

# *What's Happening at First Parish?*

# **MEETING HOUSE NEWS**

## **FEBRUARY 2017**



*"Herb Garden in Winter." Painting by Douglas Baker. Can you find the [armillary sundial](#)? The hanging birdfeeder?*

**See the [UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience](#) as presented by Rev. Visel during the January 22 service on [page 22](#).**

**[Women's March Extra](#), page 23.**

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*"Morning Snow, Blanchard's Meadow." Painting by Douglas Baker. Please visit the Chapel lobby to view this calming and stunning work. Larger image at end of newsletter.*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The mystery artist of the lovely drawing from January's newsletter, page one, was done by our own Richard Keleher. Look for his beautiful work around the church.

**Snow Emergencies** – See Fifi's column under "[Operations](#)" for details.

***Meeting House News March***

**Deadline: February 14**

**Publication: February 22**

**Committees** – Please plan ahead. See [Editor's Notes](#) for details. Thank you.

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## Sundays at First Parish

All Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

### Worship-at-a-Glance

#### **Sunday, February 5 – “The Face of Poverty in Concord”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
Children and Gospel Choirs

#### **Sunday, February 12 – “Memento Mori”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
First Parish Choir; Kenneth Griffith, Sabbatical Choir Director

#### **Sunday, February 19 – “Unexpected Joy”**

Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern  
First Parish Choir; Kenneth Griffith, Sabbatical Choir Director

#### **Sunday, February 26 – “Seeing It as Sin”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

#### **Sunday, March 5 – “Celebration Sunday”**

Rev. Howard N. Dana  
Combined Choirs



### First Parish Café

The First Parish Café opens on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Come to the Parish Hall and enjoy the fellowship and light fare before the service.

### Sunday Forums

**After worship, promptly at 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

#### **February 5 – “Faith, Trembling, and Reimagining Justice”**

Speaker: Kaia Stern of Concord Prison Outreach

After sharing some thoughts on faith and trembling, this forum will focus on reimagining justice. Drawing on 23 years of work in and about prisons across our nation, Kaia Stern will invite us to consider how specific religious and racial ideologies—notions of sin, evil, and otherness—continue to shape our relationship with crime and punishment. In conversation, we will explore a cultural hunger to punish and



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a vision of justice that inspires and transforms. It is time to challenge the current narrative about justice in the United States and help create a more equitable and effective justice system.

### **February 12 – “Legacy Giving – Come Learn More”**

Speaker: Tom Wilson



Brought to you by the First Parish Legacy Committee, we are restarting the First Parish Legacy Giving program. What are the different types of legacy gifts? Why is this important? Come hear about why and how this program works.

### **February 19 - No Forum**



### **February 26 – “Restorative Justice”**

Speakers: Margot Fleischman, Di Clymer, John Cratsley

Three members of the Board of Directors of Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) will discuss the work of this local non-profit partnership of community members and police departments involving victims and offenders in the wake of crime. C4RJ provides a circle process run by volunteer facilitators, by which victims are heard and understood, offenders take responsibility for harm, and family and community members offer support—all in an effort to

prevent the matter from ever being presented in court.

### **March 5 – “The Future of Nuclear Energy”**

Speaker: Prof. Anne White of MIT



Is nuclear fusion a solution to our energy needs? Is there an environmentally sound way to tap an enormous source of power? What are the recent advances that may make it feasible?

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

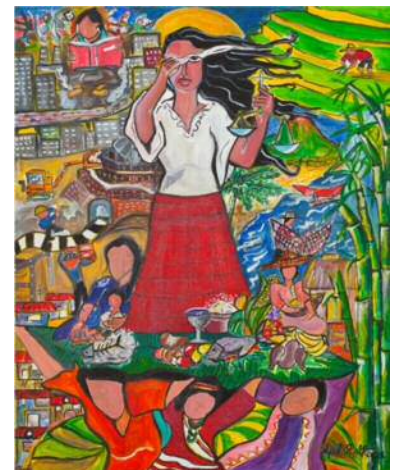
## **World Day of Prayer Service**

**Service: Friday, March 3, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary**

**Luncheon: 12:00 p.m., Parish Hall and Parlor**

First Parish will be hosting Concord's commemoration of the 2017 World Day of Prayer. Women of the Philippines wrote this year's prayer service, which reminds people of social and economic justice needs in their country and elsewhere. Since the early 1800's, women all over the world have held the World Day of Prayer Service on the first Friday in March. Continuing this annual

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event will be hundreds of thousands of women in over 170 countries, engaging in informed prayers and prayerful actions to diminish injustices suffered by women and children around the world. Join Concord's commemoration for an inspiring experience.

