concord cannot do and be more than it currently is. There is no reason that we cannot prosper through the generosity of our members. There is no reason that we cannot have our voices heard far and wide. There is no reason that our church shouldn't be a leader in the Unitarian Universalist Association. There is no reason First Parish shouldn't thrive and grow. But we must have the will. We must be willing to look at the world around us with new eyes. We must find some urgency for our work. We must find some tangible results upon which we might build. Something brought each of us to this amazing place. Let us bring others in, too. Let us discover together. See you in church.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

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There are two inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ Humanists, Minerva, StorySlam
- ◆ Coffee Hour Snacks Host Lists

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

First Parish in Concord is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

Sunday, February 2

Atheism — The Toughest Spiritual Practice

Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 – First Parish Choir

11:00 – Gospel Choir

Sunday, February 9

9:00 & 11:00 – Coming of Age Service

Sunday, February 16

Standing on the Side of Love — Bethany Lowe

ONE SERVICE AT 11:00

First Parish Choir

Sunday, February 23

Having to Wait — Rev. Howard N. Dana

ONE SERVICE AT 11:00

First Parish Choir

Post-Worship Reflection Time: A New Home

The Post-Worship Reflection Time has now moved to the Bulkeley Room, in back of the Parish Hall stage. At 12:15 we each take a minute to share something that has stayed with us about the service. Everyone is drawn there for different reasons, but I do this because I seek a quiet place to let the experience of the service continue to work its magic. Please join us some time, and find out if it's a fit for you. — **Jim Snyder-Grant**

Sunday Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to donate pulpit flowers in memory or celebration of a loved one, or are interested in arranging flowers for a Sunday service, please contact **Ellen Whitney** at 978-369-7434 or ellenwhitney@verizon.net.

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — online and in print, 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	Published
March: Friday, February 21	Tuesday, March 4
April: Friday, March 21	Tuesday, April 1
May: Friday, April 18	Tuesday, April 29

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

Editor's Note: *We are delighted that writers are so enthusiastic, but gently suggest using fewer exclamation marks. A former editor's rule was to use an exclamation mark only to announce the Second Coming — and only if He actually did come. Thanks.*

PARISH NOTES

Finding Your Minister

Howard Dana's hours are the following:

Tuesday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

You may contact Howard at hdana@firstparish.org, or at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA, 01742, 978-369-9602, extension 411. His cell phone number is 717-412-8543.

In addition to regular office hours, Howard makes appointment to meet with people at other times.

Please call or email **Cassy Bosworth** at 978-369-9602 or cbosworth@firstparish.org to schedule an appointment with Howard.

Howard is unavailable, and does not tend to email except for emergencies, on Monday, his day off, and Friday, his sermon writing day.

First Parish Staff Adopts 1.5 Solar Panels

When the First Parish staff decided to adopt a solar panel — participating in the fundraiser led by **Berni Jenkins** and **Kate Crosby** to help finance the solar array soon to be installed on the Meeting House roof — there was a flurry of activity: individuals and families examined their budgets; people sang; checks were written and passed on; snow fell; the *Sunday News* was developed and distributed; influenza struck and was vanquished; **Tucker the Dog** weighed in. When the dust (and snow) had settled, the staff had contributed enough to adopt not just one, but one and a half solar panels. The result? A proud and happy staff helps reduce First Parish's carbon footprint.

Altshuler Gallery Calling All Artists Grades 6 through 12

Calling First Parish artists in Grades 6 through 12 to display a work of art in the Sue Altshuler gallery in March. We welcome drawings, prints, photographs, paintings, collages, or any 2-D art. If your item is not framed for hanging, then please note that we will need to put tiny holes in the

Parish Notes

continued on page 3

Newsletter Submission Note

Dear First Parishioners,

Please bear with us as we continue with changes to the *Meeting House News* that we hope will deliver news of First Parish most effectively and efficiently.

Regarding Cosponsored Events or Programs: Items cosponsored will appear in only one program area.

Regarding ALL Items: Please limit your items to 100 words or fewer!

The March newsletter deadline is Friday, February 21.

corners to hang it. This is a way to share your talents with our parishioners and beautify our church. Please include a note with your name, the medium used and a way to contact you. The show will be hung March 4. Art can be stored in **Doug Baker's** office the week before. Questions? Contact **Marcia Schloss** at 978-371-2751 or marcialou28@gmail.com.

**First Parish StorySlam!
Saturday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m.**

Theme: Moments That Moved You

\$10 cover charge, snacks and refreshments, proceeds to benefit Funderburg Scholars. Come and tell a personal story that changed your perspective — in under five minutes and with no notes or props.

Modeled on “The Moth” (themoth.org), a nationwide storytelling phenomenon. Tell your story or listen to your First Parish friends tell theirs. Storytellers put their names in a hat, and the first ten will be drawn at random. Host is **Sean Kavanagh**, seanjkanavanagh@yahoo.com. Sean will offer a two-hour storytelling workshop on Sunday, February 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. for those who need help in crafting their stories.

Play Reading Group Is Looking for You!

On the first Friday of the month we read plays aloud for pleasure and discussion. All are welcome, no theater experience necessary. On February 7, from 7 to 9 p.m., we begin reading “The Heidi Chronicles,” by Wendy Wasserstein. Copies are available within the Minuteman Library network and appear to be free online.

The play traces the coming of age of Heidi Holland as she tries to find her bearings in a rapidly changing world. She watches friends move from idealism and political radicalism through militant feminism and, eventually, back to the materialism that they had sought to reject. Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text.

“Yankee” Home Companion Production Meeting — February 11, at 7:00 p.m.

