



What's Happening at First Parish?

MEETING HOUSE NEWS

MARCH 2017



*Subtle colors and lovely reflections in the Concord River
by Don Cohen, First Parish Photography Club.*

Remember, the Table of Contents and underlined links throughout the newsletter are live. Depending on your PDF reader or browser setup, you can click on the links and connect through to the website or location within the newsletter. Enjoy!

Meeting House News, April

Deadline: March 14

Publication: March 22

Committees

Please plan ahead.

See [Editor's Notes](#) for details.

Thank you.

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From our amazing [Floral Committee](#), an early peek at a little April color to inspire and bring you joy.



From a prior year, moss, forsythia, and a rotting log from Ellen Whitney's backyard, paired with pansies from Millbrook and daffodils from Crosby's, created an Earth Day arrangement that reflects the stirring ground of late April in Concord—to inspire you in March.

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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, March 5 – “The Fire of Our Commitment” – Celebration Sunday

Rev. Howard N. Dana

Combined First Parish Choirs

Sunday, March 12 – Coming of Age Sunday

Christa Champion, Youth Programs Coordinator

Gospel Singers and Youth Musicians

Sunday, March 19 – “Why We Keep Checking our Phones”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir; Kenneth Griffith, Sabbatical Choir Director

Sunday, March 26 – “The Larger Thought of God”

Rev. Howard N. Dana

Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, April 2 – “The Divine Trickster”

Rev. Marion Visel

Music TBD



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.



Red Mugs at Coffee Hour



Until recently, new attendees or new members were encouraged to pick up a red mug when heading for coffee hour in the hopes that seasoned parishioners would notice the red mug and engage, welcoming them. The Membership Committee thought it helpful to reverse the process. The goal is to invite interactions among our congregational community. Now, the person holding a red mug, eager and willing to engage in conversation, answer questions, or provide information will, most likely but not always, be a member of the Membership Committee.

It was felt that often a new person may have been a bit uncomfortable taking the first step, resulting in a missed opportunity to connect with others in the congregation. We hope this new approach will promote and encourage many new conversations and relationships among our growing congregation. If you see a “lost” look at coffee hour, do introduce

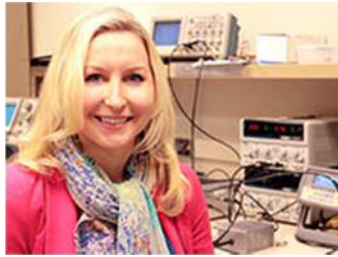
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yourself and feel free to escort a new person to a committee member—the one now holding a red mug.

Karen Sullivan
Membership Committee

Sunday Forums

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



March 5 – “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?

March 12 – No Forum. “Coming of Age” Sunday.

March 19 – “Humanity’s Future” – In memory of Vivian Walworth

Speaker: Alan Walworth, Vivian’s son

In his novel, *Argon Desaki’s Report from Earth* (available for purchase), Alan offers a fresh look at our world from the perspective of an outer-space visitor. Is humanity progressing toward heaven or hell? Given that humanity’s future is so important, why has it been so neglected? What are the greatest challenges facing humanity today?



March 26 – LGBT Asylum Task Force

Speaker: Stephanie O’Donnell



Listen to stories of asylum seekers who had to flee for their lives from their countries because of sexual orientation/ gender identity. This task force strives to find resources for these seekers. It also aims to educate the public to change policy around the globe so that someday no LGBT person will need to seek asylum to be safe. See website the <http://lgbtasylum.org/>.

April 2 – The Invisible Crisis – Forced Migration

Speaker: Patricia Montes, Executive Director of Centro Presente

Meet one of the women who fled to the United States with her children. Watch a short documentary of women migrants fleeing violence, abuses, and social instability. They come to the United States to survive and to save



Continued next page.

their children. Yet, upon arrival, they again see their human rights abused by a system that fails to recognize their plight and humanity. Until now their stories have been invisible. Join the conversation. Google "Centro Presente" for more

Enjoy these Forums and join our Forum Committee to help keep them coming. For more information, contact chair, Pat Everett, at pne@aol.com or 978-369-1589.

