

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 8, 2017

This Week

| | | |
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| 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 |
| Mon., Jan. 9 | 7:30 | Americans for Economic Fairness |
| Tues., Jan. 10 | 5:00 | Reverence for Life Supper and Film |
| | 6:30 | T'ai Chi |
| | 7:00 | Race Conversations Book Discussion |
| | 7:30 | Environmental Leadership Team |
| Wed., Jan. 11 | 9:30 | Buddhist Group |
| | 7:45 | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Thu., Jan. 12 | 7:00 | Race Conversations Group |
| | 7:30 | Buddhist Group |
| Fri., Jan. 13 | 6:30 | <i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal |
| Sat., Jan. 14 | 9:00 | Nonprofit Leadership Training |
| | 9:30 | Photo Club |
| | 7:30 | Cosy Sheridan Folk Concert |
| Sun., Jan. 15 | 9:00 | Chalice Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9:00 | Gospel Choir Rehearsal |
| | | Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. |
| | 11:30 | Junior Choir Rehearsal |
| | 11:30 | Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary |
| | 4:00 | <i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal |

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, sgbrandon@me.com, cell: 978-505-0492.

Next Sunday

During morning worship on January 15, we will be commissioning and blessing those from the Concord area who will be "Marching for Women" on January 21. Please come to receive or offer your blessing.

An Evening with Cosy Sheridan

Saturday, January 14, 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. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Small Group Ministry: "Be the Change" First Session Today!

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

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, appropriately 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 will show how Thoreau was very much a man of his time and also a person who's spiritual life was deeply affected by money. For reservations, sign up at coffee hour, contact the office at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net by January 14. Social time: 11:30. Lunch: Noon, followed by the program. Luncheon cost: \$12. All women and men are welcome!

Women's Retreats Registration—Deadline Today!

Please register for the Women's Retreats today, which is the official deadline (late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis). Information and forms are available at coffee hour today and at www.firstparish.org/forms. This year's retreats will focus on 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 & 11).

Save the Date—Saturday, February 18

Don't miss the WPA's fascinating program by fashion historian Karen Antonowicz who will demonstrate the major changes in the lives and fashions of the residents of Downton Abbey throughout its intriguing history. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by dessert and beverages. Charge is eight dollars. For Reservations, sign up at coffee hours; contact the office or pekincd@comcast.net by February 14.

Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group

The January book for the Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. The evening discussion will be Monday, January 30, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning, on Tuesday, January 31, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.—both in the Brooks Room at First Parish. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join a discussion. There's no need to sign up! If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Funderburg Scholars Dinner

Saturday, February 4, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Join us for the annual Funderburg Scholars fundraising dinner! Help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college, while you enjoy a delicious 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 e-mailing Loretta Ho Sherblom at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com, or by texting or calling Loretta's cell at 508-935-6750. Join us for wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by Sven Olson at 7:15 p.m.

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.

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.

Social Action

Race Conversations Film Review

Sunday, January 8, 7:00 p.m., Emerson, Greeley, Ripley Rooms
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 p.m., and the film starts at 7:00 p.m.. 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 donaaldmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Women's March on Washington, D.C., 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, D.C., 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.

Amnesty International, Group 15; Tuesday, January 17 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

In keeping with Amnesty International's "I Welcome" campaign to advocate for migrants and asylum seekers globally, we'll be brainstorming about ways to support the work of Concord's local nonprofit group Dignity in Asylum. To widen the network seeking the release of our two young prisoners of conscience in Azerbaijan, we now have a Freedom Fighters newsletter with suggested actions on their behalf. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor: 781-718-7640 or Kly.taylor@gmail.com.

Location Change - AWE Meeting Sat. Jan 14, 8:00 a.m.

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) meeting on Saturday January 14 at 8:00 a.m. will meet at the church, not at Trail's End Cafe, as previously publicized. We will discuss upcoming events and make scarves and posters for the women's marches in Boston and Washington, DC later this month. Contact: Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net).

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.

Religious Education News

This Week, January 8, 2017

9:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grades 2– Greeley Room

Grade 3– Ripley Room

Grade 4– Emerson Room

Grade 5– Bulkeley Room

Grades 6– Chapel

11:15 a.m. – Youth and Adult Committee (YAC) Interest Meeting – Loft

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

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age (Grade 9)– Brooks Room

Next Week, January 15

"Standing on the Side of Love"—RE Workshop

Following the children's message, all children and youth are invited to a special social action workshop. 30 Days of Love launches on MLK weekend! "Standing on the Side of Love" is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression—sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Activity choices will include making buttons, art for social change, cooperative games, and reflection on how we can make a difference.

YAC Is Coming Back!

Sunday, January 8, 11:15 a.m., in the Loft

You've been missing your YAC, and you didn't even know it! What's a YAC? A YAC is a "Youth and Adult Committee"—a small group of youth leaders and adult advisors working together to help the youth choose, plan, organize, and implement the youth programming of a congregation. Obviously, a YAC is very UU; one, it's a committee; two, it's an acronym; and three, it affirms at least four of the seven principles! Are you okay with valuing the worth of youth input, encouraging their growth, promoting equity in leadership, and using the democratic process? If you said "yes," come learn more about YAC at a brief interest meeting, open to all adults and youth. If you can't be there but have questions or want to get involved, please email Christa: champion@firstparish.org.

Neighboring Faiths Parent Meeting

Sunday, January 8, 11:15- 11:45 a.m.

All parents of 7th graders will gather in the Brooks Room to learn more about our Neighboring Faiths program. Please send at least one parent per family. The purpose of the meeting is to go over important logistics for the class, as well as to share a little about the content of the program. (The kids can go to coffee hour while we meet.) We'll have copies of the updated program schedule at this meeting. Questions? Contact Neighboring Faiths program leader, Jan Power: jpower6@gmail.com.

First Parish Parent Circles

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 of 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. Child care will be provided in the Emerson Room. For planning, please let us know names and ages of children needing child care. You may register for one, two, or three sessions by emailing Amy at afreedman@firstparish.org.