

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 14, 2017

This Week

Sun. May 14	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
Mon., May 15	1:30 Caregiver Support Group
	7:00 "Requiem for the American Dream"
Tues., May 16	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
	6:30 T'ai Chi
	7:00 Amnesty International Meeting
Wed., May 17	9:30 Buddhist Group
	11:30 WPA Luncheon
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., May 18	7:00 Membership Committee
	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., May 19	7:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., May 21	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 Congregational Meeting about 2017-18 Budget
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00 Sarasa Concert

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary, Today

"Report Back from the People's Climate March," with Peter Lowitt. The Environmental Leadership Team and participants in the April 29 People's Climate March in D.C. will report back to the community on the march and their thoughts and impressions. Come see the photos from the march and hear suggestions on what you can do to protect our planet going forward.

Newsletter Deadline for the Last *Meeting House News* until September—Tuesday, May 16, 12:00 p.m.

Submissions in final form for the June *Meeting House News* are needed by noon, Tuesday, May 16. Please send your submission and images in final form as attachments to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, at 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. This will be the last *Meeting House News* until September.

WPA May 17 Luncheon Meeting

Open Table has been providing delicious meals, lovely gatherings, and groceries for its guests for 28 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 from Open Table about its 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, due at the door. All proceeds will be donated to Open Table for its important work. Make your reservations by signing up at coffee hour, contacting the office at 978-369-9602, or emailing Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by May 14.

Sarasa Chamber Ensemble—"Russian Nights"

Sunday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The final program of Sarasa's season will conclude with the warmth of a great big Russian bear hug. Led by Haldan Martinson, Principal Second Violin of the BSO, Sarasa will delve into opulent, sonorous palettes of color in works by Anton Arensky and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Performers include Haldan Martinson and Christina Day Martinson on the violins; Jenny Stirling and Marka Gustavsson on the violas; and Timothy Merton and Jennifer Morsches on the cellos. Tickets are available at the door or online at www.sarasamusic.org. General admission is \$24, seniors are \$20, and students are \$12.

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 are 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.

Membership Committee News

So many people have joined our church this year! The members of the Membership Committee are dedicated to making sure every person feels welcomed with a smile, and given the information they need. After someone signs the book, we assign each new member a mentor to help them integrate into the First Parish community. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. Meetings are short and fun. If you would like to join the Membership Committee, please contact Karen Sullivan at consul.3@verizon.net, or Suzanne Lowe at suzanne.campbell.lowe@gmail.com.

WPA Craft Fair and Flea Market

It's time to get ready for the WPA's Craft Fair and Flea Market on June 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The WPA will be collecting items to sell at its table, so get high quality items ready to donate—such as jewelry, household items, gift items, children's items, collectibles, antiques, and more. 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 plants or high quality gift items to the WPA table, contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. Don't miss this popular event. Bring friends and neighbors!

Sharing and Learning—Education in Transylvania and Our Scholarship Programs

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room

Please join our Partner Congregation Committee and help greet PCC's from neighboring communities to discuss the educational systems in Transylvania and how our scholarship programs support students. This discussion will be moderated by Cathy Cordes of First Parish in Bedford and previous Executive Director of the UUPCC. Rodger Matflage, cochair of First Parish's PCC, will have just returned from three weeks in Székelykeresztúr, and will have lots to share with us. Refreshments will be served.

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.

"Requiem for the American Dream"

Monday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

How did we become a nation that is so far removed from our core beliefs? In this extraordinary 2016 documentary, "Requiem for the American Dream," Noam Chomsky discusses how the concentration of wealth and power among a small elite has polarized American society and brought about the decline of the middle class. Through interviews filmed over four years, Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality. We are pleased to announce that State Sen. Mike Barrett will moderate our discussion. Join Reclaim Our Democracy members to view this 75-minute film, which will be followed by discussion and refreshments. For more information, contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeusen@gmail.com.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Greeley Room

Ongoing actions include supporting individuals who've been punished for peaceful human rights activities, Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, and women's rights, including health rights through Planned Parenthood. We are advocating for the release from prison of two young Azerbaijanian student activists. We are looking into the possibility of organizing a public screening this spring of the film "Tickling Giants." We welcome all to join us. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.

Advocates for Women's Empowerment Meeting and Rosie's Place Volunteering

Our next meeting is Saturday, May 20, 8:00 a.m. at Trails End Café in Concord. All are welcome! Please contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net for more information. Would you like to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place in Boston on Sunday, June 18 (3:00-5:30 p.m.)? We are looking for 15 volunteers (adults and teens 12 or older) to participate. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com, 978-369-5352).

The Care and Keeping of You in Today's Political Climate: A Woman's Wellness Event

Save Friday, June 9, (time TBD) for a special workshop at First Parish about how we, as women, can maintain our sense of balance, hope, and purpose in the midst of everything that is happening in the world today. Let's get together to take a collective breath and refocus on what's important in our own lives. We will be joined by two preeminent women's

empowerment coaches—Amy Smalarz and Paula Greico. There will also be healthy smoothies and a yoga meditation. More details to come. Sponsored by AWE. Contact Jennifer Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com.

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: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDDRGLW>. If you have any questions, please call, text, or email the RE Council Chair, Leslie Pelton Nichol, at 781-929-1147 or lpelton@ljpcconsult.com. Thank you!

This Sunday, May 14

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

10:00-11:15 a.m. – Middle OWL, Wright Tavern

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service, Sanctuary

Children in Kindergarten and up begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for the Parish Hall. Today we will be hosting a special Mother's Day coffee hour. Parents of our youngest children in Little RE are asked to pick up their children on the lower level. 5th graders in Middle OWL meet from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. in the Wright Tavern.

10:15-11:00 a.m. – Multiage Mother's Day Program, Parish Hall

Next Sunday, May 21: RE Classes

Mother's Day Coffee Hour—Multiage RE Program

This Sunday, May 14, following the Children's Message, children and youth will gather in the Parish Hall. Together we will decorate and prepare refreshments to host a Mother's Day coffee hour for our First Parish community. There will also be an opportunity to write a poem or song for mom (or grandma or a special person in your life) to put in a card and/or perform during an "Open Mic" on the Parish Hall stage. Come join in the fun!

Supporting Syrian Refugee Family

The Alloh family of seven, now housed with Donna Vaillancourt and Sean Kavanagh, escaped Syria to refugee camps in Jordan five years ago, then last August came to the United States. They are hopeful about securing permanent housing in a local community. The First Parish Youth Group is helping organize some work parties soon. Would you like to help? Please sign up at coffee hour.

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Church Office—978-369-9602

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.