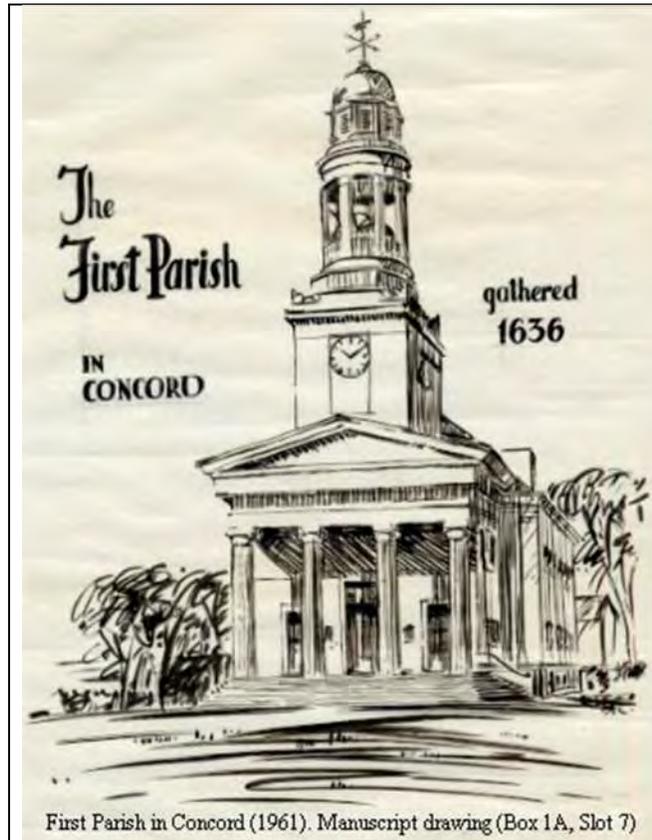


Meeting House News

October 2015



Please note that some email programs truncate long newsletters. To access the entire newsletter, scroll to the end. Then click on "view entire message." The newsletter is available as a PDF on the website as well (Home page, far right column).

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Worship This Month

All Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 a.m. The First Parish Café is available for fellowship and light fare before services, at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 4 – “Race Dances”

Led by Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

Sunday, October 11 – “Broken-Hearted and Open-Wide: Reflections on Race and Justice”

Led by Rev. Mary Margaret Earl,
Executive Director and Senior Minister, UU Urban Ministry
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, October 18 – “To Know and Be Known”

Led by Rev. Amy Freedman
First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 25 – “A People’s Desire to Grow Spiritually”

Led by Rev. Howard N. Dana
First Parish Choir and Gospel Choir

Sunday, November 1 – “All Souls Service: ‘Honoring Our Kin’”

Led by Rev. Marion Visel
First Parish Choir and By Your Side Singers

REVeries

A few Sundays ago in church, I made the observation that we are all on the Membership Committee. The remark got a little bit of a laugh, but it also made the point that people will come to First Parish and stay only if they experience us as welcoming and friendly. So, yes, we are all on the Membership Committee at First Parish in Concord. It is up to each of us to be friendly and kind to one another.

Now that Rachel Baker has started her ministry in Las Vegas, I propose we do membership work somewhat differently at First Parish. As a large congregation, we will attract people who are interested in joining a large congregation. This means that they have different expectations about how quickly they will move into membership, and then into leadership within the congregation. Some people seek out a larger church precisely so that they can stay more anonymous than a smaller church allows.



My vision of a path to membership at First Parish features three things that are especially important as people find and join a large church such as ours. With the help of a newly forming Membership Committee, we would all work to:

1. Be friendlier on Sunday mornings—to new people and everyone else
2. Offer a clear way to join the church and become involved
3. Follow up with new members to help them become part of our church community

The good news is that we can all do Step 1 right away. If you see someone at church that you don't know, introduce yourself. It might be their first Sunday in church or they may have been attending First Parish for years. The point is that you don't know them yet. It makes us all feel good to have someone else take a sincere interest in us. Friendliness and kindness can be cultivated. See you in church.

Love, Howard

Rev. Howard N. Dana, Senior Minister, hdana@firstparish.org

Welcome, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

Leading Sunday, October 11 – **“Broken-Hearted and Open-Wide: Reflections on Race and Justice”**



Rev. Mary Margaret Earl was named Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in December 2014. She spent the previous ten years at McAuley Ministries, a faith-based nonprofit in Providence, Rhode Island, that provided food, shelter and clothing to those who were homeless or at risk of becoming so. She is past president of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless and served on the Pro Bono Advisory Board, which brings together large Providence law firms and underserved communities in need of free legal assistance.

