

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 23, 2017

This Week

Sun., Apr. 23	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Pastoral Care Volunteer Appreciation
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
	5:00	Oriana Consort
Tues., Apr. 25	9:30	Women's Book Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., Apr. 26	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Apr. 27	6:00	Leadership Workshop
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Sat., Apr. 29	9:30	April History Hike with Howard
Sun. Apr. 30	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
		Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30	Transylvanian Pilgrimage Interest Meeting
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
	3:00	Photo Club Show and Reception

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

"First Parish 2017-2018 Pledge Campaign Update." In February and March, we conducted a survey of our congregation on stewardship. Stewardship is more than money, it is how we feel about First Parish and the things we do to support it. The Finance Committee has completed its analysis. Come hear and discuss the results. See what our parishioners think about First Parish, how they are involved, and how we demonstrate our support. We will also present the updated results from the Annual Pledge Campaign. Finally, we want to hear your feedback and priorities for the 2017-2018 Church Year. Led by Tom Wilson, Treasurer, and members of the Finance Committee—Gib Metcalf, Patty Popov, Fred Van Deusen, and Rudi Scheiber-Kurtz.

The Oriana Consort

Today, April 23, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Oriana Consort returns to First Parish to present "Endings and Beginnings: Choral Music as Remembrance," with music from 16th, 17th, and 20th centuries. Works concerning end of life are Claudio Monteverdi's "Lagrime d'amante" (tears of a lover), selections from Herbert Howells' "Requiem," and Thomas Tomkins' "When David Heard." Beginnings are celebrated in Gerald Finzi's "My Spirit Sang All Day" (love), Clément Janequin's "Le Chant des Oiseaux" (spring), and the largest work, Aaron Copland's "In the Beginning" (genesis). A reception will follow. Tickets are available at <http://www.orianaconsort.org>.

Ferry Beach Retreat

Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-29)

Registration Deadline: Today, April 23

Registration ends today for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat. Join singles, couples, and families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for this annual relaxed and fun weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Information and registration packets are available, and completed forms can be submitted at the Ferry Beach table at coffee hour. Packets can also be downloaded from www.firstparish.org/forms. For questions or to inquire about scholarship assistance, contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.

Women's Book Group

Tuesday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.

For April, the Women's AM/PM Book Group will discuss "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves," by Karen Joy Fowler. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the 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.

"Adapting toward Strength—Leadership through Self-Differentiation" Thursday, April 27, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room Pizza and Salad Served at 6:00 p.m.

The Standing Committee invites all First Parish leaders to join in a workshop led by Rev. Howard Dana. Do you wonder why your meetings devolve into tangents and run overtime? Have you wondered why no one on your committee seems to want to step up and take on its tasks? Are you close to burnout because you are carrying too much of the volunteer load? Come learn how a change in your attitude as a leader can radically change how your group functions. We will be using Edwin H. Friedman's work on systems leadership as our basis. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com.

Panel Discussion on Women's Health Access Issues

On Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., a special panel discussion on women's health care and access to it will be presented. It will focus on what's at stake and what can be done about it. This timely and informative event is co-sponsored by AWE (Advocates for Women's Empowerment, formerly Reproductive Justice) and the WPA (Women's Parish Association). Among the speakers and organizations who will participate are: Cory Atkins, Jamie Eldridge, Progressive Mass, Three Rivers Affinity Group, Planned Parenthood, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. There is no charge. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. Refreshments will be served. Contact Lora Venesy with any questions at venesy@comcast.net.

Final April History Hike with Howard

Saturday April 29, 9:30 a.m.

This ends a series of April walks in and around historic Unitarian and Universalist sites. No sign-up needed. Suitable for adults and children. Participants must be able to walk at a reasonable pace for one to two miles on flat ground. For each outing, we will carpool from First Parish in Concord at 9:30 a.m. The hike will end by 2:00 p.m. for our return to Concord. If you wish to meet us at the hike, you are welcome to do so. All are welcome. This Saturday will be our last in the series, at Fruitlands. Travel to the 19th-century Unitarian utopian community just west of Concord. A \$10 entrance fee is required. Picnic lunch there—bring your own bag lunch.

