

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 10, 2019

## This Week

Sun. Mar 10	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Tues. Mar 12	3:30	Reclaim Our Democracy
	8:30	Finance Committee Meeting
	2:00	Shawl Ministry
Wed. Mar 13	7:00	Standing Committee Meeting
	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	2:30	Mary Merrick Brooks Event
	7:00	T'ai Chi Drop-In Class
Thu. Mar 14	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Fri. Mar 15	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat. Mar 16	7:00	Intro to Cuban Dancing
	6:00	Mom's Night Out
Sun. Mar 17	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

## Parish Notes

### March's Share-the-Plate Recipient: Open Table

Since 1989, 30 years ago, the Open Table has been providing a hot dinner, fellowship, and support every Thursday night in the Parish Hall. In 2017, the program expanded to include a permanent facility in Maynard, with a grocery store-style food pantry. Open Table has also acquired a refrigerated truck and plans to establish a mobile pantry this year. Open Table is supported by over 600 dedicated volunteers, including many First Parish members. Questions? Contact Jeanine Calabria at [executivedirector@opentable.org](mailto:executivedirector@opentable.org) and visit [www.opentable.org](http://www.opentable.org).

Donations for Share-the-Plate will be collected at Sunday services each month. Fifty percent of every non-pledge dollar will be given to the monthly Share-the-Plate organization, and fifty percent will go to supporting the work of First Parish. To make a separate donation to this month's organization, please contact them directly.

### Pledged Yet? March is Pledge Month

It costs more than \$2,000 per family annually to keep the doors open. Please make your commitment to financially support First Parish by pledging with an increase of 5% or more, if possible, during our Reach High, Reach Wide 2019-2020 Pledge Campaign. If you've already pledged, thank you! You can find more information at [www.firstparish.org/wp/giving](http://www.firstparish.org/wp/giving) or contact pledge project manager Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com).

### An Appearance by Mary Merrick Brooks

**Wednesday, March 13, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

Historical reenactor Diann Ralph Strausberg will perform as Mary Merrick Brooks [1801-1868], a leader of Concord's abolition movement and a member of First Parish. Presented by the Transcendentalism Council and the Concord Historical Collaborative. \$10 at the door. Contact Dianne Weiss at [diannemcweiss@comcast.net](mailto:diannemcweiss@comcast.net) or 978-505-3417.

### Intro to Cuban Circle Dance

**Friday, March 15, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

Join our circle to smile and laugh as we learn the basics of Salsa Rueda de Casino. No knowledge or partner needed. Please bring indoor shoes or slippers. We'll warm up your cold feet! Sponsored by FP Spanish Affinity Group. For questions, contact [schivvis@comcast.net](mailto:schivvis@comcast.net).

### April Meeting House News Deadline

**Tuesday, March 19, Noon; Published March 27**

The April issue deadline is March 19 and it will be published March 27. Thank you for adhering to guidelines available in the "Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord" brochure, which can be downloaded from the church website News tab, News Submission Guidelines page. Also note that due to Passover and Easter in April, the May Issue *MHN* deadline is early in April this year—April 9. Please be sure to plan ahead.

### Pancakes and Prizes for Pledgers!

**All-Church Free Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 23, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

First Parish Celebrity Chefs are flipping pancakes to feed parishioners on Saturday, March 23! All are welcome to the breakfast free of charge. As a bonus to those who've pledged and attend, a Reach High, Reach Wide Prize Raffle will award prizes like tickets to see the Red Sox play or a performance of "Miss Saigon." You can make your pledge to the 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Campaign that morning if you haven't done so already. Bring the whole family!

### A Transylvanian Extravaganza!

**An Evening of Hungarian Food, Dance, and Song**

**Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**

Enjoy an authentic Hungarian dinner, a performance of Hungarian dances featuring Dénes Takácsy, and meet Rev. Lehel Molnár, this year's Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. This fundraiser will help us bring 25 people from Székelykeresztúr to Concord in the fall of 2019, including the Vadrózsa (Wild Roses) student folk dance troupe and chaperones, and a partner congregation delegation that includes Rev. Csaba Tódor and family. This free event (donations solicited) will include video footage and greetings from the group. Please RSVP to Peggy Claybrook at [pclaybrook@comcast.net](mailto:pclaybrook@comcast.net), the church office, or at the PCC table at coffee hour.