### *Can You Help?*

If anyone has decorations, artwork, jewelry, travel posters, cookbooks, clothing, etc., from the Philippines that could be used for this service and luncheon, please contact Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net). Reservations are not needed and there is no charge for the lunch.

## MUUsings

A little reminder that Beth is on a three-month sabbatical, from January 1 to March 31. To read more, please see her column in the [January Meeting House News](#).



## Adult Education

### Men's Spirituality Retreat

#### **"Purpose and Usefulness"**

**Saturday, March 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at First Parish**

**Limit: 45—Sign up through the church office.**

All men of First Parish in Concord are invited to participate in a men's spirituality retreat with Rev. Howard N. Dana and Jeff Canon. Together we will explore the theme of "Purpose and Usefulness" through worship, journaling, small groups, and spiritual practices. The purpose of the retreat is to bring a greater awareness of our own spiritual lives and spiritual practices.

## Religious Education (RE) News

"How does it feel to stand with someone else?" This was the question that C.C. King asked us after leading a room full of children, youth, and adults in a movement exploration during our multiage workshop on Sunday, January 15.

We discovered that it feels good to stand with another person side-by-side. Our strength and courage grow as more people stand together. This idea of joining together is what inspired the Civil Rights movement, and now the Women's March on Washington and our local Boston Women's March for America.



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Those in the fifth grade and older helped to make bright yellow scarves for the marchers. The fleece scarves not only will help keep people warm but connect them with the “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign of our wider Unitarian Universalist Association. (Also, they help you find each other in the crowd.) The rest of the children set to work creating signs proclaiming our Unitarian Universalist values: “All People Are Created Equal,” “Celebrate Diversity,” “Love Will Guide Us.”



I am honored to be standing with these young people who bring such love, understanding, and hope for the future.

Blessed Be, Amy  
Rev. Amy Freedman  
Minister of Religious Education  
[afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)



## First Parish Parent Circle

**“Sandwich Generation: Caring for Aging Parents and Children”**

**Sunday, February 5, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Brooks Room**

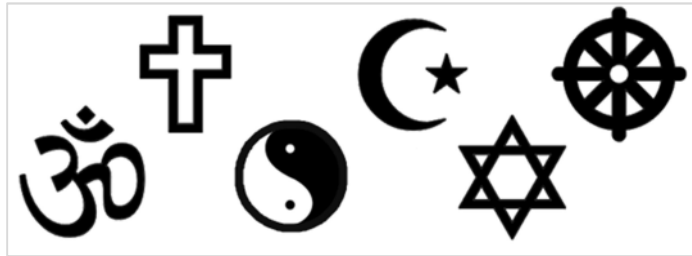


Parent Circles are an opportunity for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. This session will be offered by Rev. Marion Visel, our Minister for Pastoral Care, and Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, with resources for those caring for children and aging parents. This program is free but preregistration is required. Child care will be available upon request. For planning, let us know the names and ages of children needing child care. Please register today by emailing Amy:  
[afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org)

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## Religious Education

### World Religions, Winter Term



Date	Theme	Description
Sunday, February 5 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Shintoism	Sunday Morning Religious Education
Sunday, February 12 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Buddhism	Sunday Morning Religious Education
Sunday, February 19 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	T.B.A.	Multiage Workshop
Sunday, February 26 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Discover “Grub’s Place”*	Multiage Workshop

\*Our own First Parish in Concord musical production

## Ministerial Intern

### “Reflections on the Halfway Mark”

It is a beautiful winter evening as I write this, and I have just returned home from cross-country skiing through Sleepy Hollow cemetery. The snow is falling like glitter, and the streetlights and Christmas lights and house lights glow and sparkle. Main Street is deserted and quiet; everything is coated in white fluff and dazzling magic.

