

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 27, 2019

This Week

Sun. Jan 27	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon. Jan 28	7:00	Spiritual Audacity
	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues. Jan 29	9:30	Women's Book Group
	7:00	Margaret Fuller Event
Wed. Jan 30	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Jan 31	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Feb 1	7:00	AWE Film Series
Sat. Feb 2	6:30	Funderburg Scholars' Dinner
Sun. Feb 2	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

January's Share-the-Plate Recipient:

Meet City Mission – our January Share-the-Plate recipient. For 200 years, City Mission has focused on rooting out poverty in Boston neighborhoods, with a strategic focus on preventing family homelessness. City Mission's programs include homeless prevention programs, such as Lift Up, for low-income single mothers and the Emergency Needs Network for unemployed, elderly, and/or disabled Boston residents; coordinating donations to low income children and families, through Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop; and teaching program participants and Greater Boston high school students about the systemic causes of family homelessness and advocacy skills, and recruiting them to advocate with the state legislature for measures to prevent and ameliorate homelessness.

Conversation and Q/A with UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray Today, January 27, 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

The Forum Committee invites everyone to a conversation with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. She was elected president of the UUA on June 24, 2017. Prior to her election, she served as Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona. Susan played a critical role in the long-term campaign to end the constitutional violations of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Susan received a Master's of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor's of Science in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is a lifelong UU who grew up in the St. Louis area. She lives now in Cambridge, Mass., with her husband Brian and their son.

Art Exhibit by Kathy (Katalin) Spang

You are invited to view the exhibit of Kathy Spang's paintings in oil and watercolor displayed in the stairwell and the stage of First Parish. Kathy is a graduate of Art School, The Cooper Union in New York City, and she taught Fine Arts in public Elementary Schools for 31 years. Retirement has given her time to do what she loves—paint the landscape. If you are interested in buying one of the pieces on exhibit, please get in touch with her at 781-273-0032 or by email at katalinspang@yahoo.com. Kathy's website for her art is at katalinspang.com.

Stewards Needed: Join the Annual Pledge Campaign Team!

The Annual Pledge Campaign is coming in March and we'll need a large team of stewards that month to help contact parishioners who haven't pledged on Celebration Sunday, March 3. Most contacts are made by email, and our Steward Captains are pros at helping stewards with information and suggestions for writing their messages! We have a great system to keep stewards informed of progress during the campaign and to record their feedback. Please consider taking a turn at this important but time-limited task

this year. For questions or to join the team, please contact Irl Smith at opticsmith@mindspring.com.

Time for Action: An Invitation from the Standing Committee Saturday, February 2, 9:30 a.m., in the Emerson Room

Over the last year and a half, we as a congregation have discussed, surveyed, analyzed, and identified what makes First Parish wonderful and what gives us challenges. We invite First Parish members to a meeting to begin implementing those things that will strengthen First Parish for the future. We are looking for leadership, ideas, and commitment to make desired changes in these areas: Strengthening our Bonds within our Community; Increasing Our Growth and Diversity; Expanding Our Connections with Other Communities; and Deepening Our Spiritual Selves. Please RSVP or send questions to Dave Elwood, daveelwood@hotmail.com.

First Tuesday Group: "Legal Documents in Later Life" Tuesday, February 5, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Our workshop will be led by Margaret Hoag of the law firm of Eckel, Morgan & O'Connor, LLC. Margaret specializes in the needs of senior clients. What are your later life questions? What about your will? What about your health proxy? How do you talk to family members about these issues? What else should be on your list? Margaret will discuss addressing these questions for yourself and with your family. Come hear which of these important concerns should be on your check list of later life's transitions. (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

At-Home Women's Retreat: February 8 and 9

Registration is still open for the At-Home Women's Retreat that runs here at First Parish on Friday evening, February 8, and during the day on Saturday, February 9. The theme this year is "Our Voices, Our Peace, Our Power," and we invite all women of First Parish to attend. It's a great way to make new connections or deepen old friendships across the generations at First Parish, as well as to explore this year's theme. For questions or to sign up, please contact registrar Darien Smith directly at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Concord Area Humanists

Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

"Paying for Pollution" incisively examines the very real cost of climate change and the challenges to reduce future damages from higher temperatures and more extreme weather. Gilbert Metcalf argues that a convergence of social, economic, and political forces provide an opening for a carbon tax solution appealing to politicians across the spectrum. Metcalf is John DiBiaggio Professor of Citizenship and Public Service and Professor of Economics at Tufts University. From 2011 to 2012, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Energy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Questions? Contact Pat Everett at pne@aol.com.

WPA's Participation in Open Table's Community Dinner

On Thursday, February 7, at 5:30 p.m., the Women's Parish Association will participate in Open Table's Community Dinner. There are several rewarding volunteer opportunities where your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help prepare for this event or attend its community building dinner, please contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by February 1.

World Day of Prayer Service and Luncheon

Hosting Concord's commemoration of the World Day of Prayer at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 1, is the Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord. The Women of Slovenia wrote this year's service, which will serve as a reminder that all people, regardless of social or economic status, are welcome to participate in life's feast. There is no charge for the celebration luncheon. Reservations are not required. A freewill offering will be accepted at the service. All are welcome. Contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net if you have any souvenirs, artwork, crafts, folk costumes, etc., of Slovenia that you can let the committee use at this event.

