

# Meeting House News

January 2016



Photo by Terri Ackerman

## Table of Contents

Worship This Month	3
Sunday Forums	4
MUUsings	4
Cross-Cultural Choir Celebration	5
REflections	6
RE and Family Events Upcoming	7
January—Building Community	7
February—Deepening Spiritually	7
Pastoral Care	7
First Parish Rides	8
Caring Connection Freezer	8
Mental Illness	8
Social Action Community	9
Amnesty International Group 15	10
Antiracism Conference	10
Benefit Concert Coffeehouse	10
Candlelighters Needed	10
Climate Justice	11
Chaperones Needed	11
“In Our Own Voice”	11
SAC Board Meeting	11
Social Justice	12
T-Shirt Design Brainstorming	12
UU Teens—Year of Learning	12
Waking Up White Reading Group	12
Standing Committee News	13
Black Lives Matter	13
Congregational Financial Discussions	13
Future of the Mass Bay District	13
We Want to Hear from You	13
Denominational Affairs Committee	14



Photo by Susan Page

Do you have pictures of First Parish you'd like to share? If so, please send a JPEG *as an attachment* to the Editor.

The Arts at First Parish	14
Purpose	14
Upcoming Events	14
Call for People with Special Skills	15
Women's Section	15
Women's AM/PM Book Group	15
First Parish Women's Retreats 2016	15
Reproductive Justice Group Retreat	16
Sex Trafficking	16
Movie—Growing Up Trans	17
Friday Night with Friends	17
Jewish Awareness Affinity Group	17
Mass Bay District Board	18
First Tuesday Group (65+)	18
Concord Area Humanists	18
Partner Congregation Committee	19
Transylvania Movie	19
New Minister for Partner Church	19
Next PCC Meeting	19
New Membership Committee	19
Sound Operator and Ushers Needed	20
Events-at-a-Glance	20
Website Wonder	20
Editor's Notes	21
First Parish Contacts	21
Hope Out Loud Flyer	22

*The Meeting House News deadlines and publication dates are listed at the end of this newsletter under [Editor's Notes](#). Thank you!*



If you are not signed up to receive the very helpful FP Announce emails, you can do so [here](#).

## 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, January 3 – “The Fireplace Line”**

Rev. Howard Dana

Pamela Schweppe, soprano

### **Sunday, January 10 – “The Radical Dr. Martin Luther King”**

Rev. Howard Dana

First Parish Choir

### **Sunday, January 17 – Intergenerational Worship; “Black Lives Matter”**

Rev. Amy Freedman

Combined Choirs of First Parish

### **Sunday, January 24 – “Speaking Justice in the Language of Our Faith”**

Rev. Kathleen McTigue

First Parish Choir

### **Sunday, January 31 – “What Happens When People Pray?”**

Rev. Howard Dana

Lincoln Ringers

### **Sunday, February 7 – “Got Wisdom?”**

Rev. Marion Visel

First Parish Choir



### **January 24 – Rev. Kathleen McTigue Preaching**

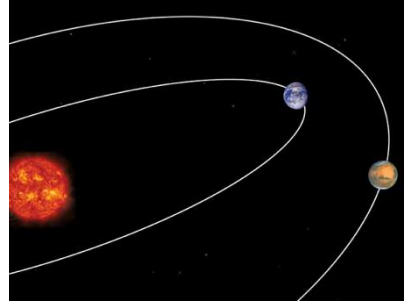
Be sure to join us in church on Sunday, January 24, when we welcome Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Director of the UU College of Social Justice. The UUCSJ's mission is to help UU's deepen and sustain the work of justice in their communities. One of the ways they execute this mission is through experiential learning trips. Rev. McTigue will help us explore the spiritual foundation of social justice work as we pursue the possibility of a congregational service learning trip to Haiti, Nicaragua, or the southwestern United States. Be sure to join us in worship on January 24.

## Sunday Forums

After Worship, at 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

### January 10—Dr. Mike Hecht on “*Paving Man's Path to Mars*”

Many obstacles remain, but work is progressing rapidly on new solutions and technologies. Dr. Hecht will bring us up-to-date and challenge our expectations. For more on Dr. Hecht, visit <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/hechtMichael.php>.



### January 17—Heather Wightman on “*Sex Trafficking – A Community Issue*”

This happens globally, to all ages and genders, violating basic human rights. Heather founded RIA House, Inc., which helps support people who have been sexually exploited. For more on Ms. Wightman, visit <http://www.riahouse.org/get-inspired.html>.

### January 24—Peter Lowitt on “*Green Sanctuary Recertification*”

Peter Lowitt from the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team will discuss the requirements and First Parish’s progress to date. Come share your thoughts on future First Parish environmental efforts. Visit <http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary>.