### "No Remedy for Love:" Flirtation, Romance, and Scandal in 19th Century Concord

**Thursday, March 28, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room**

This fascinating lecture by historian Richard Smith will explore the loves, rejections, entanglements, and scandals of some of Concord's most famous residents. Presented by the Transcendentalism Council. \$5.00 at the door. Questions? Contact Dianne Weiss at 978-505-3417 or [diannemcweiss@comcast.net](mailto:diannemcweiss@comcast.net).

## Social Action

### Say Their Names Follow-up Session

**Sunday, March 10, 2019, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Brooks Room**

You are invited to the final session of the Say Their Names program. Come to share ideas about transforming racial justice concerns into action. We'll look at a wide spectrum of actions from educating ourselves to engaging with national efforts. For more information, contact Mary Ann Barton, [mabartonst@gmail.com](mailto:mabartonst@gmail.com).

### IJTF: Building Bridges, Vintage Music of Latin America

**Today, March 10, 2:00 p.m., First Parish UU Bedford**

Join us at a benefit concert (featuring Ken Burns' pianist Jacqueline Schwab) that celebrates the spirit, expressive melodies, and dance rhythms of vintage music from the Caribbean and Latin America. This event is sponsored by the Bedford Sanctuary Coalition to support our efforts protecting our dear friend in sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$20.

### Alexandra Chandler: "Taking Big Money Out of Politics"

**Today, March 10, 4:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall**

**Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy**

Alexandra, a transgender woman, was one of the first in the U.S. intelligence community to transition on the job. As a candidate for office in the 3rd Massachusetts Congressional District in 2018, she did not take

PAC money and continues to lead the charge against big money in politics. She will speak about her experience as a candidate, pending election reform legislation, and how “we the people” can take action. Seats are limited; for free tickets, go to [www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandra-chandler-takes-on-big-money-in-politics-tickets-56128914093](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandra-chandler-takes-on-big-money-in-politics-tickets-56128914093). For more information, contact Kate Kavanagh, [katekav@gmail.com](mailto:katekav@gmail.com), or 508-397-6507.

### **Beyond the Border Crisis:**

#### **Honoring the Strength of Central American Women**

**Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.**

**WBUR Cityspace, 890 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass.**

Join IJTF, Oxfam America, Centro Presente, and WBUR and go beyond the border crisis to honor the courage and strength of the women of Central America. *Boston Globe* reporter Shannon Dooling will moderate a panel of women from Central America to look at the realities that drive some to flee and others to stay and fight for their communities. Free. Contact Tony Rodriguez with questions at [trod.rodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:trod.rodriguez@gmail.com).

#### **IJTF: BIJAN General Meeting (Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network, pronounced “Beyond”)**

**Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 p.m., 6 Eliot St., First Church Jamaica Plain**

In these political times it is more important than ever to come together to build community, learn from each other (especially those most impacted by and organizing against our oppressive, inhumane immigration policies), and find ways to resist together. Please join us for a night of community building and caring, political education, and working group activities. There will be food and child care. Please RSVP to Shiliu at [swang27@gmail.com](mailto:swang27@gmail.com).

### **AWE Monthly Meeting**

**Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m.; New Location: West Concord**

Join us for our monthly business/planning meeting, where we’ll discuss the status of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at those events. If you are thinking about a specific initiative to advocate for women, please come so we can explore making it happen! Our meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions. New Location: Art Gym, 152 Commonwealth Avenue, in West Concord (above Nashoba Brook Bakery).

### **Amnesty International, Group 15**

**Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room**

We’ll continue to plan actions on immigration issues, including joining local efforts. Our monthly letter writing supports individuals worldwide whose lives are in jeopardy because of their human rights work. We’ve made new, and we hope fruitful, contacts to aid two Azerbaijanian students imprisoned for peaceful protests. The abolition of the U.S. death penalty and tracking Massachusetts prison reform round out our agenda. All are welcome to join us. For more information: Nancy Lyons, [nilyons22@gmail.com](mailto:nilyons22@gmail.com) or 978-505-1936.

