

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 30, 2017

This Week

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
Mon., May 1	1:30	Caregiver Support Group
	7:00	Immigration Justice Task Force Meeting
	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues., May 2	1:30	First Tuesday Group
	7:00	"Beyond the Wall" Screening
	6:30	T'ai Chi
Wed., May 3	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., May 4	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Sat., May 6	4:00	Thoreau Celebration Event
Sun. May 7	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	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	12:30	Native American Study Group
	5:00	"Be the Change: Small Group Ministry"
	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00	The Conchords Concert

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary, Today

"From Syria to Carlisle—A Syrian Refugee Family's Journey." Sean Kavanagh, Donna Vaillancourt, and the Alloh Family will share their experiences, challenges they are facing, and their hopes for the future. Five years ago, the Allohs fled Syria with their five children only to spend four years in a refugee camp before coming to the United States. This Forum will help put a human face on the subject of Islamic refugees. In the end, they are just a family trying to make their way in the world, like all of us.

The Annual First Parish Photo Club Show and Reception Today, 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.

2018 Pilgrimage to Transylvania

Today, 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.

Mother's Day Cards to Benefit Open Table

This Mother's Day, honor the special women in your life with a bouquet of healthy food for others! First Parish's own Margot Kimball has designed a beautiful Mother's Day card to benefit Open Table. Donate to Open Table today and a card will be mailed directly to your special someone with your personalized message inside. For donations received after May 1, Open Table will email you a print-at-home format of this card. For more information, please visit www.opentable.org/mothers-day.

The Conchords Concert

Sunday, May 7, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary; Reception in the Parish Hall

The Conchords, a six-member vocal ensemble comprised of current and former members of the First Parish Adult Choir, will perform selections from the Great American Songbook, music for the stage, and favorites of the Boomer generation. While most pieces will be performed a cappella, the Adult Choir's accomplished rehearsal accompanist Grace Choi will accompany some selections. No tickets are required. A freewill donation at the door will be gratefully accepted.

Interested in Learning More about Native Americans?

All those sharing an interest in learning more about Native Americans are welcome to join us at the next meeting of the Native American Study Group on Sunday, May 7, at 12:30 p.m. in the Greeley Room. We are reading about the history of Native Americans and sharing what we learn with each other. We are hoping to sponsor a Forum focusing on Native Americans in the Concord area, and looking for other ways to bring what we have learned to the congregation as a whole.

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.

Reverence for Life Smoothies Cooking Class

Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Emerson Room

Smoothies give you energy! Learn how to make your own almond milk, plus four recipes that taste like dessert but are amazingly nutritious (nuts in recipes)! The class is free. Registration required. Contact Jeannie at Jeanniegen@yahoo.com. Hope to see you! Sponsored by Reverence for Life and Vegan Metro West Network.

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 a.m., followed by lunch and the program. Charge for the lunch is \$15. Proceeds will be donated to Open Table for its important work. Reservations are required by contacting the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@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 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 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 to sell your treasures. To rent a table or to arrange for donations of high quality gift items or plants to the WPA table, contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. Don't miss this popular event! Bring friends and neighbors.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The final selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group for this church year is *Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own*, by Kate Bolick. The evening discussion will be Monday, May 22, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and the morning discussion will be Tuesday, May 23, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; both 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.

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.

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. You can visit the Peace Walk table during coffee hour today and May 7 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

RE Family Survey

We are blessed to have an active and committed Religious Education community at First Parish in Concord. Every week, First Parish is filled with children and families having fun, creating new connections, enjoying longtime friends, and embracing our community and our liberal religious tradition. We want to know more about how you experience First Parish. Please take five minutes to complete the anonymous survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDDRGLW>. If you have any questions, please call, text, or email RE Council Chair, Leslie Pelton Nichol, at 781-929-1147 or lpelton@ljpcconsult.com. Thank you!

This Sunday, April 30

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

10:00-11:15 a.m.

Little OWL–Lower Level

Middle OWL–Wright Tavern

Neighboring Faiths—Chapel

10:00 a.m. – Opening Circle—Emerson Room

Please note: *This Sunday, children in Kindergarten through Grade 4 begin in Emerson Room for a special Opening Circle. Little OWL, Middle OWL, and Neighboring Faiths start in their classrooms listed above. The children will go to 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 & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grades 2– Greeley Room

Grade 3– Ripley Room

Grade 4– Emerson Room

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Brooks Room

4:00-5:30 p.m., 8th Grade OWL – Emerson Room

5:30-7:00 p.m., 8th Grade OWL – Celebration and Potluck with families

Family Event: Thoreau Trivia Night and Buffet Dinner

Saturday, May 6, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Fun for all ages! You don't need to be a history expert to play! Informal trivia on topics related to Thoreau's life, hosted by historian Richard Smith, as Henry David Thoreau. Please register by May 1. Cash or check at the door: \$20 per adult; \$10 for age 20 and under; maximum \$50 per family. Contact Shelley_Hawks@msn.com or First Parish Office at 978-369-9602 for reservations. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council.

Next Sunday—May Day at the Manse

As a part of "Explorations with Thoreau," there will be a field trip during regular RE time on Sunday, May 7. Following the Children's Message, Kindergarten, 1st graders (who are not in OWL), 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will walk together to the Old Manse. We will hear stories about Henry David Thoreau and his friends at this special place. Then we will explore and play games. Please return permission forms to Amy at church, or email or scan to afreedman@firstparish.org. OWL Parents: Please note that 1st grade OWL will be in session this week and will head to their classroom following the Children's Message (no early drop-off in the classroom), but 5th grade OWL will not meet this week. We hope 5th graders will plan to join this trip.

First Parish Parent Discussion Circle

"Parenting Children with Special Needs in Our First Parish Community"

Sunday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. to 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. Contact Amy Freedman at 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.