My internship here at First Parish has just passed the halfway mark, and it has been pretty magical too. Being here in this historically significant place, in this notable church, working with such engaged staff and congregants, has been a great privilege.

After five months here, I have begun to know many of you through committees and small group ministry and your willingness to reach out to me. I love having conversations and tea, so please let me know if you would like to meet and share some of our stories. My email is [jhutslar@firstparish.org](mailto:jhutslar@firstparish.org).

This spring I am offering a program called “[What Moves Us](#)” ([you can read about it on the UUA website](#); check out the introduction, which is a cross between UU history, theology, and spiritual inquiry. It will be three Monday evenings in March and April, beginning March 6. I hope you’ll consider coming.

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Thank you so much for welcoming me,  
Jan Hutslar  
Ministerial Intern



## Youth News

### Calling All High School Youth!

#### Spread the News—Awesome Activities Coming

Are you the parent or friend of a high-school-aged youth? Guess what—teenagers tend not to read church newsletters, so I am asking for your help. Please tell every high school youth you know that some awesome activities are in the planning pipeline for this spring and beyond.



Any youth, whether they've been involved lately or not, whether they grew up in First Parish in Concord or not, is welcome to join us. Plus, any youth who wants to help plan or just wants to put in his or her two cents on which event(s) we do first should get in touch with Christa.

Christa Champion  
Youth Programs Director  
Coming of Age Program and Senior High Youth Group  
[cchampion@firstparish.org](mailto:cchampion@firstparish.org) or text 440-935-9955

## 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



**February Pastoral Care Lay Minister**, Virginia Taylor

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

Phone: 978-727-3619

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## Decision Making for End of Life

### Preparing for End of Life Decision Making

Sunday, February 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room

An overview focuses on the Conversation Project Starter Kit, which emphasizes having a conversation about values—what matters to you, not what's the matter with you. Copies of the kit will be provided to help you think and talk about your wishes. We'll also explore how best to talk with family members about their wishes. This is not about forms – though the paperwork is important – it's about talking about what you and they want for end-of-life care based on values. No need to sign up; just show up. Facilitator: Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care.

## Small Group Ministry

### Starting Soon

#### *"Topics of Meaning in Everyday Life"*

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Six Sessions: 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19

In-depth explorations of our experiences and beliefs that underlie topics of meaning in everyday life. Facilitators: Marian Stanley and Francie Nolde.

#### *"Be the Change"*

Sundays, March to June, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Four Sessions: 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4

We will gather to share our experiences and explore how to "be the change" in the world. This group will follow sessions developed by Rev. Stephen Schick and use materials from his book [Be the Change](#), along with readings and materials from other sources. Facilitators: Roselyn Romberg and Chuck McDonald

#### *Limits and Sign-Up*

Groups are limited to 10 participants, so it is recommended you sign up early. Sign up on the clipboard in the front office or contact Rev. Marion Visel, [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239. Please provide your name, phone number, and email address.



## Rides and Drivers



#### *New Rides Coordinator*

One of the important services that Pastoral Care provides is rides. Suzanne Hogan, who was our Rides Coordinator for many years, stepped down from this position November 15. We sincerely thank her for her service! Pat Brinkman is our new Rides Coordinator.

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### *Drivers Needed*

We find that we need more drivers who can be contacted when someone needs a ride to an appointment or to a First Parish service or event. Rides are arranged for by an email being sent to a group of members who have volunteered to be contacted as potential Ride Providers. If there is a match, the Rides Coordinator connects the Ride Provider with the Ride Requestor.



### *Contact Rides Coordinator*

If you need a ride or are interested in volunteering, please contact the Rides Coordinator, Pat Brinkman, at [pabrinkman@comcast.net](mailto:pabrinkman@comcast.net) or 781-259-9639.