### **Caught in Family Homelessness: Parents Tell Their Stories**

**Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness 14th Annual Forum**

**Sunday, March 24, 2019, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord, Mass.**

In Massachusetts, 200,000 families spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing. One event can propel them toward eviction. Come hear stories of three mothers who experienced homelessness with their families. Hear from housing advocates about the programs that work and the importance of advocacy. Rev. June Cooper from City Mission-Boston and Kelly Turley, Associate Director of Mass Coalition for the Homeless, will lead the charge. Our legislators will be there to hear us. All are welcome to this free forum. A reception will follow. [www.endfamilyhomelessness.net](http://www.endfamilyhomelessness.net).

### **Are You Interested in The Sanctuary Movement?**

Deportations and unjust treatment of undocumented neighbors are not going away. You can make a difference for one family by volunteering to support our guest residing in First Parish in Bedford. If you can volunteer for a shift, the dates for training are Tuesday, March 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and Monday, April 29, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at First Parish Bedford. Please stop at the Immigration Justice Task Force table after the service, or email Abby Buhle at [abuhle68@gmail.com](mailto:abuhle68@gmail.com) for more information.

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

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to

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

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

### **LunaFest Film Festival**

**Saturday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. (doors open), 7:30 p.m. (film)**

**Concord Academy Performing Arts Center**

Join us at LunaFest, a fundraising film festival by, for, and about women. Proceeds will benefit Dignity in Asylum ([www.dignityinasylum.org](http://www.dignityinasylum.org)), a woman-founded nonprofit that supports asylum seekers, refugees, people who have been granted asylum, and unaccompanied minors at risk of homelessness in our local area. The evening will include refreshments for purchase and a raffle. Tickets are available online (\$15) at [www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-concord-ma-tickets-55641583474](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-concord-ma-tickets-55641583474) or at the door (\$20). Contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

### **Join the Vigil: Mark Your Calendars to Stand in Solidarity for Immigrants Detained at the House of Corrections.**

**Sunday, March 31, 2:00 p.m., Suffolk County House of Corrections  
20 Bradston Street Boston**

Gather with the Immigration Justice Task Force and neighbors from other congregations to let those detained while awaiting court dates related to immigration know they are not forgotten. More information in the coming weeks!

## **Religious Exploration**

**This Sunday, March 10: Religious Exploration**

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

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) meet in Parlor; visit to Grace Chapel in Lexington for 11:00 a.m. service; return to First Parish around 1:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Little OWL – Lower Level

Middle OWL – Wright Tavern

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 sessions 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.

“Connecting with Nature,” Multi-age (K-5)– Upper Level

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Chapel

6:00-8:00 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Wright Tavern

### **Next Sunday, March 17: Religious Exploration**

#### **Little OWL and Middle OWL Begin Today**

We are pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education. Parents who attended an orientation and registered their children in advance are asked to bring First and Second graders to the Lower Level and Fifth graders to the Wright Tavern before the service. Little OWL and Middle OWL meet from 10:00-11:15 a.m. for eight Sunday sessions. Children who are not registered for OWL will be included in our multiage “Connecting with Nature” RE program and begin in the service with their families. Please contact Amy with any questions at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

### **Healthy Reflections Workshop for Parents**

**Sunday, March 24, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Wright Tavern**

Building on a session with our UU Tweens, Neal Potash and Jeff Clanon will offer a workshop for parents and caregivers. In his book *Sometimes I Think I Must be Crazy*, psychotherapist Neal Potash puts a humorous but direct finger on some of the negative self-talk that virtually all of us have experienced. Using the book as a tool, he will offer a workshop aimed at elevating, normalizing, and strategizing how we can constructively deal with these limiting patterns of thinking. Parents or caregivers of children and teens who are interested and/or concerned about their child’s mental health and development are invited. Please contact Rev. Amy Freedman with any questions or to request child care at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org).

**Rev. Howard Dana’s email:** [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

**Rev. Marion Visel’s email:** [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

**Church office:** 978-369-9602

Visit our website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).