

THE SUNDAY NEWS

January 25, 2015

This Week

Sun., Jan. 25	Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Sunday Forum 6:30 Transylvanian Pilgrimage Report to the Congregation
Mon., Jan. 26	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tue., Jan. 27	9:30 Women's Book Group
Wed., Jan. 28	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:00 First Parish Choirs
Thu., Jan. 29	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 30	7:00 "Inequality for All" Screening
Sat., Jan. 31	7:00 Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Fundraiser
Sun., Feb. 1	Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Sunday Forum 7:00 Sarasa Concert

"Getting from Clutter to Clean, Part 1"

Tuesday, February 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

February's meeting will focus on "Getting from Clutter to Clean, Part 1." Before we can deal with our material stuff, we need to remove the obstacles holding us back. First Parish Director of Operations Fifi Ball worked as a professional organizer before coming to First Parish. She will share some insights about why we put cleaning our clutter off, lead us through an exercise, and frame some questions for us to discuss in small groups. The First Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:00 p.m., and don't worry about your age. All are welcome; you determine whether the topic is for you. Hope to see you there! Tuesday Group Steering Committee: Berni Jenkins (contact person), berni.jenkins@verizon.net; Bob Andrews, Mary Clarke, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Bill Maxwell, Jack Nevison and Virginia Taylor

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, February 17.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.

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.

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The January Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Sue Dobbie. Sue can be reached at susandobbie@gmail.com or 978-501-6969.

Worship Sharing Circle

After the service, parishioners will gather in Rev. Dana's study to take turns sharing what stood out for them about the service. This simple event runs from 11:10 to 11:30 a.m. and is open to everyone.

Conversations on Sunday Mornings in the Parlor

At the First Parish Café (before the service) and during coffee hour (after the service), the Humanist Council will host conversations in the Parlor most Sundays. These informal meetings are open to everyone, no matter your theological leanings, life stance or worldview. This is an opportunity to learn more about a humanistic life stance, to discuss various social justice topics such as the UUA General Assembly Study/Action issue "Escalating Inequality," and to join the Humanist Council, if you are interested.

The Fruits of Our Friendship—Continuing Our Relationship With Our Transylvanian Partners

Twenty travelers went to Transylvania in November, returning home with Howard and Beth after sharing once more in our deepening relationships with our friends in Keresztúr. On Sunday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, they will have a special opportunity to share their experiences with the Parish. There will be some very special Hungarian desserts, followed by songs, stories and pictures. You won't want to miss this!

The First Tuesday Group (65+)

You're Invited to Come Cook on Wednesday, February 4

As you know, the Caring Connection of First Parish provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition (often because of illness or family loss) as part of our shared pastoral care outreach. We are going to cook and you're invited. Come help! No experience or skills necessary; we supply the recipes and provisions. Breakfast snacks will be served.

Date: Wednesday, February 4

Time: 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Place: First Parish kitchen

If we have many volunteers, we may consider two shifts (please indicate your interest or availability). Prep and Cooking: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.; Finishing cooking, packaging, labeling and stocking freezer: 10:30 a.m. to noon. Come help out, enjoy some breakfast, and connect to others. R.S.V.P. to Tracey Hurd (thurd@aol.com or 978-369-2366) and indicate if you are interested in one or both shifts.

Nominations for the First Parish Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee is looking for people who would like to be considered for nomination to the Nominating Committee (NomCom). There are two upcoming openings. We are looking for people who are "connectors" and like to participate in many aspects of church life. This year we have a specific need to have people with a strong sense of the workings of the current Standing Committee. The primary function of the Nominating Committee is to solicit and nominate candidates for any open positions on the Standing Committee and openings for the Treasurer, Clerk and Moderator positions. The term is three years, with an option to do two consecutive terms. The NomCom meets monthly on Sunday mornings, and the time commitment is two to three hours a month. Please let us know by Sunday February 22, about people who might be interested in and qualified for these positions by contacting Patty Popov at ppopov@nichols-pratt.com or 978-369-1990.

