

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 3, 2015

This Week

Sun., May 3	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 9:00 Nourishing Congregational Initiatives 11:30 Forum
Tue., May 5	1:30 First Tuesday Group 7:00 Diversity Committee
Wed., May 6	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs 6:00 Arts Council 7:00 Concord Area Humanists 7:30 Environmental Leadership Meeting
Thu., May 7	7:30 By Your Side Singers 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., May 8	7:00 Escalating Inequality
Sat., May 9	9:00 Photography Club 7:30 Lunafest
Sun., May 10	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

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

Today Is the Day!

Today is the day to make your pledge to First Parish, if you haven't already. This is the last Sunday of the Annual Pledge Campaign, and the pledges received as of this week will determine our budget for the coming year. What you pledge now will help us meet the priorities we have identified as important to our membership—including pastoral care, religious education, staff salaries, facilities maintenance, and paying our fair share toward UUA dues. Thank you to the 387 pledgers who have pledged a total of \$853,711 as of April 28. We appreciate your generosity. It remains true, however, that this total is still short of the target to maintain our current level of programs and services. We ask all those who have not yet pledged to fill out the pledge card in the pews and return it to our business office TODAY. Every pledge counts and is gratefully received.

—The Annual Pledge Campaign Team

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, while walking to a Teens Against Violence meeting, Louis Brown was killed, caught in the crossfire between two gangs. Tina Chery, his mother 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 and how to assess value, sell or 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 are 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=g1JB9Qqu3hI; 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. 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.

WPA Luncheon—Skyloom Dancers—Wednesday, May 20

The Women's Parish Association is presenting, as part of the Beyond Mother's Day Series, a special luncheon program by the Skyloom Sacred Dance Group on Wednesday, May 20, which will portray an escape from slavery to freedom and a woman's journey

of transformation. The program will follow a delicious lunch, which will begin at noon. Cost of the luncheon is ten dollars. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net by May 17 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements. All women and men are cordially invited.

Social Action

Interactive Presentation by Christantus Mwandishi, UU Service Committee Featured Partner, Today at 3:00 p.m.

Please join Christantus Mwandishi at First Parish for a Climate Justice Sunday presentation and reception. Christantus Mwandishi is the founder of SoilFarm Multi-Culture Group (SFMG), a UUSC featured partner for Climate Justice Sunday. Mwandishi is a veteran human rights defender and founder of SoilFarm Multi-Culture Group, a membership-based, community-led association that preserves the Kakamega Rain Forest and advances human rights in Kenya. SFMG has planted hundreds of thousands of trees, and has brought adequate nutrition and environmental education to thousands of children, through the renowned Hope in Crops program. His presentation will focus on how SFMG is helping Kenyans adapt agricultural and water management practices in the face of climate change. A reception will follow. Join us to learn more about this UUSC partner.

Interfaith Environmental Potluck

Come to hear an informative and lively presentation from Ben Barkan, the owner of Home Harvest, Custom Edible Gardens. He will describe how he consults and creates custom gardens for people and answer any of your gardening questions. Please join us and become a part of this exciting effort to engage in environmental action as a part of an interfaith collaboration. Members from six different congregations are sharing ideas about composting all of our organic waste materials, as well as new ways to garden. Bring your ideas and passions and we will discuss them. Monday, May 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Saint Anne's in the Fields, 147 Concord Road, Lincoln. R.S.V.P. to Laura at bremben@comcast.net.

Mother's Day Walk for Peace Is Next 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. You can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour today 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 are welcome. Creative fun at the children's craft table is provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Support First Parishioner in the NAMI Walk on May 16

NAMI stands for National Alliance for Mental Illness. NAMI works hard every day to dispel misconceptions and educate the private and public sector by presenting facts and not stereotypes. One in five American adults experience some kind of mental health condition in a

given year. Additionally, 1 in 20 adults is living with a serious mental health condition. Mental health conditions do not discriminate. Those living with such conditions experience stigma, which can lead to hiding a condition. Even if you don't think you know anyone with a mental health condition, chances are you do. Funds raised at the walk on May 16 will support NAMI's efforts. First Parishioner Kristin Stiles-Hall (kstiles@firstparish.org) works closely with NAMI and can answer any questions you have. She will also be walking on May 16. To support her, or join her, go to: namiwalks.nami.org/KristinSH.

Children's and Youth News

This 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 Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

Next Week, May 10 — Regular RE Week—Mother's Day

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 Chapel, released to coffee hour

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Classroom Sunday – 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

9th-12th Grades, 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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org