

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

## March 12, 2017

### This Week

Sun., Mar. 12	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	4:00	Grub's Place Rehearsal
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	7:15	Diversity Committee Film
Mon., Mar. 13	7:00	Reclaiming Our Democracy
Tues., Mar. 14	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., Mar. 15	9:30	Buddhist Group
	11:30	WPA Luncheon Program
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Mar. 16	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 17	5:30	Grub's Place Rehearsal
	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat., Mar. 18	9:30	Social Action/Nonprofit Training
Sun., Mar. 19	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b>
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Preparing for End of Life Decision Making
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:30	Native American Study Group
	4:00	Grub's Place Rehearsal

### Parish Notes

#### Newsletter Deadline

**Tuesday, March 14, 12:00 p.m.**

Submissions in final form for the April Meeting House Newsletter are needed by noon, Tuesday, March 14. Please send your submission and images in final form as attachments to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu). For the latest on dates and guidelines, please check the Editor's Notes section in the most recent *Meeting House News*, or download from the website at <http://firstparish.org/wp/news/news-submission-guidelines/>. If you are new to submitting, please review the format used in previous newsletters. If you do not receive a confirmation email that your submission was received, please contact the Editor. If you submit regularly, please request a template file of your copy that you can edit and resubmit to reduce work for you and your committee.

#### Notecards for Sale

Think spring! Notecards featuring a variety of Sunday service flower arrangements are available at coffee hour today for \$3 each. Your support helps the Flower Committee purchase flowers for the Sanctuary and plants for the two front porch planters throughout the year. See Joy Madden at coffee hour for more information.

#### Reclaiming Our Democracy—Sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness; Monday, March 13, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Following up on our very successful January event "Reclaiming Our Democracy," we will watch and then discuss a TED Talk by Larry Lessig titled "Our Democracy No Longer Represents the People. Here's How We Fix It." Participants will then work in small groups on tasks such as event planning, designing a logo, creating a website, writing a song, researching related groups, developing written materials, and getting our message out. Come and enjoy homemade refreshments. All are welcome. Contact Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeusen@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeusen@gmail.com).

#### WPA Luncheon Program about Thoreau and Money

Celebrate the Thoreau Bicentennial by attending the Women's Parish Association's luncheon and talk by Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom about Thoreau and Money on Wednesday, March 15 at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided and there is no charge. In honor of Thoreau's anti-slavery stance, donations will be accepted to benefit Robbins House, Concord's African American and Antislavery Interpretive Center. Reservations are required by March 12. Sign up at coffee hour, contact the office, or email [pekinde@comcast.net](mailto:pekinde@comcast.net). All are welcome!

#### Congregational Stewardship Survey—Please Take This Survey

The Finance Committee with Rev. Dana and the Standing Committee is conducting a special survey of your thoughts and ideas on stewardship. It is more than money. It is how each of us feels about First Parish, how we are engaged in and contribute, and our plans for the future and ideas for improvement. We need your voice. Please complete this survey now. Go to this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstParishStewardship>, or pick up a hard copy survey at the church office. Please tell a friend. The findings will be provided in April or May. The deadline is Sunday, March 19.

#### Preparing for End of Life Decision Making

**Sunday, March 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room**  
**Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care**

An overview of end of life decision making, focusing on the Conversation Project Starter Kit, and emphasizing having a conversation about values and 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); it is about talking about what you and they want for end of life care based on values. No need to sign up.

#### Prayer Bead Workshop

**Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room**

This workshop will focus on different forms of prayers, will offer a practical approach based on a modern use of prayer beads, a practice that you can personalize, and we will also each make our own prayer beads. Co-facilitated by Jan Hutsler, Susan Dobbie, and Dana Snyder-Grant. The group is limited to 16 participants, so sign up soon using the clipboard in the front office, or by contacting Susan Dobbie at [susandobbie@gmail.com](mailto:susandobbie@gmail.com) or 978-501-6969. There is a \$10 supplies fee, which is best to pay in cash on the day of the workshop.

