

THE SUNDAY NEWS

May 4, 2014

This Week

Sun., May 4	Sunday Service at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. 10:15 Congregational Conversation 10:30 Forum 12:15 Congregational Conversation 12:15 Worship Reflection 12:30 "Who's Counting" Film
Tue., May 6	2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Minerva Gathering Potluck 7:00 Tai Chi
Wed., May 7	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Choir 6:00 Arts Council 7:00 Environmental Leadership Team 7:00 Concord Area Humanists 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., May 8	7:00 Understanding Social Structure Workshop 7:00 Transylvania Partnership Communitny 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., May 9	7:00 Dementia: Mapping the Journey
Sat., May 10	9:00 Photography Club
Sun., May 11	Sunday Service at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. 12:15 Worship Reflection 6:30 Standing Committee

Next Meeting House News deadline: Friday, May 23

Please keep article length to 100 words.

Be aware that all items (including contact information) posted to the *Sunday News* or *Meeting House News*, or on First Parish-related email lists, may be published online at www.firstparish.org.

Parish Notes

Congregational Conversation

Today, May 4, at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Join Rev. Howard Dana and other leaders in a discussion about switching to one service on Sundays for the next church year.


Special Coffee Hour on May 11—Postponed

The Special May 11, Coffee Hours to Celebrate Mother's Day, Mother Earth and Everyone who shared in the Adopt a Solar Panel Project has been *postponed* to a later date. The Solar Panels are installed and we all appreciate all the good energy they generate every single day.

Yankee Home Companion

A Wonderful Way to Celebrate Music at First Parish

Many thanks to all who participated in our own homegrown version of this fun show—the writers, actors, singers, musicians, directors, the band, the staff, the ticket sellers, bartenders, designers, technicians—who worked collaboratively to make this happen. And we cannot forget the importance of the financial support of the audience members and the generous donors to the Music Reserve Fund. All of this was to *celebrate Beth Norton's 20 years of music ministry at First Parish*. May it be so for



First Parish Annual Campaign: "Build On to What Is Good"
We're done! We participated in record numbers and in record time. Many of you responded to the final surge of calls, emails, and letters. We are happy you participated. See the insert in today's order of service for more. And *thank you* from all on the Annual Pledge Campaign Team.

another 20 years! Contributions to the *Music Reserve Fund* will continue to be received throughout the month of May so please send your donations if you haven't already done so. We'd like to announce the total raised on Music Sunday (May 18, one service at 10 a.m.) when Beth, the choir, and a special orchestra will offer the Bach Magnificat.

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The Pastoral Care Lay Minister on call for May is Sue Dobbie. If you need a meal or support, please contact Sue at 978-456-8432 or susandobbie@gmail.com.

Membership: Benefits and Responsibilities

Joining a spiritual community is an important decision, one that calls for personal discernment and commitment. When you sign the membership book of First Parish, you covenant to participate in and contribute to the life and mission of the congregation. The primary benefit of membership is to be part of an open, diverse, and inclusive community of religious seekers that support each person's spiritual journey and who practice living in kind, compassionate, and healthy relationships with each other. As signed members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation you hold the responsibility to participate in the business of the congregation, vote at annual and special congregational meetings, pledge generously, chair committees, represent the congregation at regional and national events, plus many other benefits.

Before Signing the Membership Book

Explore whether your worldview, beliefs, and values resonate with Unitarian Universalism and First Parish in Concord. Consider the gifts and strengths you bring to this congregation and how this faith community might support you. Is First Parish "your" faith community? Are you ready to support the mission of First Parish in Concord and Unitarian Universalism in the world today and carry it into the future? If so, then contact Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life at rbaker@firstparish.org or during coffee hour or Rev. Howard Dana.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation: All are Invited

Save the date for the First Parish Annual Meeting on June 8. The meeting will begin shortly after worship. All visitors, friends, and members of First Parish in Concord are invited to witness and participate in the meeting. However, only those who have signed the membership book at least 30 days (May 9) before the meeting may vote. The congregation will vote on the 2014-2015 budget. Look for the warrant and other announcements to learn more.

Ushers Needed!

Please contact Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org, if you are interested in helping out on Sunday mornings.

WPA Luncheon Program — Wednesday, May 21

The Women's Parish Association invites you to an interesting and inspiring luncheon program on May 21, featuring Marilene Phipps-Kettlewell, a world acclaimed and highly celebrated author, poet and artist, who will share some of her amazing talents with everyone. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$10.00. Contact the office by May 18, or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net, for reservations or for food and transportation needs.