Capturing Memories on Paper

March 20 and 27; April 3, 10, 17, and 24, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

In the Emerson Room

Connecting with the future, and giving our descendants an impression of our lives is one good reason to write memories down. Perhaps even more important is the personal pleasure and insight that often come from reconstructing parts of our lives in words. This six-week workshop invites participants to write their memories down—not as full-length autobiographies but as short reflections in response to concrete writing prompts. Each week we'll start with a different memory prompt. We will discuss tips for writing vivid description and look at samples of powerful writing. Mostly we will write. Participants will have an opportunity to share their writing with the group if they choose. Facilitated by Virginia Taylor, Ph.D., former professor of English and currently a private writing instructor. Maximum of 12 participants, so sign up soon in the front office or by contacting Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239 (cell).

Social Action

SAC Grants

The SAC Giving Team is accepting requests for the 2018-2019 church year annual SAC Grants nominations, now through March 1. The easy-to-complete Nomination Form is available online at surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSACForm. Please check out the SAC Grant web page on the First Parish website for more information. If you are interested in participating in the SAC Grant review process, or would like more information, please contact Liz Rust at liz@therusts.net.

Thanks from RJAG

RJAG extends gratitude for help with goods for Carawina, Jamaica. From Jennifer Burgess: "It's difficult finding the words of gratitude to convey my deepest thanks for all who helped in the Jamaica Drive event. So many people contributed generously. I thank you all for your help in every way help was needed. My trip to Carawina will bring needed goods to a poor community, because of the help given by all at First Parish."

Immigration Justice Task Force: Monthly Jericho Walk Tuesday, January 29, 8:00 a.m., ICE Office, 1000 District Ave. Burlington, Massachusetts

All are welcome to this silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring attention to and bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system. Please bring signs calling for justice for those caught in this broken system. Suggestions include: "Keep Families Together," "Not One More/Ni Una Mas" and other supportive messages that do *not* call out specific individuals. We will gather in front of the ICE Office along District Avenue. For information, contact Pamela Chester, pgchester@gmail.com.

AWE Feminist Book Group Meeting—Cancelled

Our book group scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m. is cancelled. Please stay tuned for more information about our next book and meeting in March. For information about the book group, please contact Merrill Comeau (14thebeesknees@gmail.com).

AWE Friday Feminist Film

Friday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.

We'll show *RBG*, an intimate portrait of an unlikely rock star: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. With unprecedented access, the filmmakers explore how her early legal battles changed the world for women. Women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions are welcome. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, February 2, 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college—while you enjoy a delicious meal with great company! These engaging students will tell stories about their college experiences. No fixed "price"—donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your dinner place at coffee hour today by emailing Loretta Ho Sherblom at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com, or by texting or calling Loretta's cell at (508) 935-6750. Wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by Caroline McCloy at 7:15 p.m., then dessert by Kristine Wiggins.

Immigration Justice Task Force:

Immigration and Witnessing, Up Close and Personal Sunday, February 3, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Bulkeley Room

Last November several FPUU members traveled to Tucson to understand and experience the migration journey first-hand. During this Forum discussion, they will tell us about the people they met and share what they learned and took back from this extraordinary and unsettling trip. For more information, contact Laurie Van Loon, lvloon@comcast.net.

Immigration Justice Task Force Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 4, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Brooks Room

We are the group that provides Sanctuary volunteers, silent Jericho Walks of prayer and solidarity at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office in Burlington, vigils at the South Bay Detention Center in Boston, and much more. Please join us on the first Monday of each month. Your thoughts, questions, and presence are welcome! For more information, contact Abby Buhle, abuhle68@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, January 27: MLK Multiage Justice Art Program

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

10:00 a.m. – 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 the Emerson Room with their teachers. All RE sessions are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in the classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

MLK Multiage Justice Art Program – Emerson Room

4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade OWL: Session 3, Anatomy & Puberty – Emerson Room

Youth Group – No session this Sunday

MLK Multiage Justice Art Program

Sunday, January 27, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Emerson Room

While the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray speaks on "Beloved Community" in the Sanctuary, we will reflect and create with these profound words in Religious Education. Community Artist, Educator and Activist Laura Evonne Steinman will be with us for a creative hands-on program. We will make heart pillows and whisper our prayers into them before sewing them up. These pillows will go out into our larger beloved community: those in Sanctuary, seeking pastoral care and more. We will also collaboratively collage a large banner that reads, "Let us live together in peace and love in BELOVED COMMUNITY"—MLK Jr. Feel free to bring stuffing for the pillows and any little paper or fabric scraps to add to the banner. Let these creative actions remind us that we are each an important part of creating a beloved community!

KINDNESS—All Ages Service

Sunday, February 10, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a service celebrating kindness! Our children will help lead this service with Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten. Next Sunday, February 3, during Religious Exploration time, each age group will prepare to lead the service. We will reflect on what kindness is and how we can bring more kindness into the world.

Come Celebrate the Lunar New Year!

Sunday, February 24, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and Parish Hall

We are delighted to welcome back Wah Lum Kung Fu and Sifu Evan Hughes to First Parish. As a way of blessing our Meeting House and welcoming the Year of the Pig, they will offer a Lion Dance in our service. Following the dance, children and youth are invited to a Kung Fu lesson in the Parish Hall. This is an energizing experience for all ages!

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

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to
Sarah Burns, sburns@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.

March 2019 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, February 19, 12:00 noon

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg,
at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The March 2019 edition will be published on February 27, 2019.