#### The Music Events Committee Presents Another Concert in This Year's Sarasa Chamber Music Series: Trainspotting

**Sunday, March 26, 2017, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

All aboard for Sarasa's special tour of train-inspired music in our March concert set, including works by 19th-century train enthusiast Antonin Dvorák and Steve Reich's very personal account of train travel in the 20th century. Biber's wonderfully exuberant violin sonata No. 3 from the 1660s, composed some 100 years before trains were even invented, anticipates those very sounds we imagine when a locomotive chugs along its route. Works by Biber, Reich, and Antonín Dvorák. Tickets are available online or at the door. For information, contacts, and tickets, visit [sarasamusic.org](http://sarasamusic.org).

#### Toiletry and Feminine Hygiene Collection Drive for Women

Starting March 1, we are collecting full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) for Rosie's Place and the Period Project. Leave items in the marked box in the coatroom starting March 1. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment and RE. Contact Suzie Weaver at [skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com) or 978-369-5352.

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

The March selection for the Women's A.M./P.M. Book Group is *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt. The evening discussion will be Monday, March 27, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room; and the morning discussion will be Tuesday, March 28, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Brooks Room. 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](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

#### General Assembly 2017—Resist and Rejoice

General Assembly is the Unitarian Universalist annual meeting where business is accomplished, workshops are held, and UU's from all over the world gather together to worship, learn, take action on important social justice issues, and this year, to vote on the denomination's next President. G.A. "Resist and Rejoice" is in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 21-25 and registration and housing reservations are now open. First Parish sends delegates each year. If you are interested in attending or being a delegate please contact Lillian Anderson at [Lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:Lillianand@comcast.net).

### Syrian Refugee Family Housing Fund

The Allo family of 7, now housed with Donna Vaillancourt and Sean Kavanagh, escaped Syria to refugee camps in Jordan 5 years ago, then last August to the US. We are raising \$50,000 towards permanent housing in a local community. Tell your friends, see Sean at coffee hour, and donate tax-free here. <https://www.plumfund.com/charity-fundraising/dignifiedhousing4Allofamily>

### "Grub's Place"—Tickets on Sale Now

**March 31 and April 1, 7, and 8, at 7:30 p.m.**

*Grub's Place* is a musical starring Terry Rothermel as Grub and Simone Tricca as Mirabel. It is written and composed by Jane Blumberg, directed by Francene Amari, and produced by Claudia Nimar. This delightful musical, set in an ant colony, explores community life and is enlivened by a praying mantis, irreverent fireflies, and a reclusive spider. Turf battles, jealous hearts, and prejudice threaten the colony's survival. Musical numbers "Dear, Dear, Friend" and "Community Hymn" will be memorable. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and can be purchased at coffee hour March 12, 19, and 26, the church office, or online at [www.mktix.com/fpuuc](http://www.mktix.com/fpuuc).

### Peace Campaign Alert

**Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

Filmmaker Jenny Phillips screens her new documentary, *Beyond the Wall*, with discussion follow to follow. Phillips' work lays out the desperate situation of the flood of prisoners returning to our communities without guidance and support for transition to society. Set largely in Lowell and Lawrence, where once-thriving textile mills have been replaced by poverty, crime, and drug addiction, the film bears witness to personal stories of reentry, relapse, recovery, and redemption. Phillips puts a human face on the social, economic, and emotional barriers encountered by former prisoners who are among our most discriminated citizens. Contact Pat Simon at [psimon4peace@gmail.com](mailto:psimon4peace@gmail.com) or 781-373-1410.

### Interested in Serving on the Standing Committee?

If you would someday like to serve on the Standing Committee, the Nominating Committee would like to get to know you! Standing Committee members serve one or two three-year terms on the governing board of First Parish. In partnership with the minister, staff, and volunteers, the Standing Committee establishes policy by which the church operates. The Clerk and Treasurer are also Standing Committee members. They serve one or more one-year terms. Candidates must be members of First Parish and should have an interest and experience in such matters as governance, operations, finance, religious education, social justice, or other parts of church life. You can find out more about the Standing Committee <http://firstparish.org/wp/about/governance/>. If interested, write to [doughardy@gmail.com](mailto:doughardy@gmail.com) or [eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com](mailto:eric.aaron.moore@gmail.com).

### Social Action

#### "Black Lives Matter" Signs Available

"Black Lives Matter" signs for will be sold at coffee hour on March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, or until they are sold out. They are \$10 each, or 3 for \$20.