“Yankee” Home Companion is coming on May 2 and 3. This will be a grand opportunity to celebrate music and the arts at First Parish. A team of writers (**Jane Blumberg, Susan Ellsworth, Jane Fisher and Pam Schweppe**) is creating the script, and there will be parts for all who would like to participate by singing, playing, telling stories, reading poems, and especially creating sound effects. We are now gathering the production team, so if you have any interest in helping with sound effects, lighting, set design, props, tickets, refreshments, program, graphic design or publicity, contact **Lillian Anderson** at lillianand@comcast.net. Come to this first production team meeting and hear all the details.

First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month, in this “corner,” the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events in the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.

Throughout February – Altshuler Gallery – Photography Exhibit by Ivan Massar and Illustrations by Guy Bubillout.

February 5 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

February 7 at 7:00 p.m. – Play Reading Group: “The Heidi Chronicles”

February 8 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club meeting – open to all First Parish adults

February 22 at 7:00 p.m. – First Parish “Story Slam”

February 28 at 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Singing, First Parish’s monthly song circle.

For more information on these events, check the *Meeting House News*, FP Announce and the *Sunday News*.

The purpose of the First Parish Arts Council is to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection. The council is open to all interested parishioners. Contact **Lillian Anderson**, chair, for more information: lillianand@comcast.net.

WPA Luncheon Meeting — February 26

Join old friends and meet new ones at the Women’s Parish Association luncheon meeting on Wednesday, February 26. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. The program will begin at 12:45. Program details will be announced on the First Parish website, in the *Sunday News* and via FPAnnounce. Price for the lunch is ten dollars, payable at the door. Contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net by February 22 for reservations, transportation and dietary requirements. All women and men of First Parish and their friends are welcome!

Next Year’s Ministerial Intern Selected

The Ministerial Internship Committee and **Howard Dana** have selected **Brian Chenowith** to be our full-time intern next year. Brian is currently at Meadville Lombard and serving a part-time internship at Unity Temple UU Congregation in Oak Park, Illinois. Parish suggestions for helping Brian find accommodations in or near Concord would be greatly appreciated. The time period is August 2014 to June 2015.

In March

Saturday, March 1 — Howard Dana: The Art of Leadership at First Parish — A workshop on leadership, hosted by the Nominating Committee

Coffee and light breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Workshop: 9:00 a.m. to noon. Anyone interested in getting involved (or learning about) church leadership is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, contact **Sue Ryan**, susanryan101@comcast.net.

World Day of Prayer — Friday, March 7

People in over 170 countries will celebrate World Day of Prayer Friday, March 7. This year, the Egyptian WDP Committee invites participants to learn about Egypt’s history and rich cultural diversity. Concord’s WDP commemoration will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, followed by a luncheon celebrating Egypt’s peoples and cultures. If anyone has Egyptian decorations, art objects, photographs, clothing to lend for use during the events please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekincd@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Megan Marshall — Sunday, March 16, 3:00 p.m.

Margaret Fuller: A Heroine for the 21st Century with Megan Marshall. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council.

David Ballard performs “Having It All” Cabaret on March 14 and 15



David Ballard (son of **Sara** and **Stoney**) will perform his critically acclaimed solo cabaret show “Having it All” at First Parish on March 14 and 15; social time at 7:00 p.m., performance at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Trevor Project. This is a musical tale of a young man’s struggles with his sexual identity, his

search for love and experiences of loss, and his ultimate acceptance of himself and his life. More details in the March newsletter. Sponsored by the Diversity and Music Events committees.

In April

Thursday, April 17 — Communion service at 11:00 a.m. followed by a chowder lunch at noon. More information will appear in next month’s *Meeting House News*.

Saturday, April 19 — “Not Your Traditional Seder”

Interested in participating? Contact **Dana Snyder-Grant**, danasg@newview.org.

In May

Mother’s Day Peace Walk on Sunday, May 11 — Walk with Rev. Margie King Saphier

Last year, through personal donations from First Parishioners, and family and friends of walkers, First Parish raised \$1,791. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Rev. Margie King Saphier** at mksaphier@comcast.net or 781-424-2179. More information will appear in upcoming newsletters.

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Until the day breathes and the shadows flee . . .

I’ve been wondering if anyone rushed home after my January 12 sermon on patriarchy to read the Song of Solomon, that erotic love poem that sits between Ecclesiastes and Isaiah in the Hebrew Bible. I hope so! It doesn’t conform to any preconceived notions we may have about how relationships are represented in scripture, and the lush metaphors that evoke the natural world are truly wonderful!



Of course, even as we delight at the unbridled joy that the two lovers take in each other, and wonder how this poem could have ever made it into the biblical canon, we become aware that its characters are still subjects of a dominant male culture.

“Patriarchy is so much a part of our world, almost like the air we breathe, that it is difficult to quantify its full impact on our lives, nor do we necessarily see how our tacit participation helps perpetuate its existence.”

Your response to the service that day reinforced the idea that this was a topic that needs deeper exploration and more conversation. If we ever want to find our way out from under the patriarchal system, we have to be more aware, we have to talk together about its influence on our lives, and we need to feel empowered to act differently in the world.

To that end, I’m encouraging everyone to join us on February 9, after coffee hour, when we will show the short film, “The Gods of Our Fathers.” The film explores the evolution of patriarchy, and underscores the importance of finding alternatives to hierarchical structures and militarization. Afterward, we’ll want to hear your reactions, and then look for folks who might be interested in delving even deeper by joining in on five weekly workshops about how we begin to unravel this patriarchal legacy.