Social Action

Postponed—Sarah Chayes's Speaking Event

The speaking event with Sarah Chayes has been postponed until further notice. Sarah had a last-minute opportunity to appear on the Jon Stewart show on January 29, which will allow her message to reach a nation-wide audience. Night owls be sure to tune in at 11

p.m. to Comedy Central. All others can watch it later on the Daily Show's website.

Social Action Grant Application Deadline Is Friday, January 30

The Social Action Community's Grant Application deadline is January 30. Each year, First Parish allocates 7.5 percent of annual pledge income to the SAC Council. The Council distributes this grant money to local, national and international organizations. Grant award priority is given to these new concepts and ventures. Keep in mind that grant applications must be sponsored by a First Parish pledging member. Further details and the application can be found at <http://bit.ly/1xJgxu2> or by contacting Wendy Holt, wendyholt48@yahoo.com, or Bethany Lowe, blowe@firstparish.org.

Volunteer to Be a Grant Reader

Last year the Social Action Community Council invited parishioners to read and comment upon grant applications. The ratings and comments we received were a valuable addition to our decision making. This year we are again inviting parishioners to be grant readers. The commitment would involve an optional orientation meeting in early February. Readers will be asked to read five to seven short grant applications and complete a one-page review form. Applications will be distributed the second week in February, and ratings will be due at the end of the month. Contact Wendy Holt wendyh@dmahealth.com, if you are interested in exploring this opportunity.

"Inequality for All," Screening and Moderated Discussion Friday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m.

The Denominational Affairs Committee invites you to a screening of Robert Reich's gripping film about the origins and corrosive effect of income disparity in America. First Parishioner and Massachusetts State Representative Cory Atkins, who brought this film to the community in October, will introduce the evening. Fred Van Deusen will moderate the follow-up discussion, starting with further materials Reich has provided. Atkins will be on hand to field questions on legislative action. The film is in line with the UUA's current Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of income disparity, and it may be the chance to kick off deeper engagement with UU's everywhere on the CSAI.

Funderburg Scholars Dinner on Saturday, February 7

Join us on Saturday, February 7, for the Funderburg Scholars fundraising dinner at church. Help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college while you enjoy a nice meal with great company. These engaging students will tell stories about their college experiences. No fixed "price"—donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your place at dinner at coffee hour today, by calling Loretta Ho Sherblom's cell at 508-935-6750, or by emailing her at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com. Join us for wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by Sven Olson at 7:15 p.m.

Children's and Youth News

Saturday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m.

Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Fundraiser for Youth Group Service Trip

On Saturday, January 31, the Youth Group will lead a night of Rock 'n' Roll Bingo. This event will be open to folks of all ages and families of all sizes. Pizza and homemade chili will be sold at the event. Youth will lead many rousing rounds of bingo. Each time a "bingo" is announced, we'll celebrate with music. Dancing will be encouraged. There will also be a silent auction of toys, games, babysitting services, etc. All proceeds will go to support the Youth Group's service trip to New York City this coming February. Please

come and support the efforts of our youth to make their service trip financially sustainable.

Seeking a Garden Coordinator for 2015

Are you a gardener? Would you like to take on coordinating our First Parish plots in the Hugh Cargill Community Garden? We are hoping to be able to continue this hands-on spiritual practice that supports our social justice and environmental mission. If you are interested, please contact Dawn Van Patten, dvanpatten@firstparish.org, before February 1.

This Week, January 25—Regular RE Week

Last week of the Holiday Term

9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Ripley Room

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Greeley Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Emerson Room

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Emerson Room

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Wright Tavern

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – 11:00 a.m., meet at First Parish for visit to Holy Family

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 to 6:00 in the Emerson Room

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

Next Week, February 1—Regular RE Week

First week of the Winter Term

9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Chapel, pickup in the Chapel

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Chapel, pickup in the Chapel

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Wright Tavern

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Classroom Sunday

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

YAC – Wright Tavern Sunporch – 6:00 p.m.

9th-12th Grade, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 6, 5:00 p.m.—Neighboring Faiths

Meet at First Parish for Congregation Beth El visit.

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org