

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 11, 2018

## This Week

Sun., Mar. 11	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Nominating Committee Meeting
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Tues., Mar. 13	6:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	8:00	Finance Committee Meeting
	12:00	Meeting House News Deadline
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	6:30	Annual Campaign Meeting
Wed., Mar. 14	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanist
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thur., Mar. 15	7:00	Membership Committee Meeting
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Mar. 16	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat., Mar. 17	8:00	AWE Meeting
	6:00	Pot o' Gold Potluck
Sun., Mar. 18	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:00	Family Forum on Homelessness

## Parish Notes

### HeatSmart Launch Event

**Today, March 11, 1:30 p.m., Concord-Carlisle High School**

From March through July, residents can purchase advanced air-source and ground-source heat pumps from installers selected for high quality work and competitive pricing. These systems can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, and improve the comfort of your home. Please come to the HeatSmart Launch Event today to learn more and meet the installers. For further information, please visit [HeatSmartCCL.org](http://HeatSmartCCL.org). *HeatSmart Carlisle/Concord/Lincoln is a volunteer-led program supported by MassCEC, MassDOER, the Towns of Carlisle, Concord, and Lincoln, and has been endorsed by the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team.* Contact Brad Hubbard-Nelson at [bradh@mindspring.com](mailto:bradh@mindspring.com) or 978-505-7128.

### Meeting House News Deadline

The April issue deadline is March 13, and will be published on March 22. Please send your submission and images in final form as attachments to Wendy at [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu), and contact her if you do not receive a receipt confirmation email. Word limit is 100 and images can be either JPEG or PNG. Please review the brochure "Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord" for details and previous *MHN* issues for examples. Thank you.

### Concord Area Humanists—Alan Lightman: "Fact and Faith" Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Rescheduled to March 14 due to snow, Alan Lightman will discuss differences between scientific and religious beliefs, how they are formed, and their different evidentiary bases. Central to spiritual beliefs is personal "transcendent experience," which supports subsequent belief. Most scientific beliefs are founded upon objective data from the external world. Science and religion differ profoundly in the process of revision: all scientific knowledge is considered

provisional. Lightman is a writer and physicist who has taught at Harvard and MIT. This event is sponsored by the First Parish Humanist Council.

### Pot o' Gold Potluck

**Saturday, March 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Everyone in the First Parish community is cordially invited to a "Pot o' Gold Potluck" dinner on St. Patrick's Day. Families, singles, and couples of all ages are most welcome; and it will be a true potluck. Just come and bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Soft drinks are provided, but feel free to bring your own wine or beer. There will be a sing-along of Irish tunes led by Beth O'Norton, and activities for youngsters led by Amy McFreedman. Join in the "wearing of the green" if you like and maybe you'll find the pot o' gold at the end of the rainbow! Sponsored by the Annual Pledge Campaign Team. Questions? Contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

### Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, March 18, 11:30 a.m.**

"Ranked Choice Voting." Last November, Maine became the first state in U.S. history to pass a voting system called Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), which could transform politics in America. Instead of choosing just one candidate on your ballot, RCV allows you to rank multiple candidates in the order you prefer, allowing a gradation in the outcome that guarantees the candidate with the best overall support wins the race in a crowded field, and virtually eliminates the need for any runoff election. Eleven major cities in the United States already use RCV, including Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Jim Henderson of Voter Choice Massachusetts will be our speaker. To suggest a topic or speaker, join the Forum Committee; or to get emails about future Sunday Forums, contact a Forum Committee cochair: Pat Brinkman at [pabrinkman@comcast.net](mailto:pabrinkman@comcast.net), or Alan Whitney at [awhitney@alum.mit.edu](mailto:awhitney@alum.mit.edu).

### The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness Presents: Children Caught in Family Homelessness—How They Are Hurt and How We Can Help; Sunday March 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Hear from experts about life for families struggling to find housing, long-term implications for children, and how to actively engage in advocacy that supports important programs. Speakers include Dr. Megan Sandel, Associate Director of the GROW Clinic at Boston Medical Center and Principal Investigator with Children's Health Watch; Carl Howell, Division Director of Housing and Homeless Services for Community Teamwork in Lowell; and Kelly Turley, Associate Director, Mass Coalition for the Homeless. Contact: [jane\\_blumberg@me.com](mailto:jane_blumberg@me.com)

### WPA Luncheon—Sign Up at Coffee Hour Today

Don't forget to sign up for the WPA Luncheon on March 21, at which fellow parishioner Prof. Shelley Hawks will give an illustrated presentation about her latest book, *The Art of Resistance, Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China*. Call the office, sign up at coffee hour, or email Dian Pekin at [pekinc@comcast.net](mailto:pekinc@comcast.net) for reservations.

### First Parish Trustees Looking to Fill a Vacancy

The First Parish Trustees of Parish Donations need to fill a vacancy effective July 1, and are looking for anyone who might be interested in serving. The five Trustees meet seven to nine times per year, and their mission is to affirm and support the mission of First Parish in Concord to be a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world. In support of that mission over the long term, the Trustees are the stewards of the funds and properties

donated to First Parish over more than two centuries. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the Trustees, or if you'd like to learn more about what the Trustees do, please email Trustee Victoria Rizzi at [victoria@rizzi.us](mailto:victoria@rizzi.us) by March 31.