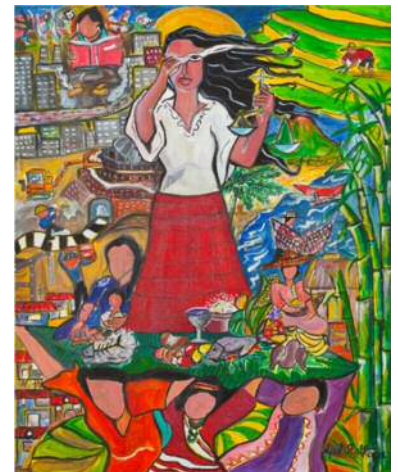
World Day of Prayer Service

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

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

First Parish will host Concord's 2017 World Day of Prayer Service. Women of the Philippines wrote this year's prayer service, which reminds people of social and economic justice needs in their country and elsewhere. Continuing this annual event that has taken place since the 1800's will be Concord's faith communities and hundreds of thousands of women in over 170 countries, engaged in informed prayers and prayerful actions to diminish injustices suffered by women and children around the world.

The intergenerational dance group *Skyloom* will add interesting thematic sacred dance elements to the service. A festive lunch celebrating the people and food of the Philippines will follow the service. There is no charge and reservations are not required.



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.



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 Clanon. 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.

"What Moves Us"

Mondays: March 6, 20, and April 3, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Session Focus

- March 6, Sophia Lyon Fahs
- March 20, Hosea Ballou
- April 3, Thandeka



Join an adult education class that combines theology, history, and personal reflection.

Explore what moves you. Transformation

through direct personal experience is a major source of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith; yet we often stumble when trying to explain our UU theology to ourselves and to others. The "What Moves Us" program creates an adult faith journey for UU's who want to explore what they have already experienced but have not been able to articulate – the spiritual power of our faith. Participants will explore their own theology.



Ministerial Intern, Jan Hutslar, will facilitate three sessions of this *UU Curriculum for Adults*. Each session will focus on a UU forbear, naming the change of heart that moved them to new theological understanding in their liberal religious faith. All are welcome!

For more information, visit "What Moves Us" on the UUA website, <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/movesus>, or contact Jan

Hutslar, jhutslar@firstparish.org.



April History Hikes

With Rev. Howard N. Dana

A series of April walks in and around historic Unitarian and Universalist sites. No sign-up needed. Suitable for adults and children. Participants must be able to walk at a reasonable pace for 1 to 2 miles on flat ground. For each outing, we will carpool from First Parish in Concord at 9:30 a.m. All hikes will end by 2:00 p.m. for our return to Concord. If you wish to meet us at the hike, you are welcome to do so. All are welcome.

Fruitlands

Saturday, April 1

Travel to the 19th Century Unitarian utopian community just west of Concord. \$5 entrance fee required.

Boston Common

Saturday, April 8

Walk to historically significant places near Boston Common, visiting churches and statues. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery

Saturday, April 15

Visit the graves of many famous Unitarians and Universalists in this lovely Cambridge cemetery. Free.

Concord Center

Saturday, April 29

A short walking tour of Concord Center will end with a visit to the Concord Museum. \$10 entrance fee required.

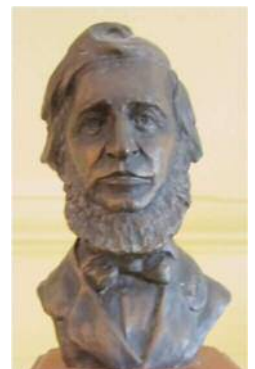
Religious Education News

Spring – Explorations with Thoreau

2017 will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau. Organizations throughout Concord—and around the world—will be hosting events to commemorate the occasion. Inspired by our spiritual ancestor, we will spend time outdoors—journaling, walking, connecting with nature, and reflecting on our place in it.



