

THE SUNDAY NEWS

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

April 26, 2015

This Week

Sun., Apr. 26	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 The Conversation Project
Mon., Apr. 27	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tue., Apr. 28	9:30 Women's Book Group
Wed., Apr. 29	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs
Thu., Apr. 30	1:00 Finding Meaning in Later Life 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., May 1	7:30 American Visionaries Concert
Sat., May 2	7:30 Deborah Jiang-Stein Talk
Sun., May 3	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Forum

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The April Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Carolyn Shohet. Carolyn can be reached at careshohet@gmail.com or 978-369-6231. The Lay Minister for May is Bev Bringle at bevbringle@yahoo.com or 978-369-4793.

Defibrillator at First Parish

First Parish is pleased to announce the purchase and installation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The unit can be used on adults as well as children, per its instructions. It is centrally located in the lower hall, next to the double doors that open into the Parish Hall. Many of the ushers have been trained in its use, as well as the staff who have had instruction on how to use it.

Annual Pledge Campaign Update

Thank you to the 368 households who have contributed the \$830,915 in pledges we have received to date. With just over 60 percent of pledging households accounted for, we are relying on the remaining 40 percent to pledge in the next 7 days to bring us closer to the \$998,000 target that would provide the financial foundation necessary for First Parish to maintain programs and services at current levels, and continue to make a difference in our community and the world. Pledge cards have been mailed out to those who have not yet pledged this year and stewards are working hard to get all the pledges in before the campaign ends on May 3. Only those pledges received by May 3 will be factored into the budget for FY16. First Parish, its members, and all those who participate in or benefit from its efforts to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world are relying on you. Please give generously. Thank you.

—The Annual Pledge Campaign Team

The Conversation Project—Important Talk Today at 11:30 a.m., Emerson Room

Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, will help us explore the Conversation Project Starter Kit. The Conversation Project (CP) emphasizes having a conversation about your values to prepare for later life and end-of-life care decision making. The first meeting reviewed the CP Starter Kit and talked about what holds us back from having the conversation. The second meeting will focus on our successes and stumbling blocks.

Discussion: Proposed Warrant Article on Fossil Fuel Divestment—Today at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us on today at 11:30 a.m. to look at a proposed warrant article on fossil fuel divestment for this year's Annual Meeting in June. This meeting is part of an ongoing First Parish dialogue about social and responsible investing (SRI) and fossil fuel divestment, and we are interested in your feedback. Our dialogue is spurred by the fossil fuel divestment commitment adopted at the UUA General Assembly last June and other divestment discussions under way around the world. Questions and comments can go to Bruce Blumberg, Laura Bernstein, Bob Andrews, Kate Crosby or Bethany Lowe

American Visionaries Concert—Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

American Visionaries is a special collaboration with the Triple Helix Piano Trio, the Rivers School, and composer Eric Sawyer. The Rivers School Choruses, conducted by Susan Emmanouilidis and the Triple Helix Piano Trio will present the world-premiere performance of a work by composer Eric Sawyer. This piece, based on the writings of the Transcendentalists, is being commissioned by the Rivers School Conservatory. This concert will be presented in collaboration with Music for Food. All donations will benefit Open Table through Music for Food, a musician-led initiative for local hunger relief.

Nourishing Congregational Initiatives

Whether your passion be in the arts, social justice, spirituality, history, music or politics, it seems that there is almost always somebody already doing that at First Parish. At an open discussion in December, there was a suggestion for lightly formed committees that would organize for a short time around a specific purpose, without necessarily being tied to an existing group. Howard has expressed the idea that any five congregants with a goal consonant with First Parish's mission could be confirmed as a Parish organization for a year. *How do we find the right balance between encouraging initiative and keeping an orderly house?* Come talk with other parishioners in the Chapel on Sunday, May 3, at 9 a.m. Conversation is hosted by Dave Elwood, Mark Richards, Kitsy Rothermel and Alec Walker.

Deborah Jiang-Stein in Conversation with State Representative Cory Atkins—Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Author of *Prison Baby* and founder of the unPrison Projects, Deborah was born in prison, and spent the first year of her life in solitary confinement with her mother, before being adopted into a middle-class Jewish family. Her realization of her beginning led to a tumultuous adolescence and beyond. She now travels around the United States to promote awareness of the issues surrounding women and incarceration. Proceeds will benefit the unPrison Project—her nonprofit that educates and empowers women in prison. Deborah will be interviewed by our own Representative, Cory Atkins, who has worked diligently to advocate for women. Tickets are \$10 available at coffee hours or at the door.