MUUsings

This month, Beth Norton is featuring the following article by Susan Page, chair of the Arts Council.

The First Parish Arts Council serves to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection.



Arts Council – A New Year

Saying Yes to the Arts – The Door Is Open



We are creative beings; and for many, our best selves are realized when we find a safe and welcoming space to develop that creativity, whether it is through singing, the visual arts, theater or dance.

While the glorious summer of 2015 fades, we feel autumn approaching, rich in color and brimming with activity. The arts at First Parish are part of the tapestry of activities that connect us and make First Parish a vibrant community. The process for facilitating arts events is more streamlined than ever, opening the door to increasing the number and breadth of new events.

Do we want more arts events at First Parish? YES

Will we provide guidance to get you started? YES

Are we open to new ideas? YES

Do we encourage events that reach beyond our Concord UU Community? YES

Your Ideas Matter

Do you have an arts event or group idea brewing? We urge you to share it with the council. Our mission includes helping you to clarify your plan and its alignment with the First Parish mission, and perhaps suggesting a partner for your event, like Social Action or the WPA. We are not administrators or producers. We will help you to chart your plan, provide you with logistical guidelines, and recommend resources to help make your vision a reality.

The door to the council is open. Come to a meeting and share your proposal. Together, we can make 2015-2016 a year of saying 'yes' to the arts at First Parish. Please contact Susan Page, srpage10@verizon.net, or Beth Norton, bnorton@firstparish.org.

REflections

"We are here, here together in this holy moment; and we're grateful for the winding road that brought us to this place."

—David Glasgow

During the Homecoming service, the choirs and congregation joined in singing "Here Together," by David Glasgow. Thankfully, I heard it during the rehearsal so I knew enough to bring tissues with me to worship. As I make my way among you, I am filled with gratitude for all that we bring to this community: questions and answers, memories and dreams, talents and areas of growth, and a full range of emotions.



On Saturday, September 12, Dawn Van Patten and I led an orientation for our Fall Term teachers. I was impressed by their thoughtfulness and commitment. We reviewed policies, some new logistics, and the curriculum. All of them understood what an honor it is to accompany children and youth in religious exploration.

Every Sunday there will be programming for children at First Parish. On Columbus Day weekend, instead of RE classes we will be creating a life-sized board game with grades 1 to 7. If your family is in town, I hope that your family will come. The rules of the game depend on your creative ideas and participation.

If you have any questions, concerns or bright ideas, or would like to introduce yourself, please email me.

See you in church!

Amy

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, afreedman@firstparish.org



Pastoral Care

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings.

Minister for Pastoral Care, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5329

Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543

October Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Sarah Brandon Bemis

Email: sgbrandon@me.com

Phone: 978-505-0492

Small Group Ministry 2015 – 2016

Facilitated Small Group Ministry (SGM) groups provide the opportunity for spiritual growth, and for people to get to know others on a deeper level. This year we will experiment with a variety of ways of doing Small Group Ministry.

Small Group Ministry experiences include:

1. **Topic-specific, short-term SGM groups** of 4 to 8 sessions. (“What I Believe,” “Finding Meaning and Purpose in Retirement,” “Dream Work,” etc.)
2. **Cohort SGM groups** for populations most likely to participate in a SGM group (i.e. newer members, those approaching retirement, seniors, parents, etc.). Topic-specific and cohort groups are usually limited to 8 to 12 participants. If you are interested in a group, sign - up quickly.
3. **Drop-In SGM sessions** on select Sundays following worship. Drop-in groups introduce folks to SGM and help connect those who can’t commit to a multi-session group. Drop-in SGM sessions are scheduled for Sundays September 20, October 4 and November 8, all from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in a group, sign - up quickly. If you have questions about Small Group Ministry, contact Rev. Marion Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org or 203/931-5239.

Social Action Community

This past month, we have continued to have discussions about social action at First



Parish in Concord. We have talked fondly about moments when we felt like we were making a positive difference in the world. We have dreamed about ways we might grow. We have imagined what our shared future looks like, and how we want to act as people of faith out in the world in the years to come.

It has been inspiring, to say the least. We are at a stage where we are asking big questions, without having any goal in mind other than imagining the future we want to create together. It is simultaneously beautiful and overwhelming.

We come with our individual ideas, and we share them with each other. We hear others' ideas and passions, and we let them inspire us as they will. Somewhere in this interchange of ideas and sharing of passions, we find a common passion. One that is not mine or yours, but shared between us. This is not his idea, or her project, but our shared dream. This shared dream makes us stronger. To me, this is the work of Unitarian Universalism in action.