Want to See Through Your Fears and Live Happily in the Present? —Saturday, May 24

On Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at First Parish, Lila Kate Wheeler will teach us "how to train our brain to wake up to the present, release fermented hallucinations, and connect with life's natural balance and richness." Lila says, "We humans have a big brain that easily gets mesmerized by its own creations. With his typical humor, the Buddha suggests that clinging to this present moment is the key to letting go of all the fears, anxieties, and regrets that make us miserable." Suggested donation \$40. Space limited. Register with Bill Seaver: billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318.

STARHAWK is Coming to Concord

Tuesday, June 3—Starhawk will be joining us at our June Minerva Potluck at First Parish, which will be followed by a Women's Workshop and Spiral Dance.

Tickets: \$60 for the Workshop and Dance

Wednesday, June 4—Starhawk will take the stage at The Umbrella (formerly Emerson Umbrella) where she will first be interviewed for "The Goddess Show," a TV production focused on explorations of the sacred feminine. This will be followed by a talk, a ritual and a spiral dance. Tickets: \$25

Workshop and talk are on creating sacred community, holding our own power and stepping into leadership. Please Note: If the fees are a hardship, please email TwinkleManning@gmail.com to request a reduced fee or waiver.

Purchase tickets at www.TVforYourSoul.com/STARHAWK.html.

Social Action Community

Understanding Our Social Structure:

Steps for Cultural Change—May 8, at 7:00 p.m.

This three-part workshop will take place on consecutive Thursday evenings, the second workshop is on May 8. Through a blend of presentation and open sharing, we will explore the possibilities for change in a culture that works very hard to maintain the status quo when it comes to gender roles and identity. Tony Fisher and Pat Simon will lead the discussion. A bonus film, "Who's Counting: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies, and Global Economics," will be shown after coffee hour on today. Contact Tony Fisher at tfisher@firstparish.org.

Mother's Day Peace Walk on Sunday, May 11, at 8:00 a.m.

Tina Cheri, founder of the LDB Peace Institute, writes: "This month is a special time of reflection, not only for me (Tina's son Louis was killed 21 years ago), but also for our great City of Boston, the Commonwealth and the Nation. In honor of Victim Rights Month in Massachusetts—and as we remember not just the victims of the tragic marathon bombing of last year, but all victims of violence—may we

take a moment to recommit to the journey toward peace." Contact Rev. Margie King Saphier 781-424-2179 or mksaphier@comcast.net to learn more about the Walk. Last year we raised \$1791. This year let's try for \$2014.

"Dementia: Mapping the Journey"

Panel Discussion, Friday, May 9, at 7:00 P.M.

This program, crafted to educate and provide support for families facing Alzheimer's, will be presented on Friday, May 9, at 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall. There is no admission charge. The discussion will focus on day-to-day caregiving rather than on medical research or cures. Four panelists will be featured: Will Reiter, Vice President of Education and Community Engagement of the MA/NH chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; Janet Simpson Benvenuti, Founder of Circle of Life Partners; Jim Reynolds, CEO of Caring Companion Home Care; and Margaret Hoag, Elder Law Attorney. For more information, contact Jim Reynolds at jim.reynolds@caringcompanion.net or 978-254-1305.

Calling All Composters

The Coffee Composting Project, sponsored by The Environmental Leadership Team, has been a big success with 10 volunteers rotating through the twice-a-month winter schedule. Each person is scheduled to pick up one bag of coffee grounds once a month to enrich their own compost piles. It is a small but major step in the right direction to help First Parish become more sustainable. Now is also the time when many of you are planning your gardens and enriching your personal compost bins. Your help is needed and your garden will thank you. Please email Berni Jenkins for more information, berni.jenkins@verizon.net.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, May 4 – Regular RE Week

8:50 & 10:50 a.m. – Little RE (0–4 years) – Lower Level

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Services

K–1st grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE on the Lower Level

2nd–3rd grades – Middle RE – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Ripley Room

4th–5th grades – Middle RE – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Greeley Room

6th grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Community Garden, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

7th grade – Brooks Room, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 pm

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – High School (grades 9–12) Youth Group in the Wright Tavern – 8th Graders welcome

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Howard's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Tony's email: tfisher@firstparish.org

Visit our website at firstparish.org