### *Holiday Plant Delivery*

#### **Thank You**

After Christmas, the 24 poinsettia that decorated the Sanctuary during the holidays were delivered to those on the Pastoral Care List. Caitlin Selle has been Pastoral Care's dedicated holiday plant organizer and deliverer for a number of years. Assisting her were Caitlin's son, who delivered the flowers to Carleton-Willard; Lou Fackert, who took plants to Newbury Court; and Caitlin, who delivered the remaining poinsettias. The Pastoral Care Council thanks all of you for continuing this tradition.



### *Women's Marches and Scarves*

The Women's Empowerment Group and friends prepped for the women's marches in Washington and Boston with scarf and sign-making sessions. The bright yellow scarves will keep the marchers warm and also make it a little easier to find each other in the crowds. (See [Page 23](#) for additional pictures.)



On January 21, over 270 simultaneous women's marches occurred across America and the world. These peaceful, nonpartisan marches sent the message to the world that we stand for human dignity, equal rights, and freedom from discrimination. The marches

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united communities and empowered grassroots change, inspiring action! The marches amplified diverse voices in solidarity of human rights, especially those marginalized among us.

After the marches, the scarves were donated to Rosie's Place, a Boston women's shelter.

## Denominational Affairs Committee

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 13, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room**

The agenda for this meeting will include preparation for the New England Regional Assembly in April and the General Assembly (New Orleans!) in June. Please join us as we plan for these two exciting gatherings and develop a leadership plan for the committee.



For additional information, please contact Alice Van Deusen, [alicevandeusen@gmail.com](mailto:alicevandeusen@gmail.com) (much preferred) or 978-369-0435.

## Operations

### Christmas Eve Services

Congratulations on a lovely, well-received and appreciated Christmas Eve 2016!

#### Attendance Numbers

Service	2016 Total	2015 Total
3:00 p.m.	72	209
5:00 p.m.	560	520
7:00 p.m.	233	191
9:00 p.m.	425	426
Attendance Total	1,290	1,346
Collection Total	\$8,608	\$8,678

#### Collections

Special thanks to Alice and Fred Van Deusen, Bill Taylor, and Jack Nevison for helping Peg Gallo count over \$7,100 in cash.

#### Donation Recipients

Christmas Eve donations were divided 50/50 and sent to

- ♥ Partner Congregation in Transylvania (\$4,304)
- ♥ UU Urban Ministry / Renewal House in Roxbury (\$4,304)



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## Snow Emergencies

### When does First Parish close, cancel events or delay them?

When the Town of Concord closes schools or Town buildings, First Parish will be closed. First Parish also responds when the National Weather Service issues a local blizzard or major storm warning, including poor travel conditions or requests that people refrain from travel.

### Where to Find Information

When a decision is made to cancel or delay the opening of First Parish, details will be promptly announced via:

- FP Announce
- RE Announce
- First Parish website, <http://firstparish.org/wp/>
- First Parish telephone greeting, 978-369-9602
- Boston TV channels
  - WCVB Channel 5
  - 7NEWS/NBC
  - WBZ-TV News Channel 4 and WBZ NewsRadio 1030

Please look to one of the above sources for details on any First Parish weather-related cancellation or delay.

Fifi Ball

Director of Operations

[fball@firstparish.org](mailto:fball@firstparish.org), or the church office, 978-369-9602, x456



## Standing Committee News

**Next Meeting: Sunday, February 11, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room**

On Sunday, January 8, the Standing Committee held its monthly meeting. We reviewed proposed policies for a Legacy Giving program and a charter for a governance subcommittee. Next month, we plan to discuss long-range plans for staff compensation and review our goals and self-evaluation procedures. We welcome anyone interested to attend our next meeting.

### Governance Charter

The intention behind creating a governance committee is to have a small group of Standing Committee members to support the chair in the establishment and maintenance of a schedule of duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, as well as play an active role in the regular review of church policies. The vote on whether to approve the proposed charter is scheduled for February.

### Legacy Giving Program

Treasurer Tom Wilson outlined proposed plans and policies for a First Parish Legacy Giving Program. Its goal is to provide lasting support to our parish by growing the Legacy

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Investment Fund managed by the Trustees. The details for this program will be presented at a Forum on Sunday, February 12, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Thank you to the Legacy Giving Development Committee for creating this framework. Committee members include Tom Wilson, Philip vanderWilden, Laura Bernstein, Fred Van Deusen, Patty Popov, and Lindsay Kafka.