If you haven't attended a SAC Listening Session yet, I recommend you attend one this month. If you cannot attend a listening session, get in touch with me as soon as possible and I will make sure someone from the SAC Council meets with you one-on-one. I hope you'll join us on this journey of discovery.

Bethany Lowe, Social Action Director and Youth Program Director

Denominational Affairs

As *UUs*, we are a force more powerful than one person or one congregation. Together we create tangible expressions of love, justice and peace. Attend a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) meeting the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. The next meeting is October 19.



DAC works to:

- study and reduce escalating inequality, which is the UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) the DAC is addressing.
- aspire to Dr. Cornel West's call that we face oppression with intellectual integrity.

For actions focused on this UUA CSAI, read Fred Van Deusen's article in this *Meeting House News* and for more information, contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com.

Sunday Forum

The Sunday Forum is actively seeking new committee members. If you've attended any Forums in the past, learned something useful, and would like to help, please contact us. If you know people who have an expertise in a subject that others might like to hear about, that's great! But you can also help us by hosting speakers who've already approached us with an exciting topic and are waiting for someone to guide them through the message delivery process. Don't worry; we have instruction sheets that tell you what to do at each step. If this sounds interesting to you and you have a few hours a month to share with a fun-loving group, then please contact Sally Schloemann at sallymail@verizon.net or call 978-369-3416.

Standing Committee

At our September 13, 2015 meeting, Standing Committee members began developing goals for the coming year. This annual ritual helps us keep an eye on the future, and function in the most effective manner possible. Using sources such as our annual evaluation and input from Rev. Howard Dana and congregation members, the committee reviews where we have been, discusses what we want to accomplish, and identifies overarching goals for the coming year. We'll refine and approve these goals at our next meeting on Sunday, October 4, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

At the September meeting we also identified Standing Committee liaisons to a number of First Parish groups such as Social Action, Religious Education, Denominational Affairs, and others. As part of our effort to better inform ourselves about the many activities under way at First Parish, Standing Committee members will connect with the leaders of these groups and learn about the major program activities in which parishioners are engaged.

The Standing Committee also began its first-year review of the Finance Committee charter. Led by Treasurer Tom Wilson, this subgroup of the Standing Committee met all of its goals in its first year, gathering input from congregation members on spending priorities, facilitating discussions about the budget, and creating presentation materials for the Annual Meeting. In addition to providing technical assistance to Howard and the Director of Finance and Operations, Fifi Ball, throughout the year, the committee also developed a number of helpful documents that are available on the Finance Committee Web page at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/finance-committee>. The Finance Committee charter is scheduled to be finalized at our October meeting.

Led by Rev. Howard N. Dana, Social Action Director Bethany Lowe, and First Parish social action leaders, congregational discussions about the social action programs at First Parish have begun! Keep your eye out for future meetings, and join the conversation as we examine where we have been and explore options for the future.

Standing Committee members are always available to talk with First Parish members and friends about issues of interest and concern. Please reach out to any of us, at coffee hour, at an event, or by phone or email, to talk about your First Parish experiences. If you have an account for the First Parish website, you can go to the Standing Committee Web page and view minutes of our meetings, our contact

information, meetings schedule, and governance policies. Also, please see our bulletin board display in the downstairs hallway.

Mark Russell Prior, chair

Members

The Standing Committee members are as follows:

Jeff Brainerd	978-243-0101	jeffbrainerd@gmail.com
Kate Crosby	978-263-7326	Kate_crosby@newview.org
Dave Elwood	978-369-2237	daveelwood@hotmail.com
Kristin Haddad	978-254-5012	kristin.haddad@gmail.com
Peter Nobile, clerk	978-369-5857	peter.nobile@gmail.com
Patty Popov	978-369-1990	ppopov@nichols-pratt.com
Mark Russell Prior, chair	978-369-4901	mark.russell.prior@comcast.net
Toby Smith Ropeik	978-369-0007	tsr@tobyasmith.com
Lora Venesy	978-254-5433	venesy@comcast.net
Alec Walker	978-227-4031	alecwalker@aol.com
Tom Wilson, treasurer	978-254-5906	twilson@wilsongroup.com

RE News

Fall Religious Education Program

Our program is designed for children, youth, and their adult mentors to explore big questions, to celebrate life, to build character, and to grow spiritually. Through hands-on activities, spiritual practices, sharing, and social justice projects, our young people experience how to bring more love and understanding into the world. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged to support community building and a sense of belonging.



Sunday Service

Kindergarten – Grade 7

Kindergarten through Grade 7 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following the Message to Children, teachers accompany children to their classrooms. All groups will meet until 11:15 a.m. this year to allow for an hour-long session. Parents of infants to 3rd graders are asked to pick up their children in the classrooms at 11:15 a.m.. Older kids will be dismissed to coffee hour.