### January 31—NAMI on “*In Our Own Voice*”

This is a National Alliance on Mental Illness talk that helps change attitudes and stereotypes by describing the reality of living with mental illness. Visit <https://www.nami.org/Find-Support/NAMI-Programs/NAMI-In-Our-Own-Voice>. See more detail in the Pastoral Care section of the newsletter.

For more information, contact chair Pat Everett at [pne@ao.com](mailto:pne@ao.com) or 978-369-1589.

## MUUsings

It is a rare privilege to witness a miracle. OK, maybe “miracle” is too strong a word. But on a Thursday in mid-December, I witnessed a wondrous and profound transformation: Seeds of something new. Magic, if you will.

It was our monthly planning meeting for the April 10th *Hope Out Loud* event at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. For a number of years, members of our choirs and singers from other UU congregations have joined in this cross-cultural, interfaith music and arts celebration. This year, the event has gained exciting new momentum with leadership from artists and performing





groups in Boston. Sam Martinborough, founding director of *MssngLnks*, a program focused on helping urban youth-of-color get the support they need as they pursue vocal or musical training, will lead a community choir for the event (see article below for details). He will also work with participants in the Urban Ministry's Roxbury Youth Program (RYP) this winter, with the goal of including them in Hope Out Loud.

This particular Thursday night was Sam's introduction to a group of peer leaders from the RYP. The youth who came into the meeting were curious and *very* skeptical. They certainly weren't planning to *sing* anything. In less than 30 minutes, Sam captured their imaginations with a song, first inviting everyone into a dramatic reading of the lyrics, then playing a performance by a well-known gospel artist and sharing his inspired vision of an inclusive dramatization. "That touched my heart," sighed one youth, as Sam concluded. Another volunteered, "I could sing this part . . ." When the program leader came to announce that it was time to go home, they protested, "Not yet! Can't we stay?" I felt the same way!

Over the years, our engagement with the UU Urban Ministry through *Hope Out Loud* has offered opportunities and challenges—opportunities to build bridges between communities and widen our perspective—challenges to step out of our comfort zone, musically, spiritually, culturally and physically. Participants in last year's *Hope Out Loud* expressed a desire to build deeper relationship among our communities through making music together. I believe this year's *Hope Out Loud* event, the community chorus and Sam Martinborough's inspiring leadership, will help take us there. Be part of the miracle.

Blessings, Beth  
Beth Norton, Director of Music

### Cross-Cultural Choir Celebration

#### *Hope Out Loud* Community Choir Forming

**Sunday, April 10—Performance at 3:00 p.m. with 1:30 p.m. Call**



Sam Martinborough, Director of MssgLnks (MissingLinks) in Boston, will be forming a community choir that will sing as part of *Hope Out Loud* this year on April 10. Our UU regional churches are invited to participate. Mark your calendars with the dates below. Please be willing to commit to at least 2 of the 3 rehearsals—with March being a critical rehearsal.



All rehearsals will happen out of the UU Urban Ministry at 10 Putnam Street in Roxbury. A light supper will be provided from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal will begin at 7:00 p.m. and go no later than 8:30 p.m. We will be singing together in concert on April 10. More information to come, but for now, if interested, save these dates. Tell your singers.

#### **SAVE THE DATES** (*Flyer at end of newsletter*)

##### **All rehearsals: 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury**

- Tuesday, January 26 – rehearsal
- Tuesday, February 23 – rehearsal
- Tuesday, March 29 – rehearsal (critical)
- Sunday, April 10 – performance (3:00 p.m., with 1:30 p.m. call)

## REflections

January is a time when some of our most beloved programs begin: Our Whole Lives and Neighboring Faiths.

*Our Whole Lives* (OWL) will be offered to eighth graders here at First Parish beginning in January. The goals of the comprehensive sexuality program are to help young people learn about safe sexual relationships in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles, to help them make responsible decisions, and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others. This is part of a program developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. We have three excellent trained OWL facilitators: Sarah Travis Buck, Andrea Hubbard-Nelson and Peter Nobile.



Stay tuned for more information about “Little OWL” for first graders beginning in March. We are also considering offering OWL for 4 Grade, young adults, and adults next year. It is important for all ages to respect our bodies, make healthy choices, and foster caring relationships.

*Neighboring Faiths* begins this month for Grade Seven. At a time when there is so much divisiveness, it is important for our young people to learn about and experience different faith traditions. Jan Power leads Neighboring Faiths with John Bigay, Bridget Neale Paris, Anna Huckabee Tull, and Christina Economos as a dynamic teaching team. There will be field trips to houses of worship as well as sessions at First Parish in Concord.

The theme for January is “Building Community.” Thanks to all the people who donated socks, we will have a fun Sock Puppet workshop for all ages on Sunday, January 3. On Friday, January 8, we will have a Family Night in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite game to play.

In February, our theme is “Deepening Spiritually.” A series of workshops is now taking shape. If you are an artist, storyteller, yoga instructor or meditator; or if you simply enjoy being with children and youth, please let me know. There are volunteer opportunities for leaders and assistants. As always, I value getting to know you, your gifts, questions and crazy ideas. Contact me at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602.