### **We Want to Hear from You!**

Standing Committee members are always eager to talk with First Parishioners. Please



reach out to any of us at coffee hour, at an event, by phone or by e-mail to discuss your First Parish experiences. You can find the contact information for each Standing Committee member along with meeting agendas, governing policies, meeting minutes, and reports at <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/committees/standing-committee/>.

Best Regards,  
Kristin Coffman Haddad  
Chair, Standing Committee  
[kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.haddad@gmail.com) or 978-254-5012

## **Finance Committee**

### **“Legacy Giving Program”**

**Sunday Forum, February 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary**



The Trustees of Parish Donations and the Finance Committee have developed a new program called Legacy Giving to encourage and recognize bequests and planned gifts to First Parish. Most people who make a legacy gift are not independently wealthy, but are simply members who want to make a commitment to the future of First Parish.

At the Forum you will learn about the variety of legacy gift approaches that are available, and how making a legacy gift will help both you and First Parish. For more information, email Tom Wilson at [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com).

## **Arts at First Parish**

### **Fostering Community through the Arts**

Each month the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events for 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).

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## 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.



## Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Wednesday	February 1	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council meeting (all welcome)
Friday	February 3	7:00 p.m.	Beatles Party with the FP Feb 8 - Listen, Sing along, Dance!
Saturday	February 11	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club Open to all First Parish adults
Saturday	February 18	7:00 p.m.	The Women's Parish Association presents "The Fashions of Downton Abbey"
Friday	February 24	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (Monthly Song Circle)

For more information on these events, check this *Meeting House News*, FP Announce, and *The Sunday News*. For additional information, contact Rob Hamilton at [robh@netchromatics.com](mailto:robh@netchromatics.com).

## Cosy Sheridan Concert Follow-Up

by Susan Page



The concert on Saturday, January 14, with Cosy Sheridan and Charlie Koch was a big hit. Cosy told stories, including descriptions of the myths that some of her songs are based on. She entertained and delighted us like the pro that she is. You can find Cosy's music and concert schedule at <http://cosysheridan.com/>. We plan to have her back again next year.

## Social Action Community

Faith into Action

### SAC Board Update

Please check out upcoming social action related events on the SAC Calendar Web page: <http://firstparish.org/wp/justice/social-action/social-action-calendar/>.

### SAC Staffing

The position of Social Action Coordinator is currently being advertised via the UUA and the job posting websites *Idealist* and *Indeed*. The screening committee urges parishioners to



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forward the job description to anyone who might be interested in the position and who meets the qualifications as described on our website, <http://firstparish.org/wp/category/open-positions/>. Potential candidates may contact Eric Moore at [eric\\_a\\_moore@yahoo.com](mailto:eric_a_moore@yahoo.com).

### *Considering a Community Organizer*

The SAC Board and Rev. Howard N. Dana are also looking at the viability of supporting a part-time Community Organizer. This person would work to link us to the wider UU community and other social justice organizations in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our activism. Stay tuned!

### *SAC Grants*

Applications for this year's SAC Grants will be reviewed in early February and announced by the end of March. Many thanks to the parishioners who stepped up to help by reading and rating the applications.

### *Social Justice Funding*

A work group is being assembled to look at First Parish's social action giving. We've collected information about the ways other churches have funded their social justice initiatives. Should we stay with our current system or pilot a new model? If you're interested in serving on a committee to explore this issue, please contact Wendy Holt at [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com).