Little RE

Teachers: Siobain Mitchell and Jason White

Teaching Assistants: Claire, Olivia, Nuffi, Robert and Hannah

The youngest children are warmly welcomed in our nursery/toddler classrooms on the lower level by parent teachers, our dedicated teen assistants, and Dawn Van Patten, our Assistant Director of RE. Parents are invited to bring their children to the classroom 15 minutes before the worship service begins (by 9:45 a.m.).

Spirit Play

Spirit Play is an engaging approach to religious education based on the Montessori method and UU Principles. Children are told a story and then encouraged to explore “wondering questions” through learning centers and art activities. These stories will draw from our Unitarian Universalist values, principles and history, as well as from science and world religions.

Kindergarten

Teachers: Leanne Baxter and Jeanne Williams

October 4: “The Torch and the Pitcher”

October 11: No Class – go to Little RE

October 18: “Promises”

October 25: “The Good Shepherd, The Lost Sheep”

Grade 1

Teachers: Vivienne Aldrich and Jen Izzo

October 4: “The Garden of Eden”

October 11: CHAPEL: *Build a Life-Sized Game* (1st-7th Grades)

October 18: “Complaint against the Stomach”

October 25: “Wise People and the Elephant”

Grades 2 and 3

Moral Tales

Grade 2 Class Teachers: Kimberly Brainerd and Caroline Minkin

Grade 3 Class Teachers: Kelly McIntosh and Valerie Vallancourt

October 4: My Acts of Goodness

October 11: CHAPEL: All Ages Build a Life-sized Game

October 18: Making Prayer Beads

October 25: Empathy

Our Grades 2 and 3 classes are both using the same resources, based on a UU curriculum called Moral Tales, which through story, activities and games provides children with the spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions based on Unitarian Universalist values.

During the first session, each class wrote a Covenant, or set of promises, for the group, made a web together, and learned about the 7th UU Principle: “*respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*” On September 27, the classes explored through a story and related activities how to hear and follow their inner voices, also known as a conscience.



In October, Grades 2 and 3 will begin a project called “Gems of Goodness.” The children will be asked to reflect on and share times when they did something good. Parents and guardians will also be encouraged to notice and affirm actions that are kind, helpful, honest, inclusive, responsible, or just plain good! This is a fun way to learn about and strengthen virtues.

Grades 4 and 5

Windows and Mirrors

Grade 4 Class Teachers: Ayres Stiles-Hall and Michelle Fortier

Grade 5 Class Teachers: Meghan Giannetto and Kristin Haddad

October 4: UU Community

October 11: CHAPEL: All Ages Build a Life-Sized Game

October 18: “We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike”

October 25: Making Puppets

Our Grade 4 and Grade 5 classes are both using the same resources, based on a UU curriculum called “Windows and Mirrors.” The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters.

As a way of exploring this idea further, the two classes will be using puppets for role-playing. We will be using the fabulous curtains in the Bulkeley Room so the two groups can put on puppet shows for each other. By enacting scenarios, the two groups will explore how it is possible for people to see and experience the world differently and treat one another with kindness and respect.

Grades 6 and 7

Neighboring Activists

Fall Teachers: Stuart Johnstone and Amy Rensko

Our Grades 6 and 7 are exploring how they can make a difference in our congregation, locally and globally. In October, they are preparing to participate in the CROP Walk for the Hungry. The 35th Annual Concord Mass. Area CROP Walk for the Hungry will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2015, at First Parish in Concord. To make a donation or participate, check out <http://www.concordcrop.org/cms/>.



Unitarian Universalist Religious Education

Grade 8 – Dramatic Arts

Announcing Katherine Akerley

We are pleased to announce that Katherine Akerley is the drama educator for our Grade 8. Katherine has a B.A. from Suffolk University in English and Theater and is a drama teacher on staff at Wheelock Family Theatre. She writes, “My classes combine all aspects of theater to give the students a sense of ownership and pride in their ability to create a show. I love teaching theater to students and helping to give them the stepping stones to succeed not only as an actor, but as a more aware member of what it means to be an ensemble in our community.” This promises to be a fun way for this group to get to know one another better, and we look forward to their show taking shape.

All Ages

Build a Life-Sized Game

Sunday, October 11

Led by Rev. Amy Freedman and Peter Bowden

On October 11, we're going to super-size our Sunday fun and build community among our 1st through 7th Graders! Working with Amy and Peter, we'll be making and playing a giant First Parish Concord board game. That's right, we're making a life-size game, complete with giant dice, special game spaces, fun question cards, and more.