In partnership,  
Amy  
Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education

## RE and Family Events Upcoming



### January—Building Community

- 3 Sunday Workshop (K-7) – Sock Puppets**
- 8 Friday Family Night**, at 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck and bring your favorite game
- 10 Sunday RE Classes Resume**
  - Little RE**, at 9:45 a.m.
  - Grades K-6** begin in worship
  - Grade 7**, Neighboring Faiths, extended Sunday from 9:00 to 11:15 a.m.  
Neighboring Faiths Parent Information session, at 11:15 a.m.
  - Grade 8, OWL**, at 4:00 p.m.
  - Youth Group**, at 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Intergenerational Service**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 22 Coming of Age Retreat**, Takodah (two nights)

### February—Deepening Spiritually

- 7 Sunday Workshop (K-7) – Peace**
- 14 Sunday Workshop (K-7) – Love**
- 21 Sunday Workshop (K-7) – Hope**
- 27 Teacher Orientation**
- 28 Coming of Age Service**

## Pastoral Care

***Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings.***

Minister for Pastoral Care, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5329



Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543



January Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Virginia Taylor

Email: [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net)

Phone: 978-263-9777

Cell: 978-727-3619

January Meals Delivery:

Marian Stanley

Email: [marian.stanley@gmail.com](mailto:marian.stanley@gmail.com)

Phone: 978-369-2008

Pat Kane

Email: [cstmcloth@yahoo.com](mailto:cstmcloth@yahoo.com)

Phone: 978-369-8418

## **First Parish Rides**

### **Transportation Help**

Do you need transportation help to come to First Parish on Sundays, especially during the winter? First Parish offers rides to Sunday worship and other parish events, in addition to rides for medical appointments, etc., on weekdays. With a few days notice, we can usually fulfill a local request for a ride.

Our drivers would love to help! To request a ride contact our Rides Coordinator, Suzanne Hogan at [suzanne.hogan@comcast.net](mailto:suzanne.hogan@comcast.net) or 978-318-9035, our Back-Up Rides Coordinator is Suzanne Knight, at [suzanneknight@comcast.net](mailto:suzanneknight@comcast.net) or 978/369-9636.

## **Caring Connection Freezer**

### **Reaching Out to One Another**

#### **Thank you**

Wonderful smells emanated from the First Parish kitchen on Friday, December 11. We are grateful for Vivienne Aldrich's efforts as the new cooking leader, who manages the preparation of food to restock the Caring Connection freezer. These meals are available for those in the congregation who are facing challenges or sadness.



Thank you to those who shopped: Susie Weaver, Joyce Biggs and Holli Jones-White. Thanks to those who cooked: Enid Boasberg, Carol Boris, Helene Clayton, Judy Dembsey, Suzanne Knight, Heather MacPhee, Donna Peterson, Carolyn Shoet (who provided baked goods and fruit to keep everyone energized), Lois Suarez (who worked so diligently washing all those pots, bowls and trays), and Dianne Wesselhoeft.

Also, thanks to those who helped with advertising: Cassie Bosworth for publicity in the *Sunday News*, Victor Curran for the First Parish Announce articles, and Judy Dembsey for the Caring Connection.

## **Mental Illness**

### **Sunday Forum—"In Our Own Voice"\***

January 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



### ***In Our Own Voice***

This National Alliance on Mental Illness talk changes attitudes, assumptions and stereotypes by describing the reality of living with mental illness. Two people with mental health conditions share their powerful personal stories.

Mental illness covers a wide range of conditions that affect mood, thinking and behavior. One out of 4 families has a relative who has a mental illness.

*In Our Own Voice* adds a critical perspective to the popular understanding of what people with mental illness are like. This is a first-hand account of what it is like to live



with a mental illness, demonstrating that it is possible—and common—to live well with mental illness. People with a mental illness can hope for a bright future.

The Social Action Community Committee and the Pastoral Care Council of First Parish co sponsor this important event to help us all address the stigma associated with mental illness, and to offer hope to those with mental illness and their families. Child care is provided 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

\*Additional **Sunday Forums** are listed earlier in this newsletter.

## **Social Action Community**

### **Faith Into Action**

Putting together the articles for this newsletter, I am blown away by the variety and depth of activities happening in the social action arena this month!

Following the Standing Committee's decision to hang a Black Lives Matter banner on the church, energy is picking up in our racial justice work. You can learn more about the future of our work at the Coffeehouse and Black Lives Matter Fundraiser on January 16.



We are imagining new ways to make our church a more sustainable community—for example, by reducing our waste on Sunday mornings by drinking coffee and tea from compostable cups. And we are exploring the possibility of engaging in climate justice and direct-action by learning from our siblings at First Parish in Bedford.