### *Social Action Community Board*

Working with and for you to advance social justice, your Social Action Community Board:

Ted Bayne, [tedbayne@comcast.net](mailto:tedbayne@comcast.net)  
Bob Brack, [brackrobert@gmail.com](mailto:brackrobert@gmail.com)  
Leslie Fisher, [lesliefisher@treitman.com](mailto:lesliefisher@treitman.com)  
Tricia Haut, [triciahaut@gmail.com](mailto:triciahaut@gmail.com)  
Wendy Holt, [wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com)  
Janine Olson, [janine.olson@morganstanley.com](mailto:janine.olson@morganstanley.com)  
Tony Rodriguez, [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com)  
Sue St. Croix, [sue@suestcroix.com](mailto:sue@suestcroix.com)  
Margie King Saphier, [margie.king.saphier@gmail.com](mailto:margie.king.saphier@gmail.com)

## **Amnesty International, Group 15**

**Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

In addition to writing letters supporting individuals who have been punished for peaceful human rights activities, we'll have updates on efforts to bring about prison reform, death penalty abolition, and the prevention of violence against women. We'll focus on strategies to free two young Azerbaijanian student activists, Giyas Ibrahimov and Bayram Mammadov, arrested in May on trumped-up charges of heroin possession.



All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com) or 781-718-7640.

## Diversity Documentary

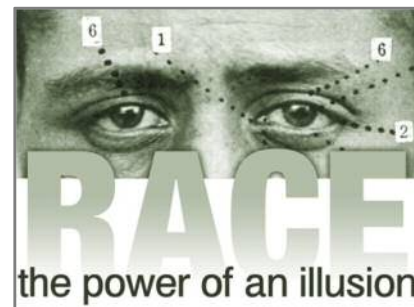
### Race: the Power of an Illusion

#### PBS Documentary

**Sunday, February 12, Part Two, 7:15 – 8:45 p.m., Parish Hall**

**Sunday, February 26, Part Three, 7:15 – 8:45 p.m., Parish Hall**

We continue with parts two and three of this three-part PBS documentary (part one was shown in January). A short discussion will follow each showing. This series examines the science that challenges our assumptions about race, the history of how artificial racial distinctions were adopted, and the ways that politics, economics, and culture define “race.” We’ll gather for socializing and refreshments at 7:15 p.m. and start each screening at 7:30 p.m., promptly.



No admission charge. For more information, contact Sara Ballard at 978-371-0723 or [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org) (email preferred).

## Funderburg Scholars

### Fundraising Dinner

**Saturday, February 4, 6:30 p.m., Parlor and Parish Hall**

Please join us for the Funderburg Scholars fundraising dinner to help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college, while you enjoy a delicious meal with great company! These engaging students will tell stories about their college experiences.

Join us for wine and cheese in the Parlor at 6:30 p.m. with dinner by Caroline McCloy at 7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There is no fixed price for dinner; donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your place by contacting Loretta Ho Sherblom at 508-935-6750 (cell) or [Loretta@LHSBenefits.com](mailto:Loretta@LHSBenefits.com).



## Native Americans Discussion

### Reflections, Past and Present

**Sunday, February 5, 11:30 a.m., in the Loft**



Come gather with us to discuss how First Parish might create events concerning Native American issues. The recent happenings at Standing Rock are an impetus for this discussion. Contact Dana Snyder-Grant, [danasq@newview.org](mailto:danasq@newview.org), 978-266-9409; or Francie Nolde, [francie12637@gmail.com](mailto:francie12637@gmail.com), 978-929-2556.



## Partner Congregation News

### Discussion and Dessert

**“Transylvania Happenings: Reflections from Kolozsvár”**

**Tuesday, February 7, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall**



We are pleased to welcome Rev. Júlia Jobbágy, Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár, who will give us, through words and images, her perspectives on the Unitarian community in Transylvania. She will visit us during her break from studies at Meadville-Lombard seminary in Chicago. Júlia has been a frequent guide and translator for U.S. partner congregation pilgrimages in Transylvania and a leader of their youth organization, organizing and leading youth events and summer camps.

For more information, contact Lillian Anderson, [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net). No sign up necessary.

## Women's News

### Advocates for Women's Empowerment

**Next Meeting: Saturday, February 18, 8:00 a.m., Serendipity Cafe in Maynard**

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment ("AWE," formerly Reproductive Justice) has the following AWE-some events lined up for 2017.

#### *LunaFest Short Films*

**Saturday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.**

This film festival is a fundraiser by, for, and about women to benefit the Breast Cancer Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Women's Rights. The evening will include a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle. Purchase tickets (\$15) online (<http://www.lunafest.org/concord0304>) or at the door.