While much has changed in our culture over the last few decades, there is still a long way to go for us to truly live into our UU values. I hope you’ll join us in this journey! ♦

Blessings,

TONY
Tony

Money Talk

A parishioner at coffee hour recently complained to a member of the Standing Committee (SC) that “there is too much talk this year about money.” The SC member replied that “we are happy to have grown past the time when everyone seemed to be afraid to discuss money. In fact, we regard talking about finances as a sign of congregational health.”

Please bear with us this month as we share with you some of the SC’s recent financial decision making. Let us know if you are left with questions.

Moving Forward

In January we had many healthy discussions as three long-term financial intentions converged:

- The first was the closing of the Capital Campaign.
- The second was the continuing effort to simplify, streamline, and make transparent our financial systems.
- The third was the increased collaboration among the Trustees, the Director of Operations, the Treasurer, and the Standing Committee.

Paying Down a Loan from Our Endowment

In September 2013, Treasurer **Suzanne Lowe** and Director of Operations **Fifi Ball** created a list of Capital Campaign (CC) pledgers who still owed a collective \$120,000 on their pledges. By December, in an effort to close the account, the Standing Committee reached out and collected — from cheerful, forgetful donors — \$57,700. Fifi added another \$10,300 of previously collected Capital Campaign donations to total \$68,000, used to pay down a loan from the church’s endowment made by the Trustees of Parish Donations to the Capital Campaign (and to our Meeting House and organ renovations).

In a related effort, Suzanne, Fifi, and others on the SC analyzed the church operations available cash and, on their recommendation, the Standing Committee voted to commit an additional \$78,000 of this to paying down the CC loan.

The results of these two actions moved \$146,000 back into the church’s endowment and reduced the outstanding amount of the CC Loan from \$225,000 to \$79,000.

Audit Firm Examination

Integrating and streamlining our budget got a boost from the first official audit of our books in five years. Look for the final report to appear in a month or two.

Streamlining

Fifi continues to simplify a welter of special budget accounts. Suzanne has overseen the combining of the operating financials with the monthly report from the Trustees into a single report. **Tim Jacoby**, Chair of the Trustees, has been a big help in this collaboration.

Looking Ahead

The SC has integrated the Fall Congregational Listening Sessions on Budget Priorities, synthesized our own and congregants’ communications about future goals, and submitted a memo of our strategic budget priorities to **Howard Dana** and Fifi as they prepare the first draft of the church budget for fiscal year 2015 (FY15: 1 July 2014-30 June 2015).

We are looking forward to this year’s pledge drive and to next year’s church activities with a great deal of optimism. Over half of the 70 solar panels have been “adopted” by 60 households and church groups. Our Christmas Eve plate donations were up 50 percent from last year. We count on stewardship for our stability, our growth, and carrying out our mission.

Expressing our enthusiastic support of the exciting activities of First Parish through generous financial contributions is a great way to “walk the talk” about money. ♦

Jack Nevison

Chair of the Standing Committee

Stay in touch with us at:

Laurie Van Loon, lvanloon@comcast.net; **Kristin Haddad**, Kristin.haddad@gmail.com; **Jake Nunes**, Jake_Nunes@shs.org; **Mark Russell Prior**, mark.russell.prior@comcast.net; **Suzanne Lowe**, slowe@expertisemarketing.com; **Kate Crosby**, kate_crosby@newview.org; **Andrea Siani**, Andrea.Siani@gmail.com; **Alec Walker**, alecwalker@aol.com; **Gretchen Nelson**, ghnelson@me.com; **Patty Popov**, PPopov@nichols-pratt.com; **John Nevison**, jmn@newleaf-pm.com.

Terrific Tuesdays Are Coming in March!

Come, gather, break bread, and study together. Terrific Tuesdays are a long-standing tradition at First Parish. We will continue the tradition this year with a terrific lineup of evening programs.

We will show and discuss four segments of the Unitarian Universalist history film series “Long Strange Trip,” by Ron Cordes, a member of the Bedford congregation. These films are wonderful opportunities to delve deeper into the history of this religious faith. I recommend them for newer members interested in history.

The General Assembly of 2012 voted Reproductive Justice as the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for 2012-2016. We will offer a series of four interactive workshops addressing issues of reproductive justice. Activities will include themes such as history, politics, power, oppression, conscience, etc. and will focus on UU theological ideas such as “Inherent Worth and Dignity” and “Reverence for Life.”

We will watch and discuss Brené Brown’s TED talk, “The Power of Vulnerability.” Brené Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. She has spent the past ten years studying vulnerability, courage, authenticity and shame. She spent the first five years of her decade-long study focusing on shame and empathy, and is now using that work to explore a concept that she calls Wholeheartedness. She poses these questions: How do we learn to embrace our vulnerabilities and imperfections so that we can engage in our lives from a place of authenticity and worthiness? How do we cultivate the courage, compassion and connection that we need to recognize that we are enough — that we are worthy of love, belonging, and joy?

Do you ever wonder what our kids do on Sunday morning? Come find out at our Neighboring Faiths curriculum adapted for adults.

How do our financial lives intersect with our religious, spiritual and community lives? How can we have a relationship with earning, spending, giving, and investing that is spiritually healthy and grounded in our deepest values? While money is a pervasive part of our day-to-day existence, it often receives little attention in our religious lives. As religious people, we have

• much to gain by making money a part of an intentional,
• covenanted and faithful conversation together. We will offer the
• first session of the new UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum,
• “The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life.” This is especially
• timely as we enter into our annual financial appeal cycle!

• We are still working out the details, but we plan to have an all-
• ages activity from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. when children and adults
• will make centerpieces to be used during Open Table dinners.

