

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 1, 2017

This Week

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| Sun., Jan 1 | Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 10:15 RE Workshop |
| Tues., Jan. 3 | 1:30 First Tuesday Group 3:00 First Tuesday Steering Committee 6:00 Vegan Potluck, offsite 7:00 Annual Pledge Campaign meeting 7:30 AWE meeting 7:30 RE Council meeting |
| Wed., Jan. 4 | 9:30 Buddhist Group 6:00 Arts Council meeting 7:00 Concord Area Humanists 7:45 Adult Choir rehearsal |
| Thu., Jan. 5 | 9:00 SAC Board meeting 7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers 7:30 Forum Committee meeting |
| Fri., Jan. 6 | 6:30 <i>Grub's Place</i> rehearsal |
| Sun., Jan. 8 | 9:00 Chalice Choir rehearsal 9:00 Gospel Choir rehearsal Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Junior Choir rehearsal 11:30 Mother/Daughter Book Group 11:30 Nominating Committee meeting 5:00 Small Group Ministry session #1 5:00 <i>Grub's Place</i> rehearsal 6:00 Standing Committee meeting 7:30 Race Conversations Film Review |

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

Being there for each other through the changes in life

The January 2017 Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Sally Brandon Bemis, sbbrandon@me.com, cell: 978-505-0492.

Sunday Services

Sunday, January 8—"When Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter," Rev. Howard N. Dana; First Parish Choir, Kenneth Griffith, Sabbatical Choir Director

Sunday, January 15—"There is Only One Question: How to Love this World," Jan Hutslar, Ministerial Intern; First Parish Choir, Kenneth Griffith, Sabbatical Choir Director

An Evening with Cosy Sheridan

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

First Parish Music Events presents an evening with award-winning singer/songwriter Cosy Sheridan. Cosy has been called "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters," and "a Buddhist monk in a 12-step program trapped in the body of a singer/songwriter." Admission is \$15. For information and tickets, please visit firstparish.org/musicevents.

First Tuesday Group (65+)

January 3, 2017, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Maria Madison, Chair, Board of Directors, the Robbins House, will give a talk entitled, "The Robbins House, Historical Black Lives that Mattered, and Concord's Abolitionists." The Robbins House is an early 19th century house originally inhabited by first-generation descendants of a formerly enslaved African-American Revolutionary War veteran, Caesar Robbins, and by a fugitive slave, Jack Garrison. Join us for a stimulating dialogue about race and how we might foster a spirit of reconciliation and healing.

Small Group Ministry: "Be the Change"

First Sundays, January-June 2017, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

6 sessions: 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, and 6/4/17

We will gather to share our experiences and explore how to "be the change" in the world based in part on Rev. Stephen Schick's book, *Be The Change*. Small Group Ministry provides an opportunity to listen and share experiences and beliefs in a committed group of ten participants who agree to regular attendance and group guidelines. Facilitators will be Roselyn Romberg and Chuck McDonald. Find a sign-up clipboard in the church office by January 2, or contact Rev. Marion Visel, mvisel@firstparish.org, 203-931-5239.

WPA Luncheon Program, "Thoreau and Money"

January 18, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

Launch 2017, the Henry David Thoreau Bicentennial, by joining old and new friends at the Women's Parish Association's luncheon program, during which Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom will talk about "Thoreau and Money." Drawing on his training in American history, economics, and finance, and his love of Thoreau and *Walden*, Jim's talk will illustrate how Thoreau was a man of his time and one whose spiritual life was deeply affected by money. For reservations, contact the FP office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by January 14. Social time will start at 11:30 a.m.. Lunch (\$12) will be served at 12:00 noon and be followed by the program. All are welcome!

Women's Retreats 2017 Registration

Away: January 27-29, February 3-5

At-Home: February 10-11

Registration for the Women's Retreats continues through Sunday, January 8, with late registrations accepted on a space-available basis. Information and forms are available in the church office during the week, anytime at www.firstparish.org/forms, and at coffee hour January 8. The theme for this year's retreats is *To Thine Own Self Be True: Knowing Your Authentic Self*. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome to attend one of the Away weekends at Senexet House (January 27-29 or February 3-5) or the At-Home retreat at First Parish (February 10 and 11). For registration questions or to enquire about financial assistance, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.