In November, the Social Action Community Board created a survey, which was completed by over 80 members of the congregation. In that survey, we saw that the interests of this congregation are wide. And yet, we saw that this congregation is, at its core, committed to doing social justice work. This is the work of our faith, after all.

I know better than anyone that the breadth of our social action programs can be overwhelming. And yet, I have seen that First Parish in Concord is a place where anyone can explore their social action interests. If you have an interest, but are not sure how to plug in, contact me. If someone is working on one of our interests, I will connect you with them. If no one is working on this issue that gets you fired up, I will brainstorm who might have a similar interest. More than anything else, I want every member of First Parish to be able to put their faith into action. I am here to help you do just that.

I hope to hear from you in person, at [BLowe@firstparish.org](mailto:BLowe@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602.

In faith,  
Bethany Russell-Lowe  
Social Action Director and Youth Program Director

## Amnesty International Group 15

**Tuesday, January 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Greeley Room**



Inspired by attending a day-long session featuring Sister Helen Prejean ("Dead Man Walking") and the experience of a member who has corresponded with a death-row inmate for over a decade, we will work on a strategy to expand anti-death penalty actions in 2016. Following the good news that our prisoners of conscience have been released from prison for medical reasons, we will continue to focus on their plight and prison reform.

Group 15 meets monthly on the third Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Contact Kathy Taylor at [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com) or 781-718-7640.

## Antiracism Conference

**Saturday, January 23, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Please join the UU Urban Ministry for an Antiracism Summit on Saturday, January 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The day will start with a panel discussion featuring leaders in the fight for Racial Equality in Boston. Then we will spend time in small groups world café style discussing how people are currently standing with, and supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, working toward antiracism and anti-white supremacy. We hope folks will get to know one another, learn something, and share best practices. More information at [http://www.uuum.org/?page\\_id=3404](http://www.uuum.org/?page_id=3404).

## Benefit Concert Coffeehouse

**Saturday, January 16, at 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

Brought to you by the Diversity Committee, this is a First Parish Coffeehouse with talented performers, the singer/songwriters and First Parish members Anna Huckabee Tull and Eric Kilburn. They will sing mostly original songs of struggle, loss, growth, freedom and celebration. This will be a benefit for the Cambridge chapter of Black Lives Matter, to help fund their organizing and outreach efforts.



A donation of \$20 is suggested. Wine and beer will be for sale, and other beverages and snacks are available. Please come—your presence makes it special!

## Candlelighters Needed



The worship team is looking for volunteers to light the SAC candles this church year. For more information, contact Bethany Russell-Lowe at [Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602.

## Climate Justice

**Wednesday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m.**

This month, the Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) will be inviting Evan Seitz, a climate organizer from First Parish in Bedford, and other members of that congregation to its ELT meeting on Wednesday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m. ELT members will be discussing the possibility of partnering with First Parish in Bedford to engage in climate justice work. If you are interested in attending this meeting and learning about what First Parish in Bedford is doing, contact Peter Lowitt at [peter.lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:peter.lowitt@verizon.net) or 978-264-0284.

## Chaperones Needed

**February Break Trip to Washington, D.C.**



The Youth Group is looking for youth and adult chaperones for a Youth Service Trip. Over February break, members of our Youth Group will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to do service work to address issues related to homelessness and food insecurity. Like last year, we will be working with the Youth Service Opportunity Project. The cost of the trip will be \$850 per youth. Merit-based scholarships of up to 50 percent of the cost of the trip are available. Adult chaperones will be asked to supply half the youth cost, if they are able. Contact Bethany Russell-Lowe by January 8 if you are interested in going on the trip as a youth or chaperone.



## "In Our Own Voice"

**Sunday Forum on January 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

The Social Action Community Board and the Pastoral Care Council cosponsor this event to help us address the stigma associated with mental illness and offer hope to those with mental illness and their families. Child care is provided. See additional details in the Pastoral Care section of this newsletter.



*In Our Own Voice*

## SAC Board Meeting

**Tuesday, December 12, at 4:30 p.m., in the Brooks Room**

The Social Action Community Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. All meetings are open to the congregation. Come listen and learn about upcoming social action activities and what the SAC Board is working on this year.

## Social Justice

### Rev. Kathleen McTigue Preaching on January 24

Be sure to join us in church on Sunday, January 24, when we welcome Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Director of the UU College of Social Justice. The UUCSJ's mission is to help UU's deepen and sustain the work of justice in their communities. One of the ways they execute this mission is through experiential learning trips. Rev. McTigue will help us explore the spiritual foundation of social justice work as we pursue the possibility of a congregational service learning trip to Haiti, Nicaragua, or the southwestern United States. Be sure to join us in worship on January 24.