The Annual First Parish Photo Club Show and Reception

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

The popular "Photo Booth" is back this year! An assortment of costume items will be available for your portraits. Images will be available online soon after the show. Members' work will be displayed on the Stage Gallery. Two slide shows will run—ten of each member's photos in the Parlor; and on stage, highlights of selected field trips. Open to all—bring your friends and family. An array of delicious foods and beverages will be served. Questions? Call Kathleen Elcox at 978-318-1970.

2018 Pilgrimage to Transylvania

Sunday, April 30, 11:30 a.m., in the Emerson Room

The Partner Congregation Committee and Minister of Religious Education, Amy Freedman, announce plans for a multigenerational pilgrimage to our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, in either April or summer of 2018. This is open to all, individuals and families alike. To hear about potential dates, itineraries, and costs, please come to this informational meeting. If you're interested but are unable to attend, contact Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net, or Rev. Amy Freedman at afreedman@firstparish.org.

Peace Campaign Alert

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Filmmaker Jenny Phillips screens her new documentary, *Beyond the Wall*, with discussion to follow. Her 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. Filmmakers put a human face on the social, economic, and emotional barriers encountered by former prisoners who are among our most discriminated-against citizens. Contact Pat Simon at psimon4peace@gmail.com or 781-373-1410.

First Tuesday Group (65+):

“Conscious Aging: An Introductory Workshop”

Tuesday, May 2, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

The First Tuesday Group will meet 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. (While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

Thoreau Bicentennial Gala Celebration

Saturday, May 6, 4:00-7:30 p.m.

4:00 p.m.: “Walking, Working, Waking: What was Thoreau Seeking?”

Lecture by historian Jayne Gordon in the Sanctuary. Free and open to the public; supported by a grant from Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area.

5:15 p.m.: Family Trivia Night and Buffet Dinner in the Parish Hall

Informal trivia on topics related to Thoreau’s life. Hosted by historian Richard Smith, as Henry David Thoreau. Buffet by Comella’s; dessert by Boo’s Creations. Bring your own beverage. Water/cider provided. Register by May 1. Cash or check at the door: \$20 per adult; \$10 for age 20 and under; maximum \$50 per family. Open to all ages. For reservations, contact Shelley_Hawks@msn.com or the First Parish office at 978-369-9602. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council.

A New Small Group is Starting in May:

“Think Big, Act Small: A Small Group Ministry of Joyful Resistance”

Unitarian Universalism invites us to commit to putting our values into action to resist hate, fear and bigotry. Challenged by what we see in the wider world, we gather to remind ourselves of the values of our UU Principles and our First Parish benediction. Participants will share hopes, thoughts, and stories of how we may joyfully act according to our beliefs. There will be four meetings: Mondays, May 8, 15, 22, and June 5, from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Facilitated by Merrill Comeau. This event is limited to 10 participants, so sign up as soon as possible—by May 2 on the sheet in the front office, or by contacting Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239. Please provide your name, email address, and phone number. Merrill will contact you before the first meeting.

WPA May 17 Luncheon Meeting

Open Table has been providing delicious meals, lovely gatherings, and groceries for its guests for 25 years; and the Women’s Parish Association will be honoring its great accomplishments with a special luncheon and program. Come to the May 17 WPA Luncheon Meeting and learn about Open Table’s great work and its future plans to further serve the Concord area communities with a newly purchased building and expanded offerings. Social time will begin at 11:30, followed by lunch and the program. Charge for the lunch is fifteen dollars. Proceeds will be donated to Open Table for its important work. Reservations are required by contacting the office at 978-369-9602 or pekincd@comcast.net by May 14.