• We will gather each Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. As a commu-
• nity we will set up tables and chairs and put out our dishes of
• food. At 6:00 p.m. we will gather for a moment of silence, grati-
• tude, and a song, perhaps. Together we will clean up at 6:45
• p.m. The evening programs will begin at 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesdays in March are going to be terrific! ♦

• In faith and fellowship,
• — *Rachel Baker*

• Director of Congregational Life

Coffee Hour Snacks

• In beloved community we care for each other. Sometimes we
• take care of others, knowing that on other days, we will be
• cared for. This is true for coffee hour snacks.

• On advice from the Coffee Hour Snack Task Force and individ-
• ual members and friends of First Parish, I have alphabetically
• assigned 20 families and/or individuals to each Sunday
• throughout the year. I invite these 20 families and individuals
• to work together to decide how they would like to provide sim-
• ple snacks, light table monitoring, setup, and cleanup for the
• two coffee hours on the Sunday to which they are assigned. Feel
• free to find someone to fill in for you if you are not available on
• the date you are assigned.

• At the end of this newsletter you will find about six weeks’
• worth of Sundays, with last names of 20 families and/or indi-
• viduals responsible for snacks each week. I will send contact
• information and additional information to each group of 20 as
• your week gets closer.

Our Keresztúr brothers and sisters send their profound gratitude for our generous contribution of \$4,573.50 from our Christmas Eve services. The funds will be used to benefit the less fortunate in Keresztúr.

The Mirror on Intolerance session, cosponsored by the SAC and the PCC in January, was well-attended. Rev. Harold Babcock, from Newburyport, provided a comprehensive background on cultural issues in Transylvania, as well as between there and the United States, and then led an enlightening discussion period.

The second intercultural sensitivity session will be held April 12, facilitated by Rev. Parisa Parsa (see example at <http://bit.ly/18Zuvh7>).

The Kopjafa Task Force has held two meetings open to the congregation. The consensus is that the site beside the Keresztúr Terrace (on the Sanctuary side) best satisfies the developed criteria. The task force has submitted recommendations to **Howard Dana**, **Fifi Ball** and the Standing Committee. For now, continue to enjoy the kopjafa in its temporary home in the Parish Hall!

Our Heritage and Harmony Pilgrimage committee has held two open information sessions and is working on creating a great experience for all attendees this coming Fall. See below for more information.

The February Partner Congregation Committee meeting will be on the sixth at **Joan Wesolowski's** home. All parishioners interested in our Transylvania partnership are welcome. RSVP to Joan at joanwes@gmail.com. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"

Valerie Holt and **Rodger Mattlage**
Partner Congregation Committee (PCC)
(rmattlage@mac.com and valholt@comcast.net)

Harmony and Heritage: A Transylvania Pilgrimage — October 30–November 10

When we travel together, we become an intentional community and we deepen our connections with each other and with those we visit. To be a pilgrim means to be willing to look within and deepen our own understanding of ourselves as well as to understand more about the history and heritage of our partner congregation and our connections there.

Music can be the transformative bridge that fosters and deepens those connections. Informal group singing and discussions will be part of our shared experience as we work to create a bilingual partnership songbook. As a

group we will meet monthly prior to the pilgrimage to understand language and culture, sing and get to know one another.

The total trip cost will not exceed \$2,500 and includes air and land transportation, meals, accommodations, and emergency evacuation insurance. Limited scholarship assistance is available by contacting **Beth Norton** directly at music@fp.org. The initial deposit of \$250 is due on March 10. Space is limited and will be on a first-come basis.

Staff Sponsor: **Beth Norton**; Coleaders: **Lillian Anderson** and **Rodger Mattlage**; Registrar: **Sara Ballard**; Education: **Val Holt**

For overview, itinerary and reservation forms, contact **Rodger Mattlage** rmattlage@mac.com.

Good News Flash!

First Parish Now OPEN on Monday Evenings

Have you looked for a time for your group to meet and been frustrated that the church was not open on Monday nights? Good news! Effective immediately, First Parish is delighted to be able to be open and available for meetings and other activities from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Mondays. Please contact **Doug Baker** to schedule your group's event in a room in the Meeting House or in the Wright Tavern. The church offices will continue to be closed on Mondays during business hours, as well as on Monday holiday evenings. Many church staff will still consider Monday their day off.

First Parish is a happening place! Since parking and room space are sure to be easier to find on Monday evenings, your group might consider moving your meeting or activity to Mondays from another evening during the week.

To schedule or reschedule your event, please contact **Doug Baker** at dbaker@firstparish.org, letting him know your FP group's name, your name (group contact), the nature of your event, the number of anticipated attendees, any special needs, and how to contact you with questions.

Have you heard? We're in the middle of 30 Days of Love, a campaign run by the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love between Martin Luther King Day and Valentine's Day. It's more than a campaign, really. It's a time for intentional thought and growth. It is comparable to times of intentional action and thought, like Lent or Ramadan, and seasonal times, like the harvest and moon cycles.

Each day, I receive an email with resources to help me delve into issues of racial and social injustice. For me, a life-long Unitarian Universalist, 30 Days of Love gives me an opportunity to deepen my spiritual practice of justice seeking once a year. This is my Lenten time.



This year, my goal was to sharpen what I've been calling my "love lenses." Like many of us, I find that I spend a lot of time complaining about injustice. "They're not implementing the policy well!" "This could be solved if only..." "Another thing to blame on the dysfunction in D.C." I spend a lot of time complaining, and not much time innovating. So each day during 30 Days of Love, I pick one news article about justice, and after reading it, I think of a solution I've never thought of before. I try to think of love-based solutions.