## T-Shirt Design Brainstorming

**Sunday, January 24, at 11:30 a.m.**

It's been a while since we've had church T-shirts. And, because we are ramping up to do more out in the world together, the Social Action Community Board thinks we need T-shirts to show the world that we are showing up! The SAC Board has asked Merrill Comeau to lead a T-shirt design session on Sunday, January 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. People of all ages, all experiences with art, and all abilities are welcome. All you need to bring is your ideas for what would best represent our church community. We'll order pizza for those who attend. Please RSVP to Bethany Russell-Lowe at [Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, or Wendy Holt at [wendyholt48@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyholt48@yahoo.com) or 978-369-9558.

## UU Teens—Year of Learning

**Wednesdays: December 9, January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.; Dinner Included**

The UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is calling all Unitarian Universalist teens to join with the youth in the Roxbury Youth Program for “Environmental Justice in the City,” a year of learning, sharing, and justice making as we explore the intersections of environmental and racial injustice. This is facilitated by Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), a Roxbury-based nonprofit.



## Waking Up White Reading Group

**Starting in January**

This fall, a small group of members concerned with racial justice issues has been reading Debby Irving's *Waking Up White*. Starting in January, they will be inviting members of the congregation to participate in small group discussions of this book. We will read a few chapters a month and come together to discuss what we read. The discussion will focus on exploring our own racial identities and what we learn from Debby Irving's experience. If you are interested, contact Bethany Russell-Lowe at [Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602.

## Standing Committee News

January 10, at 6:00 p.m.

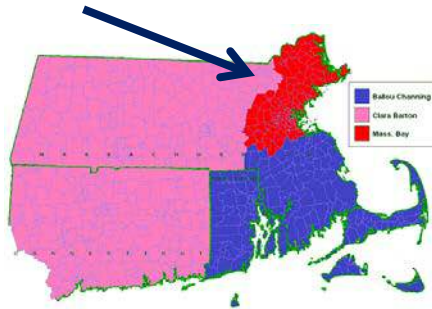
### Black Lives Matter

At its December 13, 2015 meeting, after a busy month of congregational conversations about race, the Standing Committee authorized Rev. Howard Dana and Social Action Director Bethany Russell-Lowe to hang a “Black Lives Matter” banner on the First Parish Church building along with a second action statement “Join the Conversation.”

Displayed as a statement of support for the Black Lives Matter movement’s efforts to end systemic racial discrimination and violence, this action is in keeping with the seven principles and beliefs that First Parish in Concord, as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), affirms and promotes.

### Congregational Financial Discussions

The Standing Committee received from the First Parish Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Standing Committee, its report on financial spending priorities. The information presented in the report will be incorporated into the Standing Committee’s budget priority discussions at our January 10 meeting. Thank you to the members of the Finance Committee for their invaluable work and to all who attended the Finance Committee’s congregational discussions.



### Future of the Mass Bay District

The Standing Committee heard from Massachusetts Bay District board member David Ropeik about the efforts underway at the district level to redefine the purpose of the district, of which First Parish is a part. (See David’s article in this newsletter.) Since the UUA moved to a regional organizational structure, the districts are no longer neatly aligned with UUA resources.

The district board is considering a number of activities in which it could be involved—for example, working to facilitate communications between member congregations. One of the actions under consideration is the dissolution of the district. If you have questions or ideas you would like to share, or for additional information, please contact David Ropeik at [dpr@dropeik.com](mailto:dpr@dropeik.com) or 978-369-0007.

### We Want to Hear from You

Standing Committee members are always eager to talk with First Parish members and friends about issues of interest and concern. To talk about your First Parish experiences, please reach out to any of us at coffee hour, at an event or by phone or email. 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, meeting schedule and governance policies:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/standing-committee>

Happy holidays to all!

Mark Russell Prior, chair, First Parish Standing Committee

[mark.russell.prior@comcast.net](mailto:mark.russell.prior@comcast.net) or 978-369-4901



## Denominational Affairs Committee

**Tuesday, January 19, at 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room**



We UUs have our own beliefs and specific words describing experience or exploring important questions. Still, we are all interconnected by the principles we cherish. The Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) helps us keep abreast of all levels of the denomination and facilitates paths to strengthen our First Parish voice.

In this newsletter, see David Ropeik's article that seeks input on the denomination's structural changes and Fred Van Deusen's sub-committee addresses *Escalating Inequality*, a focus selected by the UUA 2014 General Assembly.

This June in Columbus, OH, the General Assembly (GA), "*Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*," invites your attendance or on-line participation <http://www.uua.org/ga>.



Join us January 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room for the DAC meeting or contact Paula Vandever at [vandeverP@aol.com](mailto:vandeverP@aol.com) or 978-369-9268.

## 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](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

### Purpose

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 chair, Susan Page, at [srpage10@verizon.net](mailto:srpage10@verizon.net) or 978-264-4271.

## Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	January 6	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	January 9	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club
Saturday	January 9	7:00 p.m.	Film: " <i>Beneath the Surface</i> "
Saturday	January 16	7:30 p.m.	SAC Coffeehouse – Anna Huckabee Tull and Eric Kilburn
Friday	January 22	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing
Sunday	January 24	7:00 p.m.	Sarasa Chamber Music Concert " <i>Theme and Variations</i> "

In addition to contacting chair, Susan Page, information on these events may be found in this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and the *Sunday News*.