Tuesday Group “Ingathering”

Tuesday, October 6, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Parish Hall and Parlor

Calling all parishioners 65 and older to our next meeting! Join us for the season opener of the Tuesday Group. The group sponsors social and educational programs on subjects relevant to our lives. This month, we'll share our experiences of the summer and discuss program ideas for 2016.

The Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. In November, a panel of First Parish members with varied expertise on environmental issues will lead a discussion of what we can do to make a difference in the environment of Concord and surrounding towns. In December, we'll celebrate the holidays by sharing favorite memories and treasures from our own lives. Please bring your ideas to the October meeting as we plan our activities for January and beyond!

Tuesday Group Steering Committee:

Berni Jenkins (contact person) Berni.jenkins@verizon.net, 978-369-2876; Bob Andrews, Mary Clarke, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Jack Nevison, Margie King Saphier and Virginia Taylor.

Movie – “Pay 2 Play: Democracy’s High Stakes”

Thursday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.

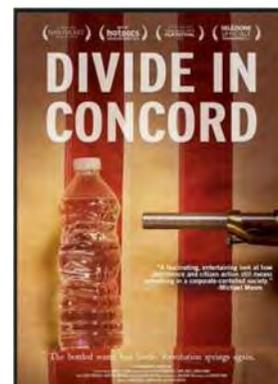


The Americans for Economic Fairness group was started here at First Parish to raise awareness and take action on the UUA study action issue Escalating Inequality. We, together with Denominational Affairs and the Social Action Community, invite you to a screening of the film “Pay 2 Play: Democracy’s High Stakes” about the corrosive effects of Big Money on our elections. This entertaining documentary follows political newcomers, uncovers intrigue and corruption, and suggests actions we can all take to address these issues. The film will be followed by homemade refreshments and a group discussion about the issues and actions we should consider taking as a group.

Movie – “Divide in Concord”

Friday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.

First Parish in Concord will host a showing of “Divide in Concord,” the feature documentary that follows the controversial Concord water bottle ban in 2012. The film tells the story of Concord resident and First Parish member Jean Hill as she takes on the third largest industry in the world. The film will start at 7:00 p.m., followed by a discussion. Suggested donation is \$10 per adult, \$5 per student and senior.



SAC Listening Sessions

Sunday, October 4, at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 8 (time TBD)

In case you missed the first few Social Action Committee (SAC) Listening Sessions in September, there is still time to participate! This year, the Standing Committee is working in collaboration with the SAC Council to launch a conversation about social action at First Parish. We will look back to social action initiatives that inspired us, and look forward to how we hope to make a positive difference in the world going forward. Listening sessions will be held on Sunday, October 4, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m.; and Thursday, October 8 (time TBD). Please plan to attend at least one session.

The Race Dance Project

First Parish Race Conversation

Friday, October 2, First Parish Cambridge, 7:00 to 9 p.m. to Saturday, October 3, UU Urban Ministry, 9:30 a.m. to Noon; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; dinner, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

As experienced in Virginia, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Atlanta, Louisville, and Oakland, join the First Parish Race Conversation with Soyinka Rahim and Cynthia Winton-Henry. Enter a space of hope, where understandings and misunderstandings about racism find expression in song, movement and personal storytelling. With the easy tools of InterPlay, we will explore questions of race, honor our experience, nourish the energy to act, and take home embodied ways to:



- Honor different energies and directions
- Open doors and widen circles
- Listen, witness, and affirm each other in the struggle to heal

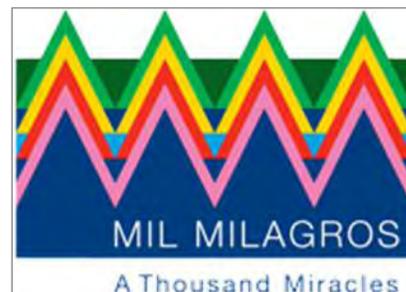
For ages 12 or older of all races, classes and abilities. For information, contact ccking.interplay@gmail.com . Cost: \$0 - \$150; offer what you can afford. Friday only: \$0-35. Saturday only: \$0-125; Saturday Caribbean dinner: \$12.

Mission of Mil Milagros

6th Annual Celebration and Fundraiser

Thursday, October 8, at 6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the work of Mil Milagros, a recent grantee of First Parish in Concord. The mission of Mil Milagros is to ensure that all children in Guatemala graduate from sixth grade healthy, literate, and prepared to continue their education. All proceeds from this event will support this mission. Suggested donation is \$250/person. The celebration will take place at Goulston & Storrs, 400 Atlantic Avenue, 1st Floor, Boston, MA 02110. RSVP to Renee Caraviello at 617-330-7382 or event@milmilagros.org. If you cannot make it, but would like to make a donation to Mil Milagros, go here: <http://milmilagros.org/donate-now/> .