I hope you will join me, mid-30 Days, in learning more about love-based solutions to injustice. You can sign up for 30 Days of Love emails or "like" them on Facebook. Activists, as well as nonactivists who are concerned about the world, often get tired when we fixate on the problems. 30 Days celebrates Love, and solutions to injustice that come from that Love. ♦

In faith,

—*Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

Volunteer to Be a Grant Reader

Each year First Parish awards over \$30,000 in small grants in response to proposals from not-for-profit organizations working locally, nationally and internationally. All of the grants have a sponsor from First Parish in Concord. This year, the Grants Committee of the Social Action Community Council is asking for volunteers to help read and make a preliminary assessment of 4-6 proposals that we receive. It will take about 2-3 hours and you can work at home. We will have the proposal for you on February 15, and would need your comments by March 1. After

March 1, we will have an (optional) meeting to discuss the process and your questions. We will give you a sheet explaining how to make an assessment. This is a good way to become acquainted with our grant giving or for former members of the committee to lend a hand. If you are interested in being one of the grant readers, please contact **Wendy Holt** at 978-369-9558 or wendyh@dmahealth.com.

Taking Action to End Mass. Incarceration: An Organizing Workshop on Saturday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m. at First Parish in Arlington

This workshop will help you build practical skills for bringing your congregation and community into the statewide Jobs Not Jails Campaign and the broader movement against Mass. incarceration. Please preregister by emailing end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10, but don't stay away if that is a difficulty. Sponsored by UU Mass Action and the Mass Incarceration Working Group of First Parish Arlington.

Vegan Potluck, Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall on February 11 at 6 p.m. hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Your \$2 donation helps to cover expenses. Don't have time to cook? A simple salad or a loaf of bread is just fine. Need a recipe? Contact **Marcia Schloss** at 978-371-2751 or marcialou28@gmail.com.

One Billion Rising — V-Day Rally at the Orchard House, February 14

Come gather and affirm our commitment to ending violence against women and all peoples. Listen to the message in our local history of women rising. Join Orchard House director Jan Turnquist and our own **Tony Fisher**. Sing and dance your commitment to kindness and respect for all. One Billion Rising, started by award-winning playwright and activist Eve Ensler, is a global movement to rise up against violence. Around the world people will gather for

SAC Notes

continued on page 9

Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

The First Parish Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org; see our website, sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemallist; or visit the Social Action bulletin board.



this cause on February 14. For more information, contact **CC King**, sammykat@comcast.net. Visit the website to see events around the world: <http://www.vday.org>.

Lunafest Film Festival Coming to First Parish

Short films, by, for and about Woman — Saturday, February 15, 7-9 p.m. This event is being hosted by SAC/Reproductive Justice. For more information please contact **Lora Venesy**, venesy@comcast.net.

Tenth Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum — Sunday, March 2, at 3:00 p.m. at Trinitarian Congregational Church

With a record number of homeless families in motels and a housing shortage, what can we do? Between 2008 and 2013, the number of Massachusetts families living in motels and shelters paid for by the state increased by over 50 percent. A record number of over 2100 homeless families are in motels; the numbers in motels has increasing by 200 percent since 2008. Learn about state homelessness prevention programs — especially state plans for significant increases in low income housing. The challenges to and improvements in the state homelessness program will be presented and discussed. Find out how you can focus your advocacy efforts to have the greatest impact. Keynote speaker: Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development. Additional speakers: Kelly Turley, Massachusetts Coalition on the Homeless; Senator Jamie Eldridge; and Representative Ken Gordon. The forum, organized by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is free and open to all. See www.endfamilyhomelessness.net.

UU College of Social Justice Update

Members of the Social Action Community Council met in December with Evan Seitz from the UU College of Social Justice to learn about current and future opportunities for service learning trips. The College of Social Justice has partners in Haiti, India and throughout the United States, with whom it works to create transformative service learning trips. All of its programs include personal reflections on privilege. The Social Action Community Council is looking into the possibility of organizing a trip for members of First Parish in Concord. If you are interested in helping to organize a church trip through the College of Social Justice, contact **Bethany Lowe** at Blowe@firstparish.org. Brochures are available outside the church office and further information is available on www.uucsj.org.

MONEY MATTERS

Update: Review of Management of First Parish’s Invested Funds

- Related to the notice in the January *Meeting House News*, several firms have come to the Trustees’ attention: Ipswich Investment Management, Mill Street Investment Management, Sensible Financial Planning, the UU Common Endowment Fund, and Walden Asset Management. We seek further references from parishioners; please contact **Laura Bernstein** at lnrb1943@gmail.com or 781-259-9926 with your suggestions.
- We are looking for investment firms that have a strong record and clear investment approach. We seek firms that would be a good fit with our \$2.9 million in invested funds and institutional, nonprofit status. We cannot consider firms that have close ties to members of the congregation.

Background: The Trustees are conducting a periodic review of investment management arrangements for our invested funds. Welch and Forbes have managed these funds well since 1975, and are participating in our review process. Even so, techniques for investment management have evolved a great deal in recent years, and we want to be sure we have the best possible fit between our needs and the services available from vendors.

First Parish Is Growing and Thriving!

The following data were recently submitted to the UUA. Reminder: Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) was July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

As of January 24, 2014:

- Members: 797
- Nonmember friends: 240
- RE enrollment: 234

FY13:

- Pledging units: 449
- Pledging income: \$852,773
- Average weekly attendance: 282
- Total expenditures: \$1,110,113

This year’s OWL class is just amazing. I’m not sure exactly why, but I guess I would have to say it is their commitment to each other. This



group has done a lot together over the years. They have toiled in the garden, delivered sand to seniors, traveled into Boston for Common Cathedral and marched in the Crop Walk. This December, they “gave back” to First Parish by delighting everyone and all ages with the play “A Year with Frog and

Toad.”