## Call for People with Special Skills New Arts Events Resource List

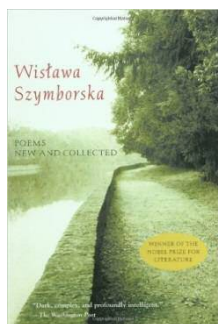


The number of arts events at First Parish is growing. To help people coordinate their event, we are compiling a Resource List of people with special skills who might be able to assist with planning music events, plays, art exhibits, poetry readings, and more. If you have a skill such as producing, directing, writing (press releases, articles), photography, designing brochures or posters, and would like to help support arts events at First Parish, please contact Susan Page at [srpage13@gmail.com](mailto:srpage13@gmail.com) or 978-264-4271, or Beth Norton at [bnorton@firstparish.org](mailto:bnorton@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602. We will add your name to the list and be happy to answer your questions. Thank you for supporting the arts at First Parish!

## Women's Section

It has been suggested that we bring back the Women's Section that was part of the newsletter in prior years. Below are submissions related to women's issues.

### Women's AM/PM Book Group



**Monday, January 25, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Brooks Room**  
**Tuesday, January 26, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; Brooks Room**

The first book of the New Year for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion.

If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

### Books and Dates for 2016

- January 25/26 – *The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd
- February 29/March 1 – *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*, Madeleine Albright
- March 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

### First Parish Women's Retreats 2016

*"She Changes Everything She Touches and Everything She Touches Changes"*

- ♥ **1st Weekend Away:** Friday evening, January 22, through Sunday afternoon, January 24, at Senexet House, Connecticut



- ♥ **2nd Weekend Away:** Friday evening, January 29, through Sunday afternoon, January 31, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **"At Home" Retreat:** Friday evening, February 26, and morning through afternoon, Saturday, February 27, at First Parish

This year's retreats will focus on "*She changes everything she touches . . .*" as we share our time together. Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, get to know each other, and explore what these words mean to us and how we manifest and incorporate change into our lives. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome! The registration deadline is January 6. Late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Registration forms are available in the church office and at [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms). Questions? Contact Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com) or 978-371-1060.

### **Reproductive Justice Group Retreat**

**Saturday, January 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Are you interested in women's issues? The Reproductive Justice Group at First Parish is hosting a retreat and you are invited—whether you've been involved in, or are looking for a cause. We will meet on Saturday, January 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., to build community and goals around Reproductive Justice and discuss topics such as "What issues are important to us?" 'How would we like to raise issues of inequality and injustice to women?' All are welcome. RSVP or questions, please contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net) or 978-254-5433.

### **Sex Trafficking**

*A Community Issue Deserves a Community Response*

**January 17, at 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary**



Reproductive Justice is sponsoring a forum presented by Ready.Inspire.Act (RIA) House on sex trafficking. It is a violation of basic human rights affecting all ages and genders. It happens globally, as well as here in Massachusetts. RIA House is a local nonprofit, which helps support people who have experienced the commercial sex industry and/or sexual exploitation. Come learn more about this complex public health issue, the important work of RIA House, and what we can do.

Speaker Heather Wightman, MSW, MPH is founder and Executive Director of RIA House, Inc. She has 15+ years of experience working with violence prevention programs: <http://www.riahouse.org/>.



## Movie—Growing Up Trans

Diversity Committee

Tuesday, February 23, from 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

The evening of Tuesday, February 23, from 6:45 to 9:00 p.m., the Diversity Committee will show the PBS Frontline documentary *Growing up Trans*, followed by a discussion with some special guests. Refreshments are served at 6:45 p.m., and the film will start at 7:00 p.m. Please mark the date on your calendar to join us. Look for more details in the February *Meeting House News*.



## Friday Night with Friends

Customized Candle Decorating

Friday, February 5, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Reserve a Spot by February 2

Join other First Parish folks on for a light supper, socializing and learning to make something special! We will learn the easy and fun craft of customized candle decorating, which will enable us to add delightful lights to long winter nights. No prior experience is necessary. Hands-on advice and all necessary supplies will be available, and you can bring your creations home. Cost: \$12. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [Pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:Pekindc@comcast.net) or 978-263-0426 by February 2. All are welcome!



## Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Influence of Yiddish Theater on American Stage with Lillian Anderson

Friday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m.



Join us at First Parish for the Jewish Awareness affinity group on Friday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. Our main topic is the influence of the Yiddish theater on the American stage. The crossover of actors, directors, themes, musical styles and audiences to Broadway was a deep influence on American theater. Lillian Anderson, this month's discussion leader, will cover relevant points as we engage in our usual discursive, respectful, funny conversation.