### Amnesty International, Group 15

**Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

In addition to writing letters supporting individuals who've been punished for peaceful human rights activities, we'll have updates on efforts to bring about prison reform, death penalty abolition, and the prevention of violence against women. We'll focus on strategies to free two young Azerbaijanian student activists, Giyas Ibrahimov and Bayram Mammadov, arrested in May on trumped up charges of heroin possession. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at [Kly.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Kly.taylor@gmail.com) or 781-718-7640.

### Jobs, Justice, and Climate March

Get on the bus with First Parish to the big "Jobs, Justice, and Climate" march in Washington, D.C. on April 29. This march is led by a broad coalition of 300 labor, racial justice, and environmental groups (the same coalition that organized the big climate march in NYC in 2014). First Parish has booked two buses open to all. If you'd like a seat (\$110 per person), you can sign up at coffee hour or send an email to Kate Crosby at [ecrosby@gmail.com](mailto:ecrosby@gmail.com) or Berni Jenkins at [bernijenkins2@gmail.com](mailto:bernijenkins2@gmail.com). More information to follow about art making together before the march.

### Interested in learning more about Native Americans?

#### Join the Next Meeting of the Native American Study Group

**Sunday, March 19, at 12:30 p.m. in the Loft.**

We are a new group that has begun to address the UUA suggestion of learning more about Native Americans and reflecting on what it means for our Unitarian Universalist congregation. Our approach is for each member to

each read a books in which he or she is particularly interested, and share with the group for discussion. In the future, we hope to bring what we have learned to the congregation as a whole.

### Part Three of "Race: The Power of an Illusion" Tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Part Three of this three-part PBS documentary, "The House We Live In" asks the question: If race is not biology, what is it? This episode uncovers how race resides not in nature, but in politics, economics, and culture. It reveals how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status, and wealth to white people. Please join us for socializing and refreshments at 7:15 p.m.; the film will start at 7:30 p.m.

### Religious Education News

#### This Week, Sunday, March 12

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

*Children in Kindergarten and up begin in the Sanctuary with their families.*

*Following the Children's Message children in Kindergarten through 4th grade are welcome to go to the Emerson Room for Yoga if they wish.*

*Parents are asked to pick-up their children at 11:15 a.m..*

#### Coming of Age Service

**Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.**

Our Coming of Age Service is the culmination of our 9th grade program. The youth will present their credos, personal statements of belief, to our congregation. This is always a moving rite of passage. We encourage children who are in the 5th grade and older to attend the service. All ages are welcome!

#### Yoga with Laura Grundstrom

**Sunday, March 12, 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.**

Following the Children's Message today, there is a special Yoga session in the Emerson Room for children from Kindergarten through 4th grade who do not wish to stay in the Coming of Age service. We are delighted to welcome back Laura Grundstrom, who is a certified YogaKids teacher. If you have brought a yoga mat, you are welcome to drop it off in the Emerson Room before the service.

#### Next week, Sunday, March 19: Spring Session begins

Our Spring theme is "Explorations with Thoreau" for Kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth. Organizations throughout Concord and around the world will be hosting events to commemorate the occasion. Inspired by our spiritual ancestor, we will spend time outdoors; journaling, walking, connecting with nature, and reflecting on our place in it. Our Whole Lives (OWL), our comprehensive sexuality program, will begin for 1st and 5th graders. Our Neighboring Activists (6th grade) will begin creating "PRO-test art". Neighboring Faiths (7th grade) and 8th grade OWL will continue. If you have any questions about our Children's Program, please contact Amy at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

#### Looking for Friendly RE Greeters to Help on Sunday Mornings

Hello First Parish Community! Would you like to greet families as they walk into the church? We are looking for adults, youth, or families who would like to volunteer for one (or more) 25-minute slots on Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:10 a.m. The RE Greeter stands in the front foyer of the church to welcome families, help newcomers find their child's classroom, and explain that children are dismissed after the Children's Message. Questions? Contact RE Council members Jean Chandler at [jeanjeanc2@aol.com](mailto:jeanjeanc2@aol.com) or Caroline Minkin at [carolineminkin@gmail.com](mailto:carolineminkin@gmail.com). Please sign up online at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4EA9AB22A3FF2-15minute](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4EA9AB22A3FF2-15minute).

**The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

Sarah Burns at [sburns@firstparish.org](mailto:sburns@firstparish.org).

**Rev. Howard Dana's email:** [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

**Rev. Marion Visel's email:** [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

**Church Office—978-369-9602**

Visit our website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org).