Through it all: Neighboring Activists, Neighboring Faiths, the Eighth Grade Play, and now OWL, they are a group that understands that showing up is important and I think ... they have become friends.

And it shows. Their approach to OWL is no different. They are asking thoughtful questions and pushing discussions toward values and making safe, respectful decisions. Of course there is humor, but it is supportive laughter, caring chuckles and kind smiles.

The OWL teachers are enjoying their role in guiding our young UU’s. Each is committed to help our teens move toward making safe, responsible and healthy decisions about relationships.

Here we are grateful for our teens. We are grateful for their leaders: **Lora Venesy, Jeff Brainerd, Del Friedman** and **Gianna Drew**. We are a “lucky” parish, indeed. ♦

Love,

— *Pam Howell*

Director of Religious Education

February 2014 RE Calendar

- Sun., Feb. 2 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – 11 a.m. Holy Family Church
8th Grade – OWL, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
9th Grade – Coming of Age, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
- Sat., Feb. 8 COA Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 1-6 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 9 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – 10 a.m. to Noon
8th Grade – OWL at 4 p.m.
9th Grade – Coming of Age at 11 a.m.
- Sun., Feb. 16 Little RE – Babies– 4 years, 11 a.m. ONLY
- Sun., Feb. 23 Little RE – Babies– 4 years, 11 a.m. ONLY
- Fri., Feb. 28 7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths, 6-8 p.m.

Coming of Age Sunday, February 9, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Our Coming of Age service for our ninth graders is Sunday, February 9. This has been a challenging year with snow and busy school schedules. Our mentors — **Paul Caliandro, Sarah Sharpe, Alyssa Bigay, Laurel Doggett, Mark Howell, David Ropeik, John Atkins** and leader, **Jamie Atkins** — have done a terrific job holding things together and supporting our youth. Please be sure to thank these committed adults for working with our youth and giving so generously of their time and care. Like you all, I am intensely wondering just what our ninth graders will say on Coming of Age Sunday.

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

One of the best moments of my last month happened at a Youth Con(ference) in Newton at the beginning of February. In one of the getting-to-know-you games, the youth paired up and were told to silently mirror each other. Many pairs started slowly, moving just their hands in sync. The energy quickly picked up and before we knew it, youth were jumping up and down, doing handstands and rolling across the floor...in sync, of course. As odd as it might sound, this activity seemed to really bond the group. It was one of the more effective getting-to-know-you activities I've seen.

Planning is full-steam ahead for West Virginia. We raised funds at Rock and Roll Bingo on January 31, which helped us meet our fundraising goal for the trip. This month, the Youth Group will be testing out some of the tools we'll be using in West Virginia, under the guidance of **Ken Estabrook**. We'll also be cooking, listening to music, watching movies and generally having a good time.

If you have an idea for an activity to lead with us, contact a member of the Youth Group or me. We'd be happy to hear your idea and see which youth could lead the activity with you.

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

PASTORAL CARE NOTES AND NEWS

Pastoral Thursday Evening Programs Begin

Rev. Howard Dana and the Pastoral Care Ministers will be holding programs on certain Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

February 6 — Challenges Facing Parents with Children in College

February 20 — Dealing with Aging Parents

March 6 — The Challenges of Parenting Teenagers

March 20 — Dealing and Living with the Death of a Spouse

April 3 — Infertility, Pregnancy Loss and Family Building Issues

April 17 — Job Insecurity

Five Wishes Program Presented on February 4

The beginning of a New Year. A time to reflect on the past and think about the future. Perhaps it is also a time to think about putting one's affairs in order by becoming familiar with the "Five Wishes" and introducing the completed form to loved ones and medical personnel.

Five Wishes was begun by "Aging with Dignity" founder Attorney Jim Towey. He worked for 12 years with Mother Teresa, and he lived for one year in her hospice in Washington, D.C. He was deeply moved by the experience.

What Is the Five Wishes? It is a document that looks at the personal, emotional and spiritual needs of a person, not just their medical needs. Five Wishes detail your desires about end-of-life care — degree of treatment, pain management, health care proxy, Living Will, life support issues, etc. What better way to achieve peace of mind as we begin the New Year. **Sue Dobbie** will present the Five Wishes program on February 4 to the First Tuesday Group. Contact her at susandobbie@gmail.com for a copy of the document. — **Sue Dobbie**, PC Lay Minister and PC Council member

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

The Lay Minister for February is **Sue Dobbie**:
susandobbie@gmail.com or 978-456-8432.

Minister: **Rev. Howard N. Dana** (hdana@firstparish.org)

Ministerial Intern: **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org)
Or call the church office at 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers:
Contact **Diane Clapp**, d.clapp@comcast.net or 781-257-5025.

Caring Connection, for meals or rides: Contact **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org), or call the office at 978-369-9602.

Pastoral Care Council:
Contact **Judy Dembsey** (dembsey@verizon.net).

Back in the fall of 2009, a group of parishioners with deep interest in the performing and fine arts gathered to explore how we could better coordinate the myriad arts offerings that arise out of this creative congregation. At the time, various projects seemed to be competing for space and time. There was a perception of scarcity and no real mechanism for connecting the dots between one project and another. The group hoped to strengthen the arts at First Parish, to lift up the abundance of arts offerings and develop “synergy among silos.”