After blessings over wine, bread and candles, we share snacks and learn about the Yiddish Theater movement in Manhattan. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at [danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org) or 978 760-1129.



## Mass Bay District Board

### Input Sought Regarding Future

First Parish is one of 55 UU congregations in the Mass Bay District, that encompasses the greater Boston area. The district no longer plays a governance role, and the board is trying to decide whether to dissolve or find ways to serve that the UUA Northeast Region, which serves all of New England, can't. We're seeking suggestions.

With endowments generating \$80,000 annually, might we create new district-level programs or activities, or support existing ones? Or should the district just dissolve, and transfer the endowments to the UUA for prescribed uses?

Discuss your ideas with David Ropeik, a member of the District Board:  
[davidropeik@gmail.com](mailto:davidropeik@gmail.com) or 978-369-0007. In-person preferred.

## First Tuesday Group (65+)

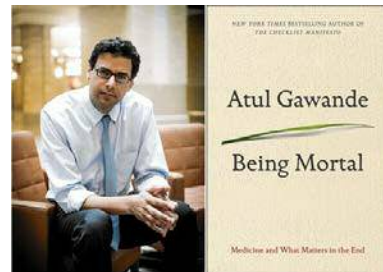
**January 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

To kick off the New Year, we will discuss how we acquired the wisdom we live by and what has helped us navigate challenging times. We'll also consider how to communicate what we have learned about life to loved ones, especially the next generation. You are welcome to bring a poem, prayer, saying or short reading that has made a difference in your life.

### Coming February 2: Book Discussion

#### ***Being Mortal*, by Atul Gawande**

If you'd like to read this groundbreaking book before the discussion, it might be a good idea to get a head start!



## Concord Area Humanists

**Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

**Wednesday, February 3, Stephanie Keep speaks on evolution misconceptions**

On January 6, Maria Greene will speak on "Lifelong Learning for Free Using the Internet." Maria is Development Director at National UU Humanists. Our meetings bring in outside speakers to share interesting Humanistic topics. We socialize and enjoy refreshments, and continue with the presentation followed by vigorous discussion. Refreshments follow, with socializing until 9:00 p.m., when all are invited to our open Steering Committee meeting.



For more on this talk and for our Wednesday, February 3, talk by Stephanie Keep, "Evolution Misconceptions That Keep the Waters Muddied." For more on these talks, visit [www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org](http://www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org) and click on "Events" or contact Pat Everett, [pne@ao.com](mailto:pne@ao.com) or 978-369-1589.



## Partner Congregation Committee

### Transylvania Movie

#### *Beneath the Surface*

Saturday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Next PCC meeting:

Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m.

The award-winning, full-length documentary "*Beneath the Surface*" is the moving story of the 1989 flooding of our partner minister József Szombatfalvi's home village by the communists, and how the remaining former inhabitants, now sprawled across different countries and social classes, meet annually by the side of the lake in an attempt to pass on their special values to the younger generations. Please join us for desserts, popcorn, the movie and a discussion period. For a synopsis, visit <http://www.flandersimage.com/browse-titles/detail/beneath-the-surface>; and for a trailer, visit <https://vimeo.com/105786921>.



### New Minister for Partner Church

Our partner congregation in Szekéleykeresztúr is in the search process for their new minister and should know soon who that will be. We'll share that news as soon as the decision is made.

### Next PCC Meeting

Please join us for our next PCC meeting on Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. at First Parish. We will meet over a simple potluck supper, so please bring something to share. All interested in helping maintain and strengthen our partnership with the congregation in Keresztúr or in learning more about it are invited to attend.

## New Membership Committee

### Can You Help Us?

A new membership committee has formed, dedicated to making progress on three things this year that are especially important as people find and join a large church such as ours. We've already seen some new ideas taking hold.

1. We provide a welcoming experience for new people on Sunday mornings. Contact Karen Sullivan ([consul.3@verizon.net](mailto:consul.3@verizon.net)).
2. We offer a clear way to sign the book and join the church. Contact Kristin Haddad ([Kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:Kristin.haddad@gmail.com)).
3. We track and follow up with new members after they join. Contact Kate Svrcek ([katesvrcek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrcek@hotmail.com)).

Are you interested in one of these areas of membership? Join us! Contact Suzanne Lowe: ([Suzanne.campbell.lowe@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanne.campbell.lowe@gmail.com)) or 978-287-4444.

## Sound Operator and Ushers Needed

### Third Sunday of the Month



Want to make sure Howard's sermons can be heard around the world? Then volunteer to be the sound engineer for the third Sunday service each month. Easy-peasy training provided. And if you're friendly and helpful, we want you as an usher on the third Sunday of each month. Become part of one of the vital church teams serving your fellow parishioners.

