

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 10, 2016

This Week

Sun., Apr. 10	Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Parent Circle 11:30 Nominating Committee 11:30 SAC Listening Session 11:30 Sunday Forum 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Mon., Apr. 11	7:30 Seder Planning Meeting
Tue., Apr. 12	9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 SAC Listening Session
Wed., Apr. 13	9:30 Buddhist Group 11:00 WPA Robbins House Tour and Lunch 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Apr. 14	10:00 SAC Listening Session 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Apr. 15	7:00 “Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord”
Sat., Apr. 16	5:00 First Parish Cooperative Seder
Sun., Apr. 17	Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m. 11:30 “Waking Up White” Group A 11:30 Sunday Forum

Meeting House News deadline: This Tuesday, April 19.
Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to
Wendy Wolfberg at wfwolfberg@comcast.net.
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

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life”
The April Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Dana Snyder-Grant. Dana can be reached at danasg@newview.org or 978-266-9409 or 978-760-1129 (cell).

Sunday Forums

April 10—Lee McIntyre, “Truth and Willful Ignorance in the Internet Age.” Lee will explore the roots of willful ignorance, which lead to disrespecting truth and to the denial of the climate change we have witnessed in recent years. Host: Patrick Everett
April 17—Nasir Rana, “About Islam.” Come hear practicing Muslim Nasir Rana address questions about his faith and its role in the modern world. Host: Jack Nevison
April 24—Parishioners Gib Metcalf and Fred Van Deusen, “First Parish Finances.” Gib and Fred will present information from the First Parish benchmark study to see how our finances compare to those of other churches. They will highlight major findings and answer questions about the study. Host: Woody Vandever

Auction Tickets on Sale Now

Don't miss out! There are tons of exciting items to bid on! Join us on Saturday, April 30, for a festive evening of cocktails, dinner and music. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Live auction at 8:00 p.m. \$40/person. Adults only. Tickets are available

every coffee hour in April and in the church office during regular office hours. Cash or check only. Buy your tickets today! For ticket questions, contact Leanne Baxter at leanne_gauthier@yahoo.com. Note: the Online Auction runs Wednesday, April 20, through Thursday, April 28. For more details, go to www.FirstParish.org/Auction.

Additional WPA Tour of Robbins House Is Scheduled

The Robbins House Tour hosted by the Women's Parish Association on Wednesday, April 13, at 11:00 a.m. is now full. However, a second tour has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the same day. Both tours will include highlights of the life story of Harriet Jacobs, who wrote the first “slave narrative” by a woman, detailing her quest to emancipate herself and her children. After the tours, people will gather at First Parish at noon for a follow-up discussion led by tour director, Elon Cook. Bring a bag lunch. Desserts and cold drinks will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations are absolutely required. To sign up for the ten o'clock tour, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net by noon on April 12 or sign up at coffee hour today.

Douglas Baker Presents “Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord”

Please join us in the Parish Hall on Friday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. for showings of “Musings on Meeting Houses: First Parish in Concord,” a video written and presented by Douglas Baker and made possible by donations from members of the congregation last year. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net.

First Parish Cooperative Seder Saturday, April 16, 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The Passover Seder is an ancient celebration of freedom. Our Minister of Religious Education, Rev. Amy Freedman, is leading our service this year. The Parish Hall becomes our family dining room. At coffee hours, get tickets and sign up to help. Suggested donation for dinner: \$20 for adults, free over 80 or under 6, and \$5 between 6 and 12. All profits go to First Parish. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome! Questions: fpseder@googlegroups.com or Jim Snyder-Grant, 508-572-2985.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The next book selection is *Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard*, by Laura Bates. The discussions will be Monday evening, April 25, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday morning, April 26, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., both in the Brooks Room at First Parish. All women of First Parish are welcome to read the book and join a discussion. To be added to the Women's Book Group email list, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Social Action Community

Social Action Community Listening Sessions—Congregational Proposal Feedback

After a congregation-wide evaluation of current social action data last fall and winter, the Social Action Community board has drafted a proposal for how we will do social action going forward. This proposal includes a plan to prioritize our social action efforts; hire a new SAC staff person; fund social action; and communicate social action activities. Please come to a listening session on one of the following dates to help us firm up this proposal with your

input: today, April 10, at 11:30 a.m., April 12 at 7:00 p.m., April 14 at 10:00 a.m.