Thus the Arts Council was born. As time went by, and as First Parish became clearer about our congregational mission, the Arts Council developed its own mission statement and a better sense of where the arts fit in with the wider ministry of First Parish: “The purpose of the First Parish Arts Council is to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting, and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection.”

The most visible regular contribution of the arts council is the monthly “Arts Corner” column in our *Meeting House News*. This is an effort to group all the arts offerings of the month in one place, so that parishioners and friends might know what is coming in the way of arts events at First Parish.

Arts Council meets each month over pizza and salad to look over upcoming scheduled events, hear about new ideas for performances and exhibits, and when possible, to connect the dots between these rich offerings and our congregational and UU mission.

Arts Council is an advisory group. They seek to facilitate connection. They encourage creativity; they brainstorm, problem-solve and provide perspective. They are a great resource for me, as Director of the Music and Arts Ministry — and they are interested in hearing about new creative projects.

This congregation is full of talent and energy — of souls yearning to express themselves through the arts. The Arts Council seeks to engage that yearning and mutually support artistic efforts. Monthly meetings (the first Wednesday of the month) are open to anyone. See the Arts Corner on page 3 for more information.

Help us create synergy in the arts at First Parish. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

Special Emerson Events in February!

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

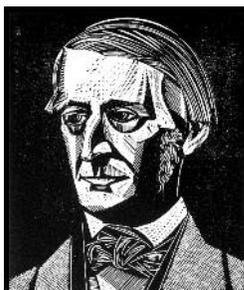
Emerson Reminisces

Emerson scholar Wendell Refior, in period costume, performs a one-man show as Ralph Waldo Emerson, mainly before his life became a public one. Refior uses anecdotes, excerpts from “Self-Reliance” and “Nature,” and Emerson’s letters and journals. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and the Thoreau Society. \$10 donation at the door.



Tuesdays, February 25 and March 4,* 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Emerson’s Divinity School Address: Controversy and Empowerment



Emerson’s Divinity School Address (1838) fundamentally reshaped American intellectual and spiritual thought, and speaks to us in a profound way even today. **Bruce Blumberg** leads this reading group to share thoughts, insights and questions. Bruce, a former MIT professor, is an avid reader of Concord history and the Transcendentalists. A link to

an online version of the text will be provided before the first meeting. Free; enrollment limited to 12. Contact bruce_blumberg@me.com for registration.

***Note:** March 4 is a Terrific Tuesday.

Ralph Waldo Emerson portrait © Stephen Alcorn, used by permission of the artist.

For all program information, see fptranscendentalism.org.

A winter calendar of Concord-Area Transcendentalism events can be downloaded at fptranscendentalism.org.

The Women's AM/PM Book Group Meetings

The Women's Book Group will discuss *The Language of Flowers: A Novel*, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. The evening session will be Monday, February 24, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of **Suzanne Knight** (64 Bayberry Road in West Concord). The morning session will be Tuesday, February 25, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., in the Brooks Room at First Parish.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Remaining Books and Dates for 2014:

Feb. 24, 25 *The Language of Flowers: A Novel*, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Mar. 24, 25 *Flight Behavior: A Novel*, by Barbara Kingsolver

Apr. 28, 29 *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce

June 2, 3 *Eighty Days: Nelly Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race around the World*, by Matthew Goodman

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and this year it will be held in Providence, Rhode Island — practically in our back-yard. First Parish always has delegates who attend, but this year is a wonderful opportunity for many more members to participate. GA will take place June 25-29, and most events will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center.



There will be many ways to participate — full-time (all five days), daily, or merely the Sunday service and exhibit hall, which will be free and open to the public. If you are thinking about full-time attendance, it is important to be aware of a few dates:

- March 1 Early registration opens (\$335)
- Link to request accessibility services opens
- Volunteer applications become available (until 3/31)
- March 3 GA housing reservation system opens
- May 1 Registration fee increases to \$385

There is much more information available at the UUA/GA website (www.uua.org/ga). Volunteering is a significant commitment (24 hours) but can be a lot of fun; and in exchange, the registration fee is waived. If you are thinking of attending, please contact **Alice VanDeusen** at alicevandeusen@gmail.com — especially if you would like to be a delegate. Much more information to follow. Watch for information tables at coffee hour. ♦

FEBRUARY 2014 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Gospel Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
Lincoln Ringers	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Worship Reflection	Sunday	12:15 p.m.
Men's Group	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Sat Feb 1	10:00 Department of Peace Training	•	7:30	Forum Committee
	6:30 Funderburg Dinner	•	Sat Feb 15	7:00 Luna Film Festival
Sun Feb 2	10:30 Forum	•	<u>Sun Feb 16</u>	<u>11:00 One Service Only</u>
Tue Feb 4	1:30 First Tuesday Group	•	Tue Feb 18	2:00 Needleworkers' Affinity Group
	4:00 Shawl Ministry	•		7:00 Amnesty Group
	6:00 Minerva Gatherings Potluck Dinner	•		7:00 Evening Worship
Wed Feb 5	9:30 <i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	•		7:30 Emerson Reminisces
	6:00 Arts Council	•	Thu Feb 20	10:00 Creative Practice Affinity Group
	7:00 Environmental Leadership Team	•		7:00 Pastoral Thursdays
Thu Feb 6	7:00 Pastoral Thursdays	•		7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 By Your Side Singers	•	Fri Feb 21	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
Fri Feb 7	7:00 Play Reading Group	•	Sat Feb 22	7:00 Story Slam
	7:00 Transylvania Partnership Community	•	<u>Sun Feb 23</u>	<u>11:00 One Service Only</u>
Sat Feb 8	9:00 Photography Club	•	Tue Feb 25	9:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i>
Sun Feb 9	12:30 Nominating Committee	•		7:30 Emerson's Divinity School Address
	6:30 Standing Committee Meeting	•	Wed Feb 26	11:30 WPA Luncheon
Tue Feb 11	9:00 WPA Board Meeting	•	Fri Feb 28	7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	6:00 Vegan Potluck	•	Sat Mar 1	8:30 The Art of Leadership at First Parish
	7:00 "Yankee" Home Companion	•	Tue Mar 4	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	Production Meeting	•		4:00 Shawl Ministry
Wed Feb 12	2:00 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	•		5:45 Terrific Tuesdays
	7:00 Concord Area Humanists	•		