#### *RE/AWE Collection Drive*

**Toiletry and Feminine Hygiene Items**

**Starting March 1**

Bring full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) to LunaFest or leave items in the marked box in the coatroom. Donations benefit Rosie's Place and the Period Project.

*Continued next page.*



### ***Women's March Participants*** **Thank You**

Thank you to the marchers, scarf cutters, poster makers, and pink hat knitters who supported the marches for women's rights and social justice on January 21 in Boston and Washington, D.C. Also, thanks to marchers who chose to donate their yellow scarves to Rosie's Place. See page 23 for more pictures.

### ***AWE Mailing List***

To join the AWE mailing list, contact Lora Venesy, [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

### ***Mom's Night Out***

***Ladies Night at the Theater, followed by 'Ask the Artists'***  
Thursday, February 23, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell

**Reception at 6:00 p.m., Performance at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Registration and payment due February 1.**

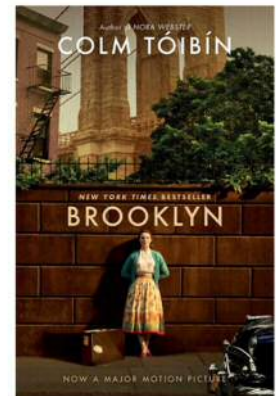


Join to see the comedy *Women in Jeopardy!* The complimentary dessert and wine reception begins at 6:00 p.m.; then enjoy the 7:30 p.m. performance and stay for 'Ask the Artists' after the show. All are welcome. To read more about the play, visit <http://www.mrt.org/show/women-jeopardy>.

### ***Women's AM/PM Book Group***

**Monday, February 27, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Brooks Room**

The Women's Book Group selection for February is *Brooklyn*, by Colm Tóibín. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion—there's no need to sign up! 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).



### **Dates and Books for 2017**

Date	Book	Author
Feb. 27/28	<i>Brooklyn</i>	Colm Tóibín
March 27/28	<i>Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family</i>	Amy Ellis Nut
April 25 (a.m.) May 1 (p.m.)	<i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i> NOTE: The evening discussion is on a later date due to Concord Town Meeting on April 24.	Karen Joy Fowler
May 22/23	<i>Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own</i>	Kate Bolick

## Women's Parish Association

### *Fashions of Downton Abbey*

**Saturday, February 18, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**  
**RSVP by February 15**

Don't miss the WPA's fascinating program by fashion historian Karen Antonowicz, who will illustrate major changes in the lives and fashions of the residents of Downton Abbey



throughout its intriguing history. Feel free to dress in period costumes.

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by dessert and beverages. Charge is \$8.

For reservations, sign up by February 15 at coffee hour, or contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net). All are warmly welcome. Invite family members and friends for a fun night out!

## Women's Retreats 2017

### *Late Registration Available*

Registrations for all three retreats are being accepted *while there is still space*. To register or if you have questions, please contact Darien Smith directly at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471. Forms are available at <http://firstparish.org/forms>.

### *Retreats*

Once again this year, three retreats are being offered:

- ♥ **1st Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, January 27-29, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **2nd Weekend Away:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, February 3-5, at Senexet House, Connecticut
- ♥ **"At Home" Retreat:** Friday evening, February 10, and Saturday morning through afternoon on February 11, at First Parish



This year's retreats will focus on **"To Thine Own Self Be True: Knowing Your Authentic Self."** Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, get to know each other, and explore what it means to know and express our core beings. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome!

## Other Cool Stuff

### First Tuesday Group (65+)

**“Conscious Aging: An Introductory Workshop “**  
**February 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., in the Parlor**

Annie Gray will lead a workshop with discussion and exercises on living consciously, embracing the journey of aging and exploring the potential of life's advanced years. The workshop will explore the important themes that emerge as we age. Gray has led a highly acclaimed, eight-session version of this workshop through Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education. Come participate in a stimulating mix of discussion and exercises that explore the potential of life's later chapters! For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net) or 978-263-9777.

### Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

**Friday, February 17, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room**

Lillian Anderson and Marcia Marlow will lead a discussion about the life and work of Primo Levi, Holocaust survivor and author. Each month, this affinity group gathers to share some bread, wine, and conversation. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com) or 978-760-1129.



