

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 22, 2017

This Week

Sun., Jan. 22	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.	
	11:30	Junior Choir rehearsal
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Tues., Jan. 24	5:00	Grub's Place Rehearsal
	7:15	Diversity Committee Film
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., Jan. 25	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Jan. 26	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 27	5:30	Grub's Place Rehearsal
	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sun., Jan. 29	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
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	5:00	Grub's Place Rehearsal
	7:00	Sarasa Concert

Parish Notes

**Reclaiming Our Democracy, Tuesday, January 31
7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Do you believe that “we the people” need to reclaim our democracy? Do you believe that corporations, Super PACS, and the very wealthy have too much influence on our government? If so, please come to a gathering organized by the Americans for Economic Fairness group here at First Parish on January 31 at 7:00 p.m. We will view the 30-minute film *Legalize Democracy*, followed by small group discussions to better understand the issues and what needs to be done. For more information, email Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

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 one 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.

Yeah, Yeah, Yeah—The Beatles Reunite at First Parish!

Twist and Shout the night away. Join the Fab 8 on Friday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. Come listen, sing along, and dance as Rob, Rob, John, Michael, Chris, Lauren, Noah, and Rick play all your favs. Move over, Shea Stadium! Cash bar and complimentary light snacks. Tickets? Email Jen Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com) or add your name to the clipboard in the office. \$30/person, \$50/couple. (All proceeds go to First Parish.)

Small Group Ministry Group Starts Soon

“Topics of Meaning in Everyday Life” is an in-depth exploration of our experiences and beliefs that underlie topics of meaning in everyday life.

6 Sessions: 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19

Facilitators: Marian Stanley and Francie Nolde.

When: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to noon.

The group is limited to 10 participants, so sign up ASAP! Use the clipboard in the front office, or contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239. Please provide your name, phone and email address.

The Cooler Concord Fair—Save Money and Reduce Your Impact

Please come to the Cooler Concord Fair, Saturday February 4, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Concord Carlisle High School. The Fair will showcase

simple and significant ways to save energy and money, with 10 major exhibits that include: home heating, weatherization, hot water, LED lighting, solar power, transportation, landscaping and more. Community experts will help you get things done quickly and easily. This is a not-to-be-miss event for families! Students from all the schools will have their own creative exhibits. Exciting kids' activities will include crafts, races and hands-on projects. Find out more and register now at CoolerConcord.org. If you can volunteer during the event, please contact jill.appel@comcast.net.

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! 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 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.

“Conscious Aging: An Introductory Workshop”

First Tuesday Group (65+)

February 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Join the First Tuesday Group for a workshop with discussion and exercises on living consciously, embracing the journey of aging, and exploring the potential of life's advanced years. Annie Gray will lead an exploration of these important themes that emerge as we age. Gray has led a highly acclaimed, eight-session version of this workshop through Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education. Come participate in a stimulating mix of discussion and exercises that explore the potential of life's later chapters.

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 hour; or contact the office or pekindc@comcast.net by February 14.

Mom's Night Out—Ladies Night at the Theatre

Thursday, February 23; Reception 6:00 p.m., Performance 7:30 p.m.

Join us at Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) in Lowell to see the comedy *Women in Jeopardy!* The complimentary dessert and wine reception begins at 6:00 p.m.; then enjoy the 7:30 p.m. performance and stay for “Ask the Artists” after the show. All are welcome. To read more about the play, visit <http://www.mrt.org/>. Discounted price of \$31/ticket. By February 1, contact Jeanne Williams at courteje@bc.edu or 978-578-7515. To learn about MNO events, join the listerv by emailing valvallancourt@gmail.com. Registration and payment due February 1.

First Parish in Concord Photography Club

Saturday, February 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Emerson Room

The Photography Club welcomes new members eighteen years and older of all skill levels. We meet on the second Saturday of each month, except July and August, to share pictures and learn more about photography. We take field trips to interesting locations near and far, and are planning a trip to Martha's Vineyard in the spring. Our Annual Photo Show this year is on April 30 at 3:00 p.m. at First Parish. We will have a table at coffee hour once a month. Stop by and we'll be happy to answer your questions, or email Susan Page at srpage13@gmail.com.