SAC Candles during Climate Justice Month

From March 22 (World Water Day) through April 20 (Earth Day), the SAC Candle is being lit by members of our Environmental Leadership Team. If you would like to join the ELT and work on environmental action and climate justice at First Parish, contact Peter Lowitt (peterlowitt@devensec.com).

Final Week—Toiletry Collection Drive for Rosie's Place

The Reproductive Justice group is collecting toiletries and women's hygiene products for Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston. Please donate full and travel-sized items, including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, soap, lip balm, brushes and combs, feminine hygiene products, and new or gently used towels. Items can be left in the box in the coat-room until Sunday, April 17, or brought to the Lunafest film festival on April 9. For questions, contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net, or Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

Hope Out Loud Concert—Today, April 10, 3:00 p.m.

At the UU Urban Ministry (15 Putnam Avenue, Boston)
Sam Martinborough, director of MssngLnks in Boston, will be conducting the UU Urban Ministry's annual Hope Out Loud concert today, April 10. Roxbury residents, Roxbury Community College singers, and members of UU congregations across the region will participate in this concert. For more information, contact [Rev. Rebecca Hinds](mailto:Rev.Rebecca.Hinds) (or call 617-318-6010, x 214) or Beth Norton (978-369-9602, x420). Directions at www.uuum.org/directions.

Amnesty International Group 15

Tuesday, April 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

The main focus this month is to begin planning a community event to bring home the human side of the death penalty in the United States. The issue has been on Amnesty's agenda since the 1970's and we're encouraged by the increasing support for its abolition. Our ongoing projects include work against solitary confinement, violence against women, and requesting medical help for our two Azerbaijanian human rights advocates under house arrest. For information, contact Kathy Taylor, Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-275-0791.

Mother's Day Walk for Peace, 20th Anniversary—Sunday, May 8

Come walk with the thousands from Boston and with parishioners from many UU congregations. The Peace Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the vital work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute. On Sundays, April 10, 19, 17 and 24, you can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to make a donation and/or sign up to participate in the Peace Walk. If you have questions, please talk with Bethany Russell-Lowe or contact Margie at mksaphier@comcast.net or 781-424-2179.

Religious Education News

This Week, April 10, RE Classes

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
10:00-11:15 a.m. Neighboring Faiths (7th Grade) – Chapel
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classes with their teachers. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. 4th-6th graders will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15- 11:15 a.m. – RE Classes
Spirit Play (Kindergarten-1st Grade) – Lower Level
Little OWL (1st Grade) – Lower Level
2nd Grade – Greeley Room
3rd Grade – Emerson Room
4th & 5th Grade – Brooks Room
Neighboring Activists (6th Grade) – Loft
8th Grade OWL and Celebration Dinner – Emerson Room – 4:00 p.m.
Youth Group (9th-12th Grades) – Loft – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Next Week, April 17, RE Workshop (K-6)

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
10:15-11:15 a.m. – RE Workshop – "Making Positive Difference" – K-6th Grade – Emerson Room

First Parish Parent Circles

Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, is offering a series of Sunday Parent Circles. This is a chance for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Our theme this Sunday is "Beyond Pink and Blue." In what ways do gendersstereotypes limit our families? How can we affirm our children in becoming their authentic selves?

Sundays, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel:

April 10 – Beyond Pink and Blue

May 1 – Parenting in a Diverse World

Register for 1 or 2 sessions: afreedman@firstparish.org. Child care will be provided in the Emerson Room. For planning, please let us know the names and ages of children using child care.

RE Workshops —"Making a Positive Difference"

Children are welcome every Sunday at First Parish in Concord! During April vacation week, Kindergarten- 6th graders will focus on the last part of our mission: "First Parish seeks ways to make a positive difference in the world." **On Sunday, April 17**, Rev. Marion Visel and members of our Pastoral Care team will share how we care for our First Parish community. **On Sunday, April 24**, we will celebrate Earth Day and care for our planet home.

Questions or concerns about **domestic violence** or **suicide**?

Call . . .

Domestic Violence Services Help Line: 888-399-6111

Suicide Prevention Life Line: 800-273-TALK (8255)

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org