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



*Where have you seen
this image of Thoreau
at First Parish?*

RE Classes

Sunday Date, Time	Theme	Description
March 5 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Celebration Sunday!	During the service, Children and Youth will go to the Parish Hall together. We will learn a song with Gail Carey and Anderson Manuel and make a surprise! We will return to the Sanctuary for the end of the service. Little RE will also be available.
March 12 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	Coming of Age Service	This service is the culmination of our Coming of Age program, including the sharing of personal credo statements by our 9 th graders. All ages are welcome.
March 12 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	Yoga with Laura Grundstrom	We are delighted to welcome back Laura, who will offer Yoga for Kindergarten to 4 th graders in the Emerson Room. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. Little RE will also be available.
March 19 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	Spring Term Session 1	RE Classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 1 – Little OWL • Kindergarten, Grades 2, 3, 4 – “Explorations with Thoreau” • Grade 5 – OWL • Grade 6 – Neighboring Activists • Grade 7 – Neighboring Faiths • Grade 8 – OWL • Youth Group – High School
March 26 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	Spring Term Session 2	RE Classes (continued)

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

March Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Sue Dobbie

Email: susandobbie@gmail.com

Phone: 978-501-6969



Families Divided by Politics

Across the Kitchen Table

Sunday, March 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Loft
(across from the Emerson Room)

The deep divisions in our world challenge us, especially when loved ones disagree on politics. If you are struggling with how to understand, accept, or make peace with loved ones who have different political views, you are not alone. Please join as we share our struggles, support one another, and decide how best we might help each other move forward.

If you plan to attend or are interested in this topic but unavailable March 5, please contact Rev. Marion Visel, MVisel@Firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, ext. 414; or Trena Minudri, ab1712@yahoo.com or 617-686-8235. Drop-ins are welcome.



Small Group Ministry

Be the Change

Starting Soon—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 is a response to the need for empowerment in light of the current socio-political climate. Regardless of where you stand on the issues, the need to stand up and be heard has never been so important. These sessions include meditations that help us create a safe space and prepare us for the challenge of moving beyond it.

Facilitators are Roselyn Romberg and Chuck McDonald.

The group is 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 or 203-931-5239. Please provide your name, phone number, and email address.

Prayer Bead Workshop

Saturday, March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room

We will learn about different forms of prayers and will offer a practical approach based on a modern use of prayer beads, a practice that you can personalize. We will also each make our own Prayer Beads. Cofacilitators are Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern, Susan Dobbie, and Dana Snyder-Grant.

There is a \$10.00 fee for supplies. Please plan to pay in cash at the workshop. The group is limited to 16 participants, so it is



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recommended you sign up as soon as possible on the clipboard in the church office, or by contacting Susan Dobbie, susandobbie@gmail.com or 978-501-6969.

Decision Making for End of Life

Preparing for End of Life Decision Making

RESCHEDULED TO: Sunday, March 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room

This 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.

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.)

"Eightysomethings and Their Children"

Interviews by Katharine Esty for her book

About thirty minutes by phone or in person

Katharine Esty is looking to do some interviewing for a book she is writing, *Eightysomethings*. She wants to learn what it is like to be in your eighties—attitudes toward aging, relationships with family, health, and daily activities, and what it is like to be the adult child of an eighty-year-old parent. Marion Visel suggested she reach out through the *Meeting House News*.

Can you help Katharine? Her email is katharinecesty@verizon.net and her phone number is 978-369-5636.

Denominational Affairs Committee

Regional Assembly

Celebration of Spirit

Friday to Saturday, April 21-22, Woburn/Boston Hilton Hotel Woburn

Friday 6:00 p.m. Check-in 7:30 p.m. UUA Presidential Candidates Forum

Your New England Region UUA is bringing you a unique opportunity to gather with New England Unitarian Universalists for a celebration of spirit, and worship with acclaimed liturgist-singer-music director Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and UU/UCC (United Church of Christ) preacher Rev. Robin Bartlett.