Social Action

SAC Grant Applications Due January 31

Do you know of a valuable social action program that could use a modest grant? We will accept Social Action grant applications for 2017 until January 31. Each grant must be sponsored by a pledging member. See the grant guidelines and the application cover page on the First Parish SAC grants Web page. Grants should be submitted to wendyh@dmahealth.com by January 31. Applications will be available for the congregation to review and comment on from February 1 to February 9.

Help Review Social Action Grants

This is a time-limited volunteer opportunity to review and rate applications for this year's Social Action grants. Learn about a variety of social action programs in our area and abroad, and contribute to the process of choosing grantees. Grant applications will be posted for review on February 1, and ratings must be completed by February 9. If you haven't already served as a grant reader, there will be a 90-minute training offered one evening during the week of January 24, and once during the weekend of January 28/29, with times and dates chosen based on volunteers' preferences. Please contact Wendy Holt, wendyh@dmahealth.com.

Race Conversations

Read and discuss *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander, a devastating account of how the U.S. prison population grew from 300,000 in the 1970s to 2,300,000 in just 40 years—and the havoc that mass incarceration is wreaking on our people and our country. Obtain the book at coffee hour, then sign up for one of the discussion group meetings alternate weeks, each for three sessions.

Sundays at 11:30 a.m., starting February 5

Mondays at 7:00 p.m., starting February 6

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., starting February 8

Questions? Contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

Race: The Power of an Illusion

Today; Refreshments at 7:15 p.m., Film at 7:30 p.m.

"The Difference Between Us" is episode one of this three-part PBS documentary, which will be shown in the Parish Hall this evening. Gather at 7:15 p.m. for socializing and refreshments; the screening will start at 7:30 p.m. This episode examines the scientific research that dispels the notion of genetic differences among racial groups. We'll have a brief discussion afterwards. Parts two and three will be shown on the following Sunday evenings, February 12 and 26; each episode stands alone. This is presented by the Diversity Committee; there is no charge to attend. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, February 14

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 March 2017 edition will be published on February 22.

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.

Religious Education News

This Week, January 22, 2017

January 20-22, Winter Retreat—Coming of Age (Grade 9) – First Parish in Concord and Walden Woods

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Meet in the Parlor. Visit Holy Family Parish in Concord for 10:30 a.m. Mass.

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 classrooms with their teachers. All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten and Grade 1—Lower Level

Grades 2—Greeley Room

Grade 3—Ripley Room

Grade 4—Brooks Room

Grade 5—Bulkeley Room

Grades 6—Chapel

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

Lion Dance—Lunar New Year Celebration

We are delighted to welcome back Wah Lum Kung Fu of Concord to First Parish! The group will be performing the traditional Lion Dance during the service. Then they will offer Kung Fu lessons and demonstrations in the Emerson Room to different age groups. In our RE classes we will learn about Lunar New Year which begins on Saturday, January 28.

First Parish Parent Circles

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, Jean Chandler 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

This program is free but preregistration is required. Child care will be available upon request. For planning, please let us know names and ages of children needing child care. You may register for one, two, or three sessions. Please register today by emailing Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org.

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 8 Sundays during regular Religious Education time: 10:15-11:15 a.m.. Please save the date! 5th Grade OWL Parent Orientation: Saturday, January 28, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.; 1st Grade Parent Orientation: Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.. If you decide not to have your child participate, he or she 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.

Cradles to Crayons Clothing Drive

Bring your gently used children's clothing (especially coats and boots) to coffee hour on Sunday, January 29. The Alcott/Nashoba 1st grade Daisy Girl Scout Troop will be staffing a table at coffee hour to collect these items. They deliver them to Cradles to Crayons, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive. They supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities that have with communities that need. Questions? Contact Heather: packardheather@gmail.com.

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.