Social Action

Vegan Potluck and Recipe Exchange

Tuesday, January 3, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Walker-Selle home
All, including children, are welcome at the Vegan Potluck and Recipe Exchange Tuesday, January 3, 6:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Reverence for Life group and hosted by Alec Walker and Caitlin Selle.

AWE Meeting Rescheduled

Tuesday, January 3, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Greeley Room
Due to bad weather, the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE; formerly known as Reproductive Justice) meeting on December 17, 2016, is rescheduled to Tuesday, January 3, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at First Parish. Please contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net with questions.

Race Conversations Film Review

Sunday, January 8, 7:00 p.m., Emerson, Greeley, Ripley
We will continue our discussion of Ava DuVernay's documentary, *13th*, addressing mass incarceration of black and brown people, enabled by the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and continuing today via the war on drugs and other "tough on crime" policies. The documentary was screened at First Parish on December 6, and is available on Netflix. Please join us to share your thoughts. Sponsored by the Race Conversations Group. For more information, please contact Margie King Saphier at margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or 978-369-4467.

Reverence for Life Supper and Film

Tuesday, January 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall
On Tuesday evening, January 10, Reverence for Life will show the film *Cowspiracy* in the Parish Hall. The movie deals with the vast and harmful impact of animal agriculture on the environment. The presentation highlights the comparative inaction of environmental organizations in dealing with this issue. The event is free and includes supper. Supper starts at 6:00, and the film starts at 7:00. For more information, please contact Lyell Slade, llsrdv@netscape.net or 978-369-0636.

Discussion of Congregational Read, *Just Mercy*

Tuesday, January 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Emerson Room
Join the Race Conversations Group for a discussion of our first congregational read of the year, Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and has worked for decades obtaining justice for condemned prisoners. His first-person account of the clients he's served and the injustices they've suffered is disturbing, gripping, and inspiring. Stevenson's TED talk is available online. For more information, please contact donaldmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Women's March on Washington, DC, January 21

Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE; formerly Reproductive Justice) has chartered two buses to take participants to the Women's March on Washington, DC, being held Saturday, January 21, 2017. Join us to celebrate solidarity, unity, and optimism in response to the recent election season. Our mission is to unite across social, cultural, religious, political, and economic lines to demand justice and equity for all women. Act fast before the seats sell out! Contact Jennifer Izzo to purchase bus tickets at jbizzo@hotmail.com or 617-869-5563.

Religious Education News

RE Workshop on New Year's Day 2017

Following the Children's Message, all children and youth are invited to join Rev. Amy Freedman, Peter Bowden, and Dawn Van Patten for a special multi-age workshop in the Emerson Room. We will explore the many traditions at the turning of the year and have a special ritual to let go of the old and welcome the new. This will be a fun way to bring in 2017 together! On New Year's Day, there is no Little RE for preschoolers on the lower level. They are welcome to begin in the service with their families and join the RE Workshop.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

This year, First Parish is pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education not only to adolescents but also to 1st and 5th graders! **This program will be offered in the Spring for eight Sundays during regular Religious Education, 10:15 -11:15 a.m.** Please save the dates! Fifth Grade OWL Parent Orientation will be Saturday, January 28, 9:00-11:00 a.m. First Grade Parent Orientation will be Saturday, February 4, 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you decide not to have your child participate, they will be included in another RE class during the eight-week program. For more information, contact Amy, afreedman@firstparish.org, or Dawn, dvanpatten@firstparish.org.

First Parish Parent Circles: January 22, 29, February 5

What does it mean to be a UU parent? How can we be spiritually resilient in the face of life's challenges? Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister for Religious Education, will offer three Parent Circles on topics of interest to today's parents. Each session will feature someone with additional wisdom and expertise to share.

Sunday, January 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **Parenting in the Digital Age**, Rev. Amy Freedman and Peter Bowden

Sunday, January 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **Talking With Children about Death**, Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten

Sunday, February 5, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **Sandwich Generation: Caring for Aging Parents and Children**, Revs. Amy Freedman and Marion Visel

Parent Circles will be held in the Brooks Room. Childcare will be provided in the Emerson Room. For planning, please let us know the names and ages of children using childcare. You may register for one, two, or three sessions by emailing Amy, afreedman@firstparish.org.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, January 17

To prevent extra work, please send your final submissions (with images, if possible) as email attachments.

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. The February 2017 edition will be published on January 25.

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org.