

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 21, 2017

This Week

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 the 2017-18 Budget
	6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00 Sarasa Concert
Mon., May 22	7:30 Women's Book Group
Tues., May 23	9:30 Women's Book Group
	6:30 T'ai Chi
Wed., May 24	9:30 Buddhist Group
	12:00 Office Volunteers' Thank-You Lunch
	7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., May 25	7:30 Buddhist Group
Sun., May 28	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
	11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary, Today

"Reforestation the Amazon" with Robin and Eric Van Loon. In 2006, Robin Van Loon founded Camino Verde, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization. Camino Verde's work is focused in the Tambopata river basin in Madre de Dios, Peru. The nearby Tambopata Reserve is an important protected area that has been recognized as a biodiversity Hot Spot and is considered by some to be the most biodiverse place on Earth. Sadly, the region's forests and rivers face increasing pressures from migratory agriculture, irresponsible lumber extraction, and reckless gold mining. Come hear about the work being done.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new year (beginning July 1) are in, and will be available downstairs after the service today.

Sarasa Chamber Ensemble—"Russian Nights"

Tonight, 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!

"The Nature Connection: How It Works"

First Tuesday Group (65+) will meet June 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., for Sophie Wadsworth's presentation on how The Nature Connection combines seasonal natural materials, live animals, and hands-on activities to connect individuals with nature's capacity to heal, teach, and create joy. The day will include live animals, a videotape of a Nature Connection visit, a list of likely topics for next year's programs, and our traditional June ice-cream social. Come participate in this stimulating mix of end-of-the-year activities! (While our heading says 65+, please come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

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 Mattlage, 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.



Celebrate the Thoreau Bicentennial—Events at First Parish

Celebrating the Life, Works, and Legacy of Henry David Thoreau

Wednesday, July 12, to Sunday, July 16.

Registration and fees available at www.thoreausociety.org.

Keynote Address by Terry Tempest Williams.

Bicentennial Worship Service—Rev. Howard Dana preaching Sunday, July 16, 10:00 a.m.

Thoreau as Spiritual Guide

6 Mondays beginning September 18 (not October 9), 7:30-9:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Rev. Marion Visel facilitates conversations based on *Walden*.

Limit: 15. Preregister by emailing mvisel@firstparish.org.

Gallery Talk and Tour, Thoreau Institute Library

Thursday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.

Limited to 20 people. Preregister by emailing

diannemcweiss@comcast.net.

Two events co-sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and Women's Parish Association:

"Her Finer Instincts:" The Women in Thoreau's Life. Sandra Petruionis, Ph.D.

Friday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

"A Visit from Henry Thoreau:" A Dramatic Performance by Kevin Radaker

Saturday, October 21, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Contact the office at 978-360-9602 or email Dian Pekin at

pekindc@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.

Volunteer at Rosie's Place on Sunday June 18

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. Rosie's Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women that serves 3 meals a day, 365 days a year. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment and funded by a SAC grant. Contact Suzie Weaver (skatesuzie@aol.com, 978-369-5352).

A Woman's Wellness Event

Join us on Friday, June 9, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. 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 the Advocates for Women's Empowerment. Contact Jennifer Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

AWE's Summer Book Group—Save the Dates

Start reading and join the Advocates for Women's Empowerment to discuss books on topics relevant to women. Join us for any or all of these dates: three Thursdays, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. *June 22, at First Parish*, with "We Should All Be Feminists" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; *July 13, location TBD*, with "Behind the Beautiful Forevers:

Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity" by Katherine Boo; and *August 10, location TBD*, with "Americanah" by Ngozi Adichie. Contact Jennifer Izzo (jbizzo@hotmail.com).

Religious Education News

Would you like to join in our Religious Exploration?

You are invited to participate in our programs for children and youth. We are trying something new! Teachers will

work in teams, and each member will volunteer for eight Sundays across the 2017-2018 church year. This new team approach will give you flexibility and help develop closer connections to the children and coteachers, as you will see them at different points across the church year. Our Safe Congregation policy requires that everyone who volunteers to work with young people must pass a background check.

Sign up for the age group of your choice here: <http://tinyurl.com/ConcordRETeacher2017-18>; or contact Amy:

afreedman@firstparish.org or Dawn:

dvanpatten@firstparish.org for more information or to explore the possibilities.

This Sunday, May 21

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—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 & Grade 1– Lower Level

Grades 2– Greeley Room

Grade 3– Ripley Room

Grade 4– Emerson Room

Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel

Next Sunday, May 28: All ages are welcome to attend our 10:00 a.m. worship service led by our Ministerial Intern, Jan Hutsler.

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 came last August 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

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.