

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

April 28, 2019

This Week

Sun. Apr. 28	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
Mon. Apr. 29	7:00	Lawrence Lessig
	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues. Apr. 30	9:30	Women's Book Group
Wed. May 1	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. May 2	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. May 3	7:00	AWE Film Series
Sat. May 4	7:30	Walt Whitman Program
Sun. May 5	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

Share the Plate: April's Recipient:

The LGBT Asylum Task Force

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Asylum Task Force is dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBTQI individuals who are fleeing persecution and seeking asylum in the United States. Those who file for asylum in the United States are not permitted to work until they are granted a work permit and social security number, a process that can take more than a year. During that time, the Task Force strives to provide housing, legal assistance, financial support, and community for asylum seekers.

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.

Nominations for the First Parish Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is looking for people who would like to be considered to serve on the First Parish Finance Committee. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist the Treasurer and Standing Committee in their efforts to support the Head of Staff and the Director of Operations. In the past several years, the Committee has conducted a Stewardship report, facilitated a review of the financials with an outside accountant, and worked on a variety of projects to help improve the financial condition of First Parish. The Committee typically meets once a month from September to June. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in serving on the Finance Committee, please contact Michelle Fortier at mfortierhome@gmail.com.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions to First Parish

Certain donors to First Parish can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution—a nontaxable distribution made directly by the administrator of an IRA to a qualified public charity. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way for individuals that are over 70 & 1/2 years old with an IRA and a need to withdraw funds to meet a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to make a contribution to First Parish. The money you contribute to First Parish using a QCD is not included in your adjusted gross income on your tax return. In recent years over a dozen members are using QCDs to fulfill their pledge at First Parish in Concord. If you are interested in making a donation via a QCD, please contact Fifi Ball at fball@firstparish.org.

Ferry Beach Retreat—Register Now! Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27

Join families, couples, and singles from First Parish for this relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine over Memorial Day Weekend. Registration is open now through Sunday, April 28, and will be taken during coffee hour and in the church office during business hours. The Registration Packet can also be downloaded from firstparish.org/forms. There is information in the packet about some changes to lodging choices, fees, and policies for our use of the campus this year. Contact Registrar Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com with questions or to enquire about scholarship assistance.

Concord Area Humanists: "Strengthening Voter Rights" Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Presented by Iván Espinoza-Madrugal, Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR). Under his leadership, LCR has become a hub for litigation and

advocacy, racial justice, immigrants' rights, and LGBT/HIV equality. LCR filed the first lawsuits in the country against the Trump Administration to protect sanctuary cities and to block immigration arrests in courthouses. Iván has filed and won dozens of cases on a wide range of civil rights issues. We will also discuss implications of Census 2020. Contact Patrick Everett at pne@aol.com if you have any questions.

"Unlaunch'd Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman"

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary \$10 at the door (scholarships upon request)

Shakespearean actor Stephen Collins portrays Walt Whitman in this award-winning one-man show, written by Michael Z. Keamy. Reception to follow. Come and celebrate Whitman's Bicentennial! Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council and The Thoreau Society.

Adjusting to the "New Normal"

The First Tuesday Group will meet on Tuesday, May 