A promotional poster for the New England Regional Assembly. On the left is a large alarm clock with the text "Awaken Your Spirit!" and a flame icon. To the right of the clock is a row of nine headshots of participants. Below the headshots are their names: "UUA Presidential Candidates Miller ~ Pupke ~ Frederick-Gray", "Dr. Ysaye Barnwell", "Rev. Robin Bartlett", "Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout", "Rev. Sue Phillips", "Hilary Allen", and "Meek Groot". The main text reads "New England Regional Assembly" in large white letters, followed by "April 21-22, 2017 WOBURN, MA" in pink. At the bottom left is the Unitarian Universalist logo and "New England Region". At the bottom right is a star icon and the text "Early Bird Price \$115 / Register by February 28".

Awaken Your Spirit!

UUA Presidential Candidates
Miller ~ Pupke ~ Frederick-Gray

Dr. Ysaye Barnwell

Rev. Robin Bartlett

Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout

Rev. Sue Phillips

Hilary Allen

Meek Groot

New England Regional Assembly

April 21-22, 2017 WOBURN, MA

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

New England Region

Early Bird Price \$115 / Register by February 28

Come sing with composer-musician-song leader Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, attend a UUA Presidential Candidates Forum, meet and greet your New England Region UUA staff, and choose from three workshops being offered.

For details and registration, visit new-england.eventbrite.com. Note: there is no charge to attend Friday evening only, but you must preregister.

Operations

Financial Reports

Interested in First Parish finances? Do you have questions, such as how much did we budget for heating oil this year, or how much cash do people put in the collection plates? You can learn the answers to these and many more questions by perusing First Parish's monthly financial reports.



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Since our new website is not password protected, First Parish financials are no longer available there. To receive these reports by monthly email, contact the Operations Director, Fifi Ball, at fball@firstparish.org.

A current copy of the financial report is also available outside the church office. To download a PDF guide to reading and understanding the monthly reports, click: [Finance Committee Guide](#).

2017-2018 Annual Pledge Campaign

Celebration Sunday, March 5, 2017



When the Fire of Commitment sets our mind and soul ablaze
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way.
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin!
- Jason Shelton

Our Annual Pledge Campaign officially kicks-off on Sunday, March 5. On this special Celebration Sunday we come together to pledge financial support to our very special community. Please come prepared to pledge. Your generosity will help sustain the warmth and momentum of this vibrant congregation, so we hope you will increase your pledge over last year's amount. Join us on Sunday and help us keep our flame burning bright!



Fifi Ball
Director of Operations
fball@firstparish.org, or the church office, 978-369-9602, x456

Standing Committee News

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 12, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

As the snow fell on Sunday, February 12, the Standing Committee held an abridged monthly meeting via conference call. During our meeting, we approved the proposed policies for a Legacy Giving Program and the charter for a governance subcommittee. We discussed a forthcoming congregational stewardship survey and reviewed our biennial goals. Next month, we plan to discuss long-range plans for staff compensation and review our self-evaluation procedures. We welcome anyone interested to attend our next meeting.

Visit to UUA Headquarters

On Wednesday, February 8, members of the Standing Committee and staff from First Parish in Concord, along with Rev. Júlia Jobbágy, visited the UUA headquarters at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston. This visit was undertaken in support of our first leadership goal: "Strengthen connections to other UU congregations and to the wider denomination." We had a tour of the building and then met with Rev. Sue Phillips, the Regional Lead for New England. We had a lively question and answer session about our denomination and

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our place in it. Many left feeling enthusiastic about attending the New England Regional Assembly April 21-22 in Woburn.

Black Lives Matter Update

Patty Popov and Kristin Haddad met with Mark Giddings, chair of the Historic Districts Commission, and Chris Whelan, Concord Town manager, to discuss our “Black Lives Matter” and “Join the Conversation” banners. The mutual respect between the town and our parish was evident. After we shared our own practices for reviewing the banners hanging between our front pillars, we agreed to notify the commission if that process changes.

Stewardship Survey

Stewardship is the term we at First Parish use to describe how we donate our time, our talent, and our money to help our church to thrive. The Finance Committee has developed a short survey to understand more fully how parishioners feel about stewardship. Please complete this survey to help us identify the best ways to cultivate a strong sense of stewardship throughout our congregation. A link to the survey is below and will be shared through FP Announce. A hard copy can also be picked up in the church office.