WILD and Precious

Friday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m., Club Café

If you missed Steve Cadwell's performance of "WILD and Precious" last spring, you have another chance! Come see First Parish member Steve Cadwell recast the dramatic Arc of the Gay Civil Rights Movement and the Arc of our shared American culture: Double Rainbow! 100 percent goes to benefit the 'AIDS Harbor to the Bay' ride. \$20 per person, \$15 for student and senior. Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston. Tickets and information at <http://www.clubcafe.com/> .

Amnesty International Group 15

Tuesday, October 20, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Greeley Room

Amnesty International Group 15 will be gearing up for its advocacy and actions for the coming year at their September meeting. AI Group 15 will continue to focus on the death penalty, violence against women, and worldwide abuses against individuals. AI Group 15 meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Greeley Room. All are welcome to join us. If you'd like more information about Amnesty or Group 15, contact Kathy Taylor, the group's coordinator, at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.



Reverence for Life

Needs Your Signatures

Do you want to help farm animals by freeing them from extreme confinement cages? Come sign an Initiative Petition. Reverence for Life has a goal of collecting 1,000 signatures before November 16 for the Citizens for the Protection of Farm Animals. With enough signatures, they can put a measure on the statewide November 2016 ballot that would phase out battery cages, gestation crates, and veal crates in Massachusetts. It would also assure that if you purchase meat in Massachusetts, the animal you are eating has not been extremely confined. Petitions will be available every Sunday at coffee hour. For more information, contact Caitlin Selle at selle.caitlin5@gmail.com.



UU Urban Ministry

Volunteer Opportunities



The UU Urban Ministry is looking for Building Ambassadors. These days we are opening our doors more and more to a variety of community groups. Our Roxbury campus seems to always be bustling! We would love to have some volunteers here during the week to greet visitors and help orient them to the building when they are here for meetings or events. If you like meeting new people and have a few hours a week to volunteer, let us know! They are also looking for some volunteer help with data entry. To volunteer, contact Rev. Rebecca Hinds at: rhinds@uum.org or 617-318-6010, x/214.

The Arts at First Parish

Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month 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.



Saturday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.: Brazilian Jazz Night, sponsored by WPA

Wednesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.: Arts Council Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m.: Photo Club open to all First Parish adults

Friday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.: Rise Up Singing, First Parish's monthly song circle.

For more information on these events, check this *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. For more information, contact Susan Page, chair, at srpage10@verizon.net.

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble

Sunday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.



First Parish hosts the Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble for the first of four concerts this year. The first program, "Beethoven Up Close," includes Cello Sonata in A major, op. 69; a Violin Sonata (TBA); and Trio in C minor, op. 1, No. 3. Tickets are \$24 general admission, \$20 senior, and \$12 student, and are available online at www.sarasamusic.org. Come hear this delightful program of chamber music composed by Beethoven and played by these outstanding musicians. Visit www.firstparish.org/music/music-events for more information about the Sarasa 2015-2016 concert season at First Parish.

All-Parish Art Exhibit

The annual display of parishioners' drawings, paintings and prints will be mounted during the second week of November. The exhibit will run from November 10 until about December 15. Artwork may be delivered anytime during the first week of November and stored in Doug Baker's office. Each work should have a wire or hook installed so it can be hung.

Also, please provide on the back the

- name of the artist
- title of the work
- your phone number

This exhibit is open to high school through adult submissions, and is a noncompetitive and noncommercial exhibit for First Parish artists to share their works. For more information, contact Douglas Baker, dbaker@firstparish.org.

Douglas Baker, Sexton and Curator

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

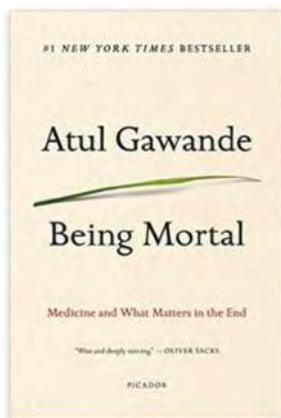
Friday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m.

The Jewish Awareness affinity group will offer a showing of "A Wing and a Prayer" at Peter Mitchell's home, 133 Heath's Bridge Road, Concord, on Friday evening, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. This documentary tells the virtually unknown story of World War II aviators who risked their lives



and freedom in 1948 to prevent a second Holocaust. Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at 978 760-1129 with any questions.