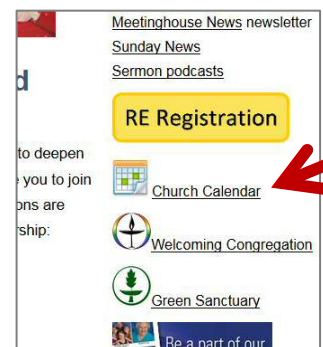
To get started, drop a line to volunteer head usher Maile Hulihan at [mailehulihan@earthlink.net](mailto:mailehulihan@earthlink.net) or 781-443-7020.

## Events-at-a-Glance

Please note, that we have discontinued the additional listing of what is on the First Parish website available to you anytime.

To access the online calendar,

1. Go to the First Parish homepage, <http://www.firstparish.org>
2. Click on the Church Calendar link on the far right.
3. Bookmark the calendar page, if you'd like.



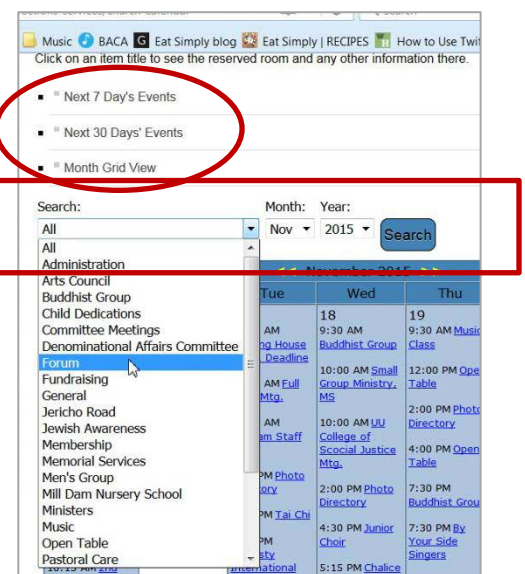
## Website Wonder

Are you familiar with "filtering"? It's a really helpful way to look at only what you want to see, of filtering the unwanted content out, similar to a search. You can filter in multiple ways when viewing the church calendar online.

You can filter events in these ways:

- Next 7 days or next 30 days
- Event category (see drop down list in screen capture and scroll list for more options)
- Month and/or Year (click downward triangle)

Try using filters to view the online church calendar and more easily find what you want to see. It takes only five minutes a week to develop your skills.



## Editor's Notes

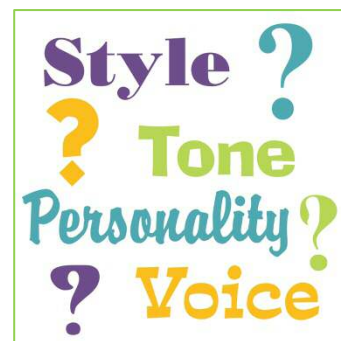
**Please mark your calendars.**

Next *Meeting House News* deadline: **Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

Next publication date: **Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

Any late or incomplete entries or last minute changes create a lot of emails and handoff difficulties. It's so very helpful to everyone involved in producing the *MHN* when your submission is *thorough, accurate, and on time*. We love you for that and thank you!

If you are listing a meeting, please include the day of the week, date, time, and location/room. Please include the contact person, their email and phone. You are encouraged to attach a JPEG picture or image to give a little "zing" to your submission. Word limit is 100. We know it's hard, but you can do it!



Please email newsletter submissions to Wendy Wolfberg at [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu).

## 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](mailto:FPCConcord@firstparish.org); Website: [www.firstparish.org](http://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 (FAP):

<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  
Copyright © 2016 First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist,  
All rights reserved. FPC MHN January 2016*

*Add us to your address book.*

# Hope Out Loud Community Choir Forming



UU Urban Ministry  
10 Putnam Street  
Roxbury, MA 02119

[www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)

*“Uniting Communities,  
Transforming Lives”*

A community choir is forming as part of the UU Urban Ministry’s annual Hope Out Loud concert on April 10, 2016. Sam Martinborough, director of MssngLnks in Boston, will be conducting.

Roxbury residents, Roxbury Community College singers, and our UU regional congregations are invited to participate in this cross-cultural celebration. Mark your calendars with the dates below. Please be willing to commit to at least 2 of the 3 rehearsals — with March being a critical rehearsal.

A light supper will be provided from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Rehearsal will begin at 7:00 pm and go no later than 8:30 pm. More info to come.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

### **Hope Out Loud Community Choir**

Tuesday, January 26: rehearsal

Tuesday, February 23: rehearsal

Tuesday, March 29: rehearsal

Sunday, April 10: Hope Out Loud (3:00 pm performance with 1:30 pm call)

Stay tuned for more details!

All rehearsals occur at the Urban Ministry ♦ 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA 02119

For more info, contact Rev. Rebecca Hinds at [rhinds@uum.org](mailto:rhinds@uum.org) ♦ 617-318-6010 x 214  
or Elizabeth Norton at [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org) ♦ 978-369-9602 x420

Directions at [www.uuum.org/directions](http://www.uuum.org/directions)