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

The March Newsletter deadline is Friday, February 21, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, March 4.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: FPConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

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

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Howard N. Dana, Senior Minister

Tony Fisher, Ministerial Intern

Fifi Ball, Director of Operations

Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life

Bethany Lowe, Social Action Community Director

Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus

Tina Storey, Assistant to Director of Operations

Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Emily Wheeler, Religious Education Administrator

Bethany Lowe, Youth Program Director

• Minister's Email:

• Howard N. Dana: hdana@firstparish.org

• Ministerial Intern's Email:

• Tony Fisher: tfisher@firstparish.org

•
•
•

• 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, Executive Director, Jericho Road

• Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

• Cassy Bosworth, Office Manager

• Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector

• Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

• Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Copy Editor

Coffee Hour Hosts

February – March 2014

2/9/2014	LOWELL	2/23/2014	MILLER
	LOWITT		MILLS
	LOWITT		MINASSIAN
	LYNCH		MINKIN
	LYONS		MINTON
	MACDONNELL		MISCHEL
	MACOMBER		MITCHELL
	MACPHEE		MITCHELL
	MADDEN		MONTIE
	MADDEN		MOODY
	MADERA		MOORE
	MADIGAN		MOORE
	MADJID		MORRILL
	MANNING		MORRIS JR.
	MANNING		MORRIS
	MARDEN		MORRISON
	MARTIN		MORSE
	MASSAR		MOULTON
	MAST		MOULTON
	MATHESON		MURESIANU
2/16/2014	MATTLAGE	3/2/2014	MURPHY
	MAXWELL		MURPHY
	MAYER		MURPHY
	MCATEER		NAPIER
	MCCARTHY		NARBONNE
	MCCLINTOCK		NASH
	MCCLOY		NASH
	MCCOUBREY		NASON
	MCGARIGLE		NEALE PARIS
	MCINERNY		NEILSON
	MCINTOSH		NELSON
	MCKENNA		NEVINS
	MCKINLEY		NEVISON
	MCLEAN-GREELEY		NEWBERG
	MCMAHON		NEWBOLD
	Melissa Chaffee & Ted Achtem		NICHOL
	MEMISOGLU		NICHOLS
	MERRILL		NIMAR
	MEYERSON		NOBILE
	MILLER		NOLDE

**CONCORD AREA HUMANISTS and
FIRST PARISH HUMANIST COUNCIL**



7 p.m. Wednesday 12 February
in First Parish Hall, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord MA



Invite you to a Birthday Party for
CHARLES DARWIN & ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Our speaker, Dr Henry Vaillant will share his views on the importance of these historic figures who so influenced the world in which we live. Henry is already well known to many as knowledgeable, wise, humorous, and a good story-teller. He has taught at Harvard, Tufts, and Northeastern. He practiced medicine in Acton for 37 years. Henry held many offices at Emerson Hospital, including President of the Medical Department of Medicine. Staff, and Chair of the Department of Medicine. He now enjoys retirement.



Interested in Darwin since *Beagle* 50 years ago, he recently visited the Galapagos. Lincoln was a boyhood hero who became even more fascinating the older Henry became. Themes will include: how both men were Frontier Explorers, fundamentally conservative and yet profoundly revolutionary. And, how medical advances may change the evolution of Homo Sapiens?

It will be a festive occasion, in honor also of others with the same birthday. Period music will be played by violinist Siri Smedvig who weaves magic into her music. Enjoy birthday cake and other refreshments. You are invited to bring a small treat to share if you would like. An RSVP will help us plan, sent to pne@aol.com with "DARWIN" in subject line. Please tell us if it is your birthday as well, so we can celebrate it. Come and enjoy!

more on www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org and from pne@aol.com

**MINERVA GATHERINGS
NEW MONTH WOMEN'S POTLUCKS**



*Minerva is the Goddess of Wisdom and Poetry.
We will share both at these gatherings.*

Please join us for monthly Minerva* New Month Women's potlucks. These gatherings are a time for spiritual renewal and nourishment. A safe space for all women of First Parish to connect with one another, share food, conversation and spiritual exploration.

Minerva Gatherings are a diverse celebration of women and femininity.

First Tuesday of the Month
Parlor
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

2014 Dates:

- January 7th
- February 4th
- March 4th
- April 1st
- May 6th
- June 3rd



Please RSVP:
"Twinkle" Marie Manning
TwinkleManning@gmail.com
(760) 889-5428

**What's your story?
Come and tell or come and listen.**

- First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road
Tickets \$10 to benefit Funderburg Scholars
- ★ In the format of The MOTH Story Slam
 - ★ Theme: Moments that moved or amused you
 - ★ A storytelling event where tellers put their names in the hat
 - ★ 10 tellers chosen at random
 - ★ Five-minute personal stories told without notes or props
 - ★ Hosted by Sean Kavanagh seanjkavanagh@yahoo.com
 - ★ Refreshments and snacks will be served

STORYSLAM!

Saturday, February 22
Doors open at 6:00
Stories start at 7:00