Forum—Tina Chery, Founder of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI)—May 3, 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Twenty years ago, at age seventeen, when walking to a Teens Against Violence meeting, Louis Brown was killed, caught in the crossfire between two gangs. Tina responded to this horrific tragedy

by creating a center for peace that provides hope through healing, teaching, and learning. The First Parish SAC Grants Committee has awarded three consecutive grants to the LDBPI in support of the PeaceZone Curriculum and the Leadership Academy. Please attend to learn how “Peace Is Possible” through the practice of restorative justice.

**The First Tuesday Group—“From Clutter to Clean, Part 2”
Tuesday, May 5, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

At our April meeting Fifi Ball, led us through exercises to help us with the emotional obstacles to decluttering. Our May 5th meeting will focus on practical information to help us get rid of our stuff: who can help, how to assess value, how to sell, responsibly give away, use consignment shops, etc. Jane Lifton and Margaret Hoag will join us to share their wisdom and local resources. The Tuesday Group meets the First Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:00 p.m. All welcome, you determine whether the topic is for you.

Concord Area Humanists—Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

Rick Heller of the Humanist Mindfulness Group in Cambridge will speak on “Secular Meditation.” See his video, www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1JB9Oqu3hI; and his articles in “The New Humanism,” which he edits, <http://thenewhumanism.org/authors/rick-heller>.

¿Hablas español, o quieres mejorar?—Thursday, May 7

Please join *otros compañeros de First Parish* for *conversación, diversión, y comida*. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m., *jueves 7 de mayo a las 7 en la casa de Brooks Stevens, 55 Elm Brook Lane, Concord*. Let her know if you can come at stevensbrady@comcast.net. Don't be shy ¡No tienes que hablar bien! English is allowed. There will always be someone who can translate. Please bring *comida y bebida* for a potluck supper. *Para más información*: for more information, *llama a Laurie Van Loon, 978-369-8528*. *O manda* or send email to ivanloon@comcast.net.

Lunafest Film Series Returns—Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Lunafest is an evening of short films by women filmmakers. The First Parish Mother/Daughter book group will make popcorn. Films are entertaining and thought-provoking. This is a fundraiser for the Breast Cancer Fund and Jhamtse Gatsal. Tickets are \$15.

First Parish in Concord—Photo Club Exhibit and Reception

Please join us Sunday, May 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. for fantastic photos, a 3D demonstration, a 30-minute slide show with seating, and more. Members will be glad to discuss their images and techniques, and to help you with your photographic questions. We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends. Yummy refreshments will be available as well as some items for sale. The First Parish Photography Club is a noncompetitive group for adults, from novice to professional. We meet to learn and socialize.

The Wright Tavern's Future—Monday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

A forum on the future of the Wright Tavern will be held by the American Revolution Round Table on May 18, 7 p.m., at the Minute Man National Historical Park Visitor Center (off Rte. 2A). Among the questions to be addressed: why the Tavern is so important to Concord; how and why First Parish in Concord became the owner of this celebrated historic site. A panel presentation will feature Concord historian Jayne Gordon, noted professor of early American history, and author Robert Gross, as well as a written historical commentary by the Curator of Special Collections Leslie Wilson of the Concord Public Library. Audience questions and comments will follow the panel. Those interested in attending should reserve a place with the moderator Mel Bernstein, mbern9@gmail.com or 781-259-9926.

Social Action

Mother's Day Walk for Peace Is Sunday, May 10

The Mother's Day Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI). This work supports families that are victims of violence, as well as providing and teaching the PeaceZone curriculum in the public schools, which focuses on conflict resolution through peaceful means. On Sunday, April 26 and May 3, you can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to make a donation and/or sign up to participate in the Peace Walk, which will let families of homicide know that “All lives matter.” If you have any questions, please talk with Bethany Lowe, or contact Margie at mksaphier@comcast.net or 789- 424-2179.

Vegan Potluck Dinner—Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish (4-6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Please also bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and cleanup. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Children welcome! Creative fun at the children's craft table is provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrdv@netscape.net.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, April 26 — April Vacation – No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

Next Week, May 3 — Regular RE Week

9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, 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 Bulkeley Room, released to coffee hour

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Meet at 9:20 a.m. for trip to the Union Baptist Church, Cambridge

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

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

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

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

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

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