Women's AM/PM Book Group



Monday, October 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room
Tuesday, October 27, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

For October, the Women's Book Group will be reading *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande. The evening discussion will be Monday, October 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning discussion on Tuesday, October 27, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Both meet 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 of these 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 2015-2016

- Sept. 28/29 – *Delta Wedding*, Eudora Welty
- Oct. 26/27 – *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, Atul Gawande
- Dec. 7/8 (Nov & Dec) – *Poems, New and Collected*, Wislawa Szymborska
- Jan. 25/26 – *The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd
- Feb. 29/Mar 1 – *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*, Madeleine Albright
- Mar. 28/29 – *Me Before You*, Jojo Moyes
- April 25/26 – *Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard*, Laura Bates
- May 23/24 – *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel*, Anthony Doerr

Brazilian Jazz Cabaret

October 3, from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Come to a festive cabaret of Brazilian music on Saturday, October 3, from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., presented by the WPA. Food: Munchies, light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The Fernando Holz Quartet will charm you with sambas, bossa novas, Latin-inspired American pop, and Brazilian jazz. All First Parish folks and friends are invited. A great opportunity to treat yourselves and friends to a fun evening. Ticket charge: \$12.50 per person. Advance tickets are being sold at coffee hours and at the church office. This is sure to be sold out, so it's wise to get your tickets early. Tickets at the door, if available: \$15.00.



Holiday Artisans Fair

November 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We're getting ready for our annual Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held on Saturday, November 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Over 40 outstanding artists and artisans will be selling their latest handmade items, which include jewelry, household goods, table decorations, scarves, clothing, children's items, photography, paintings, wooden and glass table items, food gifts, ceramics, etc. Save the date and bring family members, friends and neighbors for a day of great browsing, shopping, and festive socializing at the café. Contact the church office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to volunteer your help at this fun community event.



WPA Boutique – Donations Requested

Saturday, November 7

The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on November 7, and is looking for donations of handmade items, as well as high-quality, like-new, regifting items such as jewelry, artwork, home decorating items, etc. Please contact Marilyn Lowitt at marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net or 978-793-0267 to arrange for collection of your donations or to offer your help in making catnip balls or other selected handcrafts.

Humanists

Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Mark Golden and his wife, Jill Charney, will describe their travels in the Middle East, illustrated by their video "Voices of the West Bank and Israel," a controversial topic that



many non-Jews have difficulty discussing with Jewish friends and neighbors. They hope this video stimulates discussion and motivates action for a peaceful and just resolution to this ongoing conflict.

Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Marie Manis will speak on "Compassion and Choices," when faced with death.

For more on these talks, please visit www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org and click on "Events."

Partner Congregation News



Our dear friend József Szabotfalvi, minister of our partner congregation in Székeleykeresztúr, Transylvania, has announced his upcoming retirement. His last sermon at his church was September 27, the Transylvanian Thanksgiving. There will be a retirement ceremony for him in early to late October. We will put together and send him a “memory book,” with pages created by members of our congregation who wish to participate. More information will be available in the *Sunday News* and via FPAnnounce. József and Anna will be moving to a house he has been building on their land in Keresztúr, and we wish them both much happiness in this next phase of their lives.

We are still looking for donors to sponsor scholarships for some incoming freshmen at the Unitarian High School in Keresztúr. Contact Bill Maxwell atwmaxwell5257@gmail.com or 978-369-5257, if you are interested.

CROP Walk

Sunday, October 25, Step-Off at 2:15 p.m.

The 35th Annual Concord CROP Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 25, starting at First Parish. Registration and music by the CCHS Pep Band begins at 1:30 p.m. Step-Off is at 2:15 p.m.

Funds raised go to support ten local hunger relief organizations, and the global disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development projects of Church World Service. Rev. Howard N. Dana will be walking with the First Parish team. Please plan to join or sponsor him.

See www.concordcrop.org for more details, and look for the CROP table at coffee hours. You may register to walk, or make a donation to sponsor a walker online through the CROP website (you can sponsor Howard at <http://tinyurl.com/qdsnbl>). This is a great social action activity for families to participate in together.



Photo Directory

Scheduling Your Photo Session

The 2016 First Parish Directory is in development. It won't be complete without your updated contact information and photo.



Register for your 30-minute photo session in one of these three ways:

1. Online at <http://tinyurl.com/FPphoto>
2. At coffee hour on Sunday
3. By calling the office at 978-369-9602; Cassy Bosworth will assist you.

Photos will be taken at First Parish. Choose a day and time:

- Thursday, October 22, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 23, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 12, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 13, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 18, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to get a free professional family or personal portrait. Additional photos can be purchased as well. Register today. Photos will be taken at First Parish.