Leadership Workshop

Thursday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! This will be a chance for committee chairs, as well as parishioners interested in getting more involved in a leadership role, to work together to grow their relationships and leadership skills. With the support of the Standing Committee, Rev. Howard N. Dana will facilitate a leadership workshop. More information will be available as the date draws closer.

We Want to Hear from You!



Standing Committee members are always eager to talk with 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 on the [Standing Committee page](#) on the First Parish website.

Best Regards,
Kristin Coffman Haddad, chair, Standing Committee
kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012



Finance Committee



Voice of the Congregational Survey

Deadline: Sunday, March 19

The Finance Committee in collaboration with Rev. Howard N. Dana and the Standing Committee is conducting a survey of your thoughts, ideas and perspectives on stewardship. It is more than money. It is how each of us feels about First Parish, is engaged and involved and our plans for the future. We need your voice to help us understand more fully how parishioners feel about stewardship.



Please complete this survey to help us identify the best ways to cultivate a strong sense of stewardship throughout our congregation. Now or by the deadline, please take the Congregational Survey at this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstParishStewardship>

or pick up a hard copy survey at the church office. Please tell a friend. The findings report will be provided in April or May. Thank you. For more information, email Tom Wilson at twilson@wilsongroup.com.

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.



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	March 1	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting (all welcome)
Saturday	March 4	6:30 p.m. Doors open 7:00 p.m. Show starts	Lunafest Film Festival 
Saturday	March 11	9:30 a.m.	Photography Club (open to all First Parish adults)

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Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	March 24	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing (monthly song circle)
Sunday	March 26	7:00 p.m.	Sarasa Chamber Music Concert
Friday	March 31	7:00 p.m.	<i>Grub's Place</i> —A First Parish Musical
Saturday	April 1	7:00 p.m.	<i>Grub's Place</i> —A First Parish Musical

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.

Flower Arranging

“First Parish In Concord Flowers by Season”

The 14 flower arrangers who work together on our Flower Committee have diverse styles and approaches to arranging. But they have a common mission: to provide natural beauty and an outdoor connection for the Sunday service through arrangements that are graceful, inspiring, and of the moment in nature. Here are some samples:



Floral Video on YouTube

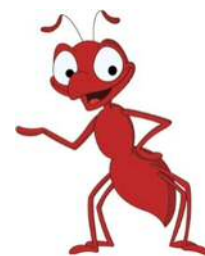
You can see how the arrangements connect to the seasons in a short, entertaining YouTube movie. Notice the changes in plant material and palette as the seasons progress, and enjoy the beauty as it develops over the year. You can find the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeS5fN4W42M> (with Sound On you'll hear a lovely soundtrack).

Grub's Place—Musical Premier

Friday, March 31, April 1, 7, and 8, at 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

The *Grub's Place* musical is about to premier. Starring Terry Rothermel as Grub and Simone Tricca as Mirabel, it is written and composed by Jane Blumberg, directed by Francene Amari, and produced by Claudia Nimar. It opens March 31.

This delightful intergenerational musical set in an ant colony explores community life and is enlivened by a praying mantis, irreverent fireflies, and a past-her-prime reclusive spider. Turf battles, jealous hearts, and



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prejudice threaten the colony's survival. Musical numbers *Dear, Dear, Friend* and *Community Hymn* will be memorable.

Tickets (\$20.00 adults, \$10 students) can be purchased at coffee hour and the church office, at 978-369-9602, or online [at this website \(www.mktix.com/fpuuc\)](http://www.mktix.com/fpuuc).

Photography Club

Next meeting: Saturday, March 11, 9:30 a.m., Emerson Room



We welcome new members 18 years and older of all skill levels and meet on the second Saturday of each month, except in July and August, to share pictures and learn. We take field trips to locations near and far, and are planning a trip to Martha's Vineyard in the spring. We also have an Annual Photo Show at First Parish to display our work. We will have a table at coffee hour once a month. Stop by and we'll be happy to answer your questions, or email Susan Page, srpage13@gmail.com.