WPA Craft Fair and Flea Market

While you’re doing your spring cleaning, remember that the Women’s Parish Association will be holding its Craft Fair and Flea Market on June 4 and will be collecting items to sell at its table. Start collecting high quality items to donate such as jewelry, household items, gift items, children’s items, collectibles, antiques, etc. While you’re thinning out your gardens, consider donating plants as well. You may also want to rent a table yourself to sell your treasures. To rent a table or to arrange for donations of high quality gift items to the WPA table or plants, contact Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net. Don’t miss this popular event. Bring friends and neighbors!

Unitarian Universalist General Assembly

June 21 to 25, New Orleans, Louisiana

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the UUA, where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the association through the democratic process. This year’s theme of GA, “Resist and Rejoice!” will awaken and deepen the commitment of Unitarian Universalists to the power and possibility of working in solidarity with those on the margins. Registration and housing information are on the website, <http://www.uua.org/ga>. The registration fee increases after May 1. Since this year we will elect the next UUA President, it is very important for us to fill all delegate spots. If you are interested in attending or being a delegate, contact Lillian Anderson, member of the Denominational Affairs Committee, at Lillianand@comcast.net.

Social Action

“Black Lives Matter” Signs Available

“Black Lives Matter” signs will be sold at coffee hour today until they are sold out. They are \$10 each, or three for \$20.

Hop a Bus to the Climate March in D.C.—Saturday, April 29

Only 10 seats available on our two buses from Concord to the Climate March on April 29 in Washington, D.C. These buses are open to one and all. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors! (Buses are sponsored by First Parish, but there is no requirement to be a First Parish member.) Cost is \$110; youth seats available for \$30 on request. Sign up at coffee hour and grab a flyer, or send an email to Kate Crosby at cfcrosby@gmail.com or Berni Jenkins at bernijenkins2@gmail.com. Raise your voice for climate action! The march is led by a magnificent broad coalition of 300 labor, racial justice, and environmental groups. Additional information is available at www.peoplesclimate.org.

Mother’s Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 14, is the 21st anniversary of the Mother’s Day Walk for Peace. Come walk with families from Boston, as well as First Parish families and those from other UU congregations. The Peace Walk is the major fundraiser that supports the vital work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute. On Sundays, April 16, 23, 30, and May 7, you can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour to make a donation and/or to sign up to participate in the Peace Walk. If you have questions, email Margie King Saphier at margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or call 781-424-2179.

Religious Education News

This Sunday, April 23:

9:45 a.m.—Little RE (0-4yrs)—Lower Level

10:00 a.m.—Service

10:15 a.m.—Multiage RE Workshop—Following our Children’s Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for a multiage program in the Emerson Room. We will meet local climate activists from Mothers Out Front and talk about activism and the power of working together. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in the classroom. Older children will be dismissed to coffee hour.

11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m.—Youth Discussion Circle, in the Loft Youth, please join us in for the first in a series of discussion circles on Thoreau and Transcendentalism.

Next Week, Sunday, April 30: Religious Education Classes

May Day at the Manse—Sunday, May 7

As a part of our Spring theme “Explorations with Thoreau,” there will be a field trip during regular RE time on Sunday, May 7, (rain date May 21). Following the Children’s Message, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will walk together to the Old Manse, a 15-minute walk. We will hear stories about Henry David Thoreau and his friends at this special place. Then we will explore and play games. A snack of apples, Tostitos, and water will be provided. Please return permission forms to Amy at church or send by mail, email, or scan: afreedman@firstparish.org.

First Parish Parent Discussion Circle

“Parenting Children with Special Needs in our First Parish Community”

Sunday, May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Wright Tavern

Parent Circles are an opportunity for parents to connect and share with one another in a meaningful way and reflect on parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. This one is intended for parents of children with special needs—physical, emotional and learning. Our Minister of Religious Education, Amy Freedman, will join us for spiritual guidance and support. Child care available upon request. This program is free, but registration is appreciated: afreedman@firstparish.org or Leslie Pelton Nichol at lpelton@ljpcconsult.com.

Next monthly Meeting House News deadline is Tuesday, May 16.

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. It is recommended committees schedule a week for the committee review so the final submission is ready by deadline.

The June 2017 edition will be published on May 24.

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.