### **Photography as Meditation**

Rev. Marion Visel will lead this four-session program Monday afternoons in April, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on April 2, 9, 16, and 23. Explore photography as a form of meditation practice through accessible contemplative photography and centering/meditation exercises. No experience is required, except knowing how to use your camera or smartphone. Sign up in the front office, or contact Rev. Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 203-931-5239. This group is limited to 14 participants, and preference is given to those who can commit to all four sessions.

### **First Parish Cooperative Passover Seder**

**Saturday, April 7, Parish Hall, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Our Passover Seder is a fun and meaningful ritual for all ages! Rev. Amy Freedman is leading our Seder with Dana Snyder-Grant and Zach Roe. Our gathering will include a retelling of the Passover story and a potluck dinner. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome. Each person is asked to choose a job (setup or serving or cleanup) and to bring one or two items. Sign-up online: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45aaaa2baafa7-passover1>. Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at 978-760-1129 or [dana.snydergrant@gmail.com](mailto:dana.snydergrant@gmail.com), or sign up at the Passover table during coffee hour on March 11, 18, or 25.

### **Flea Market Update**

Get ready to donate to this important fundraiser, organized by the Women's Parish Association. It will be held on Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Melita Teichert at [mmtconcord1@gmail.com](mailto:mmtconcord1@gmail.com) to arrange for donations. Contact Marilyn Lowitt at [marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net) or 978-793-0267 if you need items picked up. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) to rent a table. Rental fee is \$35. Tables are going fast, so rent one now!

### **Social Action**

**March Is Share-the-Plate Month for Centro Arte para La Paz (Sponsored by IJTF)**

Share the Plate with Centro de Arte Para La Paz, a local nonprofit recognized for its work with children, youth, and adults in the town of Suchitoto, El Salvador. It is a healing space, providing classes and workshops in art, music, photography, dance, and conflict mediation, all in a setting where the Civil War dominated the lives of families for more than 15 years. The center includes a museum within its walls for the preservation of historical memory, currently containing seven exhibits and visited by 7,000 people per year. CAP's vision is the prevention of violence and creation of a culture of peace, serving over 1,350 students with classes and touching over 85 women/families every semester. For more information, contact Tony Rodriguez at [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com).

### **AWE Monthly Meeting**

**Saturday, March 17, 8:00 a.m., at First Parish**

Are you burning to do something positive to impact women's lives? If so, please come on March 17 in the morning to the next meeting of the Advocates for Women's Empowerment! We'll discuss upcoming events and want to hear your ideas about actions and initiatives to advocate for women. All are welcome to our meetings and events (men, women, people of all gender identities and expressions). Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net) with questions or to join our mailing list.

### **Tawakkol Karman – 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**

**Sunday, April 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

The First Parish in Concord Social Action Community, in conjunction with the Greeley Peace Scholar Program, presents Tawakkol Karman. Karman (this year's Greeley Peace Scholar) was the first Arab woman and the second Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She was also the youngest. She is a women's rights activist and does peace building work in the struggle for human rights in Yemen. She is the cofounder of Women Journalists Without Chains. The topic will be My Experience in the Revolution and Making Change. This event is free and open to the public.

### **Religious Exploration**

**This Sunday, March 11: Religious Exploration**

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Meet in the Parlor to visit Grace Chapel in Lexington  
10:00 – 11:15 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern  
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
10:15 – 11:15 a.m. – Creature Teachers (K-4) – Emerson Room  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Loft

**Next Sunday, March 18: Religious Exploration**

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level  
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room  
10:00 – 11:15 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern  
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
10:15-11:15 a.m. – Religious Exploration  
Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level  
Grade 2– Emerson Room  
Grade 3– Bulkeley Room  
Grade 4– Ripley Room  
Middle OWL (Grade 5)– Not meeting on 3/18  
Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel

**“Animals Around the World” with Creature Teachers**

**Sunday, March 11, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Emerson Room**

Following the Children's Message, Kindergarten through 4th graders will gather in the Emerson Room. Come take a trip around the world with us and find out where Creature Teachers live animals come from. We will learn about the diverse habitats of our planet and the animals that live within them. See why some animals are well suited for certain areas and why some are not. We are thrilled to welcome back this fun and engaging program!

### **Easter Egg Decorating**

**Sunday, March 25, 10:15-11:15 a.m.**

During our regular RE time, Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 will decorate Easter Eggs. Families are asked to bring one dozen hard-boiled eggs (if you can). Everyone will be able to take four eggs home. We will decorate eggs for our First Parish Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m. (between the two services). We will have a rainbow of colors and other supplies ready for you to join in the fun!

### **Youth Group in March**

**Sundays, March 11 and 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

If you are a teen in grades 9 to 12, join Youth Group on Sunday evenings in March. We are currently working on some social justice projects and will be looking ahead to our trip to CityReach, April 27 and 28. Pizza dinner is provided. Questions? Contact our Youth Coordinator, Rev. Jo VonRue, at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org).

**The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

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

The Sunday News can be read online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).