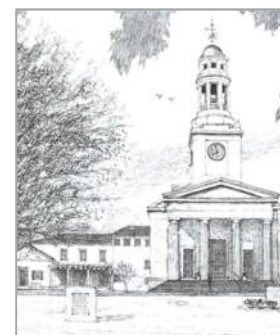
## Editor's Notes

Next *Meeting House News*: **Deadline: February 14, 2017**

Next Publication Date: **February 22, 2017**

### *Drawing in January MHN*

The mystery artist of the lovely drawing from January's newsletter, page one, was done by our own Richard Keleher. Look for his beautiful work around the church.



### *Quilt in January MHN*



I've received inquiries about the beautiful quilt in the January *MHN* on pages 6 and 22. Rev. Amy Freedman pointed us to the Web page below. The quilt was created by 40 members, adults and youth, of the UU Church of Greeley, Colorado over a period of four years in the mid-1970's, under the leadership of renowned artist Judy Meyers. To learn more, visit <http://www.greeleyuuc.org/uucg-and-the-arts.html>.

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### *Submissions and Guidelines*

Please review the Editor's Notes in the January 2017 *MHN*. Detailed guidelines for submitting to *The Sunday News*, FP Announce weekly email, and/or the monthly *Meeting House News* can be downloaded from the website: <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/news-submission-guidelines/>.

MEETING HOUSE NEWS DEADLINES		
Month	Deadline (Tuesday)	Publication (Wednesday)
March	Noon, February 14, 2017	February 22, 2017
April	Noon, March 14, 2017	March 22, 2017
May	Noon, April 18, 2017	April 26, 2017
June*	Noon, May 16, 2017	May 24, 2017
September	Noon, August 15, 2017	August 23, 2017

\*Include information for June, July, August, and the first week of September.

## FP General Information

### *Office Hours*

#### **September 6 through June**

Regular office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The office is closed on Mondays.

### *Contact Us*

**Address:** 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

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

**Email:** [Contact@firstparish.org](mailto:Contact@firstparish.org); **Website:** [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org)

**Church Calendar:** <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/calendar/>

**FP Announce:** Sign up for announcements by email, <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/>

#### **FP Facebook:**

"Like" our Facebook page:

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

**Reserve a Room:** <http://firstparish.org/wp/connection/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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*Add us to your address book*

***Love, Light, and Community at First Parish***  
***Happy February!***





*"Morning Snow, Blanchard's Meadow." Painting by Douglas Baker.  
Come spend some time with this beautiful painting in the foyer outside the Chapel.*

## Declaration of Conscience

### UUA/UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the UU Service Committee (UUSC) have prepared a **Declaration of Conscience**, stating in the strongest possible terms our commitment in these troubling times. By signing the declaration, individuals and congregations will be affirming our core values and declaring our willingness to put them into action.

There are copies of the Declaration at First Parish on the table outside the front office for those who don't use computers. Otherwise, please visit the [UUA Web page](#), review it, and sign it, if you choose.

(Editor's Note: On the Web page, the link to sign the declaration may be a little unclear. Click on any ["Declaration of Conscience"](#) link to sign.)





## EXTRA – Women’s March

### Special Follow-Up and Pictures Including Concord Participants

Thank you from Advocates for Women’s Empowerment (“AWE,” formerly Reproductive Justice) to everyone for making the Women’s March a huge success! We are grateful for everyone who knitted, sewed, made signs, drove marchers, marched, or supported marchers.

Weather was perfect in D.C. and Boston, filling the streets with over a million people at over 600 marches for Women around the world. More than 200 people from Concord joined marches in both cities in a powerful historic display of solidarity. Please contact Lora Venesy, at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net) to build on energy generated on January 21!



Concord Group to Boston; Great looking scarves!!



Concord's Young Women March in Boston



Washington March

*Continued next page.*





First Parish Bus to D.C. – Happy Hearts!!



Waiting for the Concord Train

To see more pictures, visit the [First Parish page on Facebook](#), where all available pictures have been posted.

Be sure to read about the [UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience](#) and sign it, if you choose.