

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 29, 2017

This Week

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	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	5:00	SAC Grants Orientation
	6:30	AWE
	7:00	Sarasa Concert
Mon., Jan 30	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues., Jan. 31	9:30	Women's Book Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Reclaiming Our Democracy
Wed., Feb. 1	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Feb. 2	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri., Feb. 3	6:30	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal
	7:00	Beatles Party
Sat., Feb. 4	6:30	Funderburg Dinner
Sun., Feb. 5	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Discussion of "The New Jim Crow"
	11:30	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30	Native Americans, Then and Now
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	4:00	<i>Grub's Place</i> Rehearsal

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

"Living in Divine Mystery" with Rev. Jim Sherblom. Through stories of spiritual pilgrimages, and his life as a parish minister, Jim recounts traditional and untraditional paths to enlightenment. He tells of dancing with Sufis, transcending mountains with Taoists, exploring hallucinogenic plant medicines with South American shamans, and other tales along the way traveling into the mystic. He will speak about some of those adventures. Jim is a longtime First Parish member.

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.

Reclaiming Our Democracy

Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the 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 as we view the 30-minute film, "Legalize Democracy," followed by small group discussions to better understand the issues and what needs to be done. People from all denominations and beliefs are encouraged to join us. This issue crosses all races, religions, and political affiliations. Please bring your friends!

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. The six sessions will be on 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, facilitated by Marian Stanley and Francie Nolde on 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

Saturday February 4, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Concord Carlisle High School, see a showcase of significant ways to save energy and money, with 10 major exhibits that include: home heating, weatherization, hot water, solar power, transportation, and more. Community experts will help you get things done quickly and easily. This event is not to be missed 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

It's not too late to 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 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 Caroline McCloy at 7:15 p.m.

Native Americans, Then and Now: Confronting Our Past

Sunday, February 5, 11:30 a.m., in the Loft

Have you ever wondered about how the early members of First Parish related to the indigenous people around them? Come gather next Sunday after services to discuss the 2016 General Assembly Business Resolution, Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered. Brainstorm how First Parish might reflect on Native American concerns, past and present. For more information, contact Dana Snyder-Grant at dana.snydergrant@gmail.com or 978-760-1129.

"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.

"Transylvania Happenings: Reflections from Kolozsvár"—Discussion and Dessert Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Please join us for dessert and help us welcome Rev. Júlia Jobbágy, Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár, who will give us her perspectives on the Unitarian community in Transylvania. She will visit us during her break from studies at Meadville-Lombard seminary in Chicago. Júlia has been a frequent guide and translator for U.S. partner congregation pilgrimages in Transylvania, and a leader of their youth organization, organizing and leading youth events and summer camps. For more information, contact Lillian Anderson, lillianand@comcast.net.

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 faves. 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.)

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 in 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.

Preparing for End-of-Life Decision Making Sunday, February 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Emerson Room

An overview of end of life decision making focusing on the Conversation Project Starter Kit that emphasizes having a conversation about values; what matters to you, not what's the matter with you. Copies of the Conversation Starter Kit will be provided to help you think and talk about your wishes for care at the end of life. We'll also explore how best to talk with family members about their wishes at the end of their life. This isn't about filling out forms (though the paperwork is important), rather about talking about end-of-life care based on values. Hosted by Rev. Marion Visel, minister for Pastoral Care. No need to sign up.

Downton Abbey Event—February 18

Don't miss the WPA's fascinating program by fashion historian—Karen Antonowicz, who will illustrate major changes in the lives and fashions of the residents of Downton Abbey throughout its intriguing history. Feel free to dress in period costumes if you like. 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 at 978-369-9602 or pekindc@comcast.net by February 15. All are warmly welcome. Invite family members and friends for a fun night out!

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.

Social Action

.SAC Grant Applications Due Tuesday, 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 today at 5:00 p.m. Please contact Wendy Holt, wendyh@dmahealth.com.

The New Jim Crow

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 1970's 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 on alternate weeks, each for three sessions: Sundays at 11:30 a.m., starting February 5, Mondays at 7:00 p.m., starting February 6, and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., starting February 8. Questions? Contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 978-610-6298.

We Marched for Women...Now What?

On Saturday, January 21, over 200 men, women, and children from our community attended marches in D.C. and Boston. Come today, January 29, at 6:30 p.m. (room at First Parish to be determined), to share thoughts, reactions, and ideas, and make a plan for next steps! For questions or more information, please contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Religious Education News

This Week, January 29, 2017

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
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.- Religious Education Classes
Kindergarten and Grade 1– Lower Level
Grades 2— Greeley Room
Grade 3– Ripley Room
Grade 4– Emerson Room
Grade 5– Bulkeley Room
Grades 6– Chapel
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Parent Circle – Wright Tavern
4:00-6:00 p.m., 8th Grade OWL– Emerson Room

Next Week, February 5, 2017—Religious Education Classes First Parish Parent Circles

Parent Circles are an opportunity for parents to connect with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

"Talking with Children about Death"

Sunday, January 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dawn Van Patten and Jean Chandler

Dawn Van Patten is the Assistant Director of Religious Education. Before working at First Parish, she taught preschool and helped to start the Oxbow Schoolhouse in Devens, Massachusetts. Jean Chandler holds a B.S. in Child and Family Studies, a Master's in Elementary Education, and a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, specializing in Children's Bereavement. She has worked as Associate Program Director at The Children's Room, Center for Grieving Children and Teens Inc, Associate Project Director and Editor for various publishing companies, a K-8 Elementary School Teacher, and is a published author and illustrator. |

"Sandwich Generation: Caring for Aging Parents and Children"

Sunday, February 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Revs. Amy Freedman and Marion Visel

Parent Circles will be held in the Wright Tavern. Child care is available in the Emerson Room from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Please register by emailing Amy: afreedman@firstparish.org. Drop-ins are welcome!

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 first 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 who 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.

Buddy Dog Project

Our Neighboring Activists (6th graders) invite our First Parish community to help them in supporting Buddy Dog in Sudbury to make the lives of the rescue animals they care for better! You can help by donating new dog toys, cat toys, and dog collars. A collection box is in the coatroom and local pet stores. Financial contributions are also welcome to help buy collars that are given to each adopted dog. You can find out more from our Neighboring Activists on the stage at coffee hour today.

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Sarah Burns at sburns@firstparish.org.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline is 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.