Sarasa Special Concert

"Trainspotting"

Sunday, March 26, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary



All aboard for Sarasa's special tour of train-inspired music in our March concert set, including works by 19th-century train enthusiast Antonín Dvořák and Steve Reich's very personal account of train travel in the 20th century. Biber's wonderfully exuberant violin sonata No. 3 from the 1660's, composed some 100 years before trains were even invented, anticipates those very sounds we imagine when a locomotive chugs along its route. Tickets are available online or at the door. For information, contacts, and tickets, visit the [Sarasa website](http://www.sarasa.org). Open to the public.



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 Coordinator

We received many résumés for the position of Social Action Community Coordinator. The screening committee has selected four excellent candidates who are in the process of being interviewed. We hope to announce the finalist soon.

Community Organizer

We are coordinating with UU Mass Action to expand the scope of their Community Organizer to include work with First Parish. This will link us to the wider UU community, other social justice organizations, and we hope improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our activism.

SAC Grants

Thank You

This year 18 organizations applied for grants from First Parish. Check our Web page, firstparish.org/wp/justice/social-action/sac-grants, for the final awards. Thanks to a generous \$5000 donation, we were able to provide larger grants this year. And many thanks to the parishioners who stepped up to help read and rate the applications.



Social Justice Funding Work Group

Volunteers Needed

More volunteers are needed to join a work group that will look at First Parish's social action giving. Building on feedback from our congregation and information about how other churches have funded their social justice initiatives, we will explore our options, including piloting share-the-plate collections and expanding our criteria for grant giving. The group will determine how best to move the \$10,000 of accumulated grant reserves out into the world. A broad range of parishioner volunteers is desired.



If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact John Lowe at john.moore.lowe@gmail.com or Wendy Holt at wendyh@dmahealth.com.

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Social Action Community Board

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

Ted Bayne, tedbayne@comcast.net

Bob Brack, brackrobert@gmail.com

Leslie Fisher, lesliefisher@treitman.com

Tricia Haut, triciahaut@gmail.com

Wendy Holt, wendyh@dmahealth.com

Janine Olson, janine.olson@morganstanley.com

Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com

Sue St. Croix, sue@suestcroix.com

Margie King Saphier, margie.king.saphier@gmail.com

Americans for Economic Fairness

North Bridge American Promise Association

Tuesday, March 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

We will learn how we can help move the *We the People Act* now in our state legislature, volunteer on an upcoming 28th Amendment ballot initiative, and take action as part of the national [Citizens Uprising](#) so people, not money, govern in America.



Reclaiming Our Democracy

Monday, March 13, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Following our very successful January event *Reclaiming Our Democracy*, participants will work together in small groups on tasks of their choosing such as connecting with people of differing viewpoints, organizing events, and directing resistance to current issues.

All are welcome. Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Amnesty International, Group 15

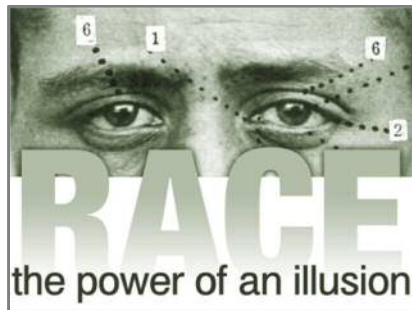
Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

In addition to writing letters supporting individuals who've 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 or 781-718-7640.



Diversity Documentary

Race: the Power of an Illusion



PBS Documentary

Sunday, March 12, Part Three, 7:15 – 8:45 p.m., Parish Hall

Part Three of this three-part PBS documentary, “The House We Live In” asks the question: If race is not biology, what is it? This episode uncovers how race resides not in nature, but in politics, economics and culture. It reveals how our social institutions “make” race by disproportionately

channeling resources, power, status, and wealth to white people.

Please join us for socializing and refreshments at 7:15 p.m.; the film will start at 7:30 p.m. No admission charge. For more information, contact Sara Ballard at 978-371-0723 or sara@sb.org (email preferred).

Partner Congregation News

2018 Pilgrimage to Transylvania



A multigenerational pilgrimage to our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr is being planned for 2018 and is open to all parishioners. Several of our staff are interested in going, including our Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana; and our Minister of Religious Education, Rev. Amy Freedman.

Members of our Partner Congregation Committee and lay leaders of the Keresztúr congregation are in early discussions about plans and ideas. We and recently enjoyed an evening of desserts and discussion with Rev. Júlia Jobbagy from Kolozsvár. We hope to visit with her there.

More details about the timing and price will be announced this spring. For more information, contact Lillian Anderson at Lillianand@comcast.net.

Women's News

Advocates for Women's Empowerment

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 18, 8:00 a.m., Trail's End Cafe in Concord

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

Continued next page.



LunaFest Short Films

Saturday, March 4, Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Show starts at 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

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 Collection Drive
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.

AWE Mailing List

To join the AWE mailing list, contact Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net.

Mom's Night Out

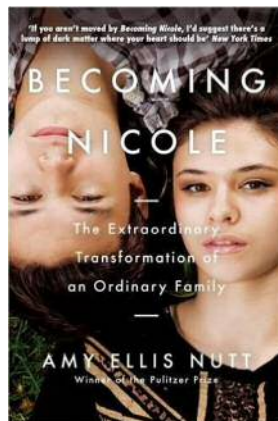
**MNO Game Night
Friday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.**

We'll end the week together with a fun and relaxing evening of games, food, and drinks. Feel free to bring your favorite game, snack, or beverage—or just bring yourself! Sponsored by the First Parish Mom's Night Out (MNO) group.



RSVP to Leanne Baxter at leanne_gauthier@yahoo.com or 978-799-9536. Location details to be sent later.

Women's AM/PM Book Group



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

The Women's Book Group selection for March is *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*, by Amy Ellis Nutt. 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.

Continued next page.

Remaining Dates and Books for Spring 2017

Date	Book	Author
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
June TBD	Potluck and Book Choosing for 2017-2018	

Women's Parish Association

WPA Luncheon Program

Thoreau and Money, Wednesday, March 15, Parish Hall

Social time: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon and Program: Noon

RSVP by March 12



Henry David Thoreau's bicentennial is 2017. Come celebrate in a most appropriate way by joining old and new friends at the rescheduled WPA luncheon program at which Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom will talk about Thoreau and money. Drawing on his training in American history, economics, finance, and his love of Thoreau and *Walden*, Jim's talk will illuminate how Thoreau was very much a man of his time and also a person whose spiritual life was deeply affected by money. All are warmly welcome!

Bring your own sandwich; dessert and beverages will be provided. There is no charge for this event. A freewill donation will be collected as a gift to the Robbins House.

For reservations, contact the church office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net, or sign up at coffee hour.

Other Cool Stuff

First Tuesday Group (65+)

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

Tuesday, March 7, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., in the Parlor

How does Pastoral Care (PC) work at First Parish? When should we reach out to PC? What services can they provide? How, exactly, do we reach out? Get answers to these questions, see a demonstration of a pastoral conversation, meet members of the PC Council and the PC Lay Ministers, and share your experiences with them. Together we will reflect on how we are there for one another, and ways we might expand our caring presence.

Continued next page.

While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age. For more information, contact Virginia Taylor, virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net or 978-263-9777.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Friday, March 17, 7:00 p.m., Brooks Room

Come discuss the experiences of Irish Americans and Jewish Americans—their differences and similarities. Rhoda Miller asks us to do some research and come prepared to explore the topic. We'll share challah, wine, blessings, and conversation. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant, 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**

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)
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.

What May I Submit for Publicity?

The *Meeting House News*, *Sunday News*, and FP Announce are reserved for events at First Parish, events sponsored by First Parish, or something that falls under a staff member or First Parish committee or group. We hold to this policy; but if you feel your event deserves special consideration, or are not sure whether your announcement fits this guideline, please contact the appropriate staff member for clarification before you submit your message. If your submission does not fall within this guideline, the church office would be glad to print your write-up for the First Parish bulletin board. Please email or drop off a printable final form to the church office. We are glad to help as best we can.

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; **Website:** 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 March!