Homecoming Picnic

We had a wonderful Homecoming Picnic. More than 100 people enjoyed abundant desserts, our fabulous jazz band, a family-friendly craft project, and most of all, visiting with each other. Thank you to all those who made the evening possible – hosting, sharing their music, providing all the desserts, and doing all the unseen tasks that make it work. And thank you to all who came – for it is always the people who make the party. The ritual of going away for the summer and then coming back together for Homecoming Picnic is as comforting as warm chocolate pudding!

– Tammie Foote and Kimberly Brainerd

Events-at-a-Glance

The following information was taken from the Church Calendar, available 24/7 on our website. The events listed reflect the timeframe of this Newsletter issue.

Every Week Events	Time	Event Name
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Buddhist Group
	4:30 p.m.	Junior Choir
	5:15 p.m.	Chalice Choir
	5:15 p.m.	Gospel Singers
	7:45 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Buddhist Group

October Unique Events	Time	Event Name
Thursday, October 1	7:30 p.m.	By Your Side Singers
	7:030 p.m.	Forum Committee Meeting
Saturday October 3	7:00 p.m.	Brazilian Jazz Cabaret
Sunday, October 4	11:30 a.m.	Sample Small Group Ministry Session
	11:30 a.m.	SAC Conversations
	6:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meeting
Monday October 5	7:00 p.m.	SAC Conversations
	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group
Tuesday, October 6	1:30 p.m.	First Tuesday Group
Wednesday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Concord Area Humanists
	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Leadership Meeting
Thursday, October 8	7:30 p.m.	"Pay 2 Play" Film
Saturday October 10	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club
Monday October 12	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group
Tuesday, October 13	9:30 a.m.	WPA Board Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Shawl Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Membership Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 15	1:00 p.m.	"Life" Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	By Your Side Singers
Friday, October 16	6:00 p.m.	"Divide in Concord" Showing
	7:00 p.m.	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sunday, October 18	11:30 a.m.	Sunday Forum is in the Sanctuary
Monday October 19	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group
	7:30 p.m.	Denominational Affairs Comm. Mtg.
Tuesday, October 20		Meeting House News, Deadline
	7:00 p.m.	Amnesty International Meeting
Thursday, October 22	1:00 p.m.	Photo Directory
Friday, October 23	1:00 p.m.	Photo Directory
	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing
Saturday October 24	10:00 a.m.	Photo Directory
	7:00 p.m.	Trivia Game Night
Sunday, October 25	11:30 a.m.	Sunday Forum is in the Sanctuary
	1:00 p.m.	Crop Walk
Monday October 26	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group
	7:30 p.m.	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, October 27	9:30 a.m.	Women's Book Group
	7:30 p.m.	Economic Fairness Meeting
Friday, October 30	7:00 p.m.	Bill Moomaw Speaking Event
Sunday, November 1	11:30 a.m.	Sunday Forum is in the Sanctuary
Monday November 2	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group

October Unique Events	Time	Event Name
Tuesday, November 3	1:30 p.m.	First Tuesday Group
Wednesday, November 4	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Concord Area Humanists
	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Leadership Meeting
Thursday, November 5	7:30 p.m.	By Your Side Singers
	7:30 p.m.	Forum Committee Meeting
Saturday, November 7	10:00 a.m.	Artisan Fair, 10:00am to 4:00pm
Sunday, November 8	6:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Sarasa Concert, begins at 7:00pm

Website Wonder

Five minutes a week, the teacher told me, “take five minutes a week to learn something new on your computer; and by the end of the year, you will be amazed at what you can do.” Really? Okay, what if I did that with the FP website? So, I poked around and look at what I found....

If you're active with the RE program you can sign up for the RE email list and get “important RE announcements, notices, and cancellations” to your Inbox (to cellphone). Follow the breadcrumbs: Home → Religious Education → Programs for Children



<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/religious-education/programs-for-children>

Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **deadline: October 20, 2015**

Next publication date: **November 3, 2015**

Please email newsletter submissions, with the word “newsletter” on the subject line, to Wendy Wolfberg at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. Guidelines and House Style information are available in the June 2015 MHN, which can be downloaded from the website. Please adhere to recommended word limits.

Several people make the newsletter happen, so please make note of the deadline, and if you can, be early. Thank you. Thank you.

First Parish Contacts

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

The building is closed Mondays. Meetings and events may be scheduled for Monday evenings.

Address: 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: FPCConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

Church Calendar:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/hours-directions-services/church-calendar>

Sign-Up for Emailed First Parish Announcements:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/e-mail-lists>

"Like" Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Parish-in-Concord-Unitarian-Universalist/343822177494>

Reserve a Room:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/reserve-a-room>

First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, is a welcoming congregation seeking ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

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FPC MHN September 2015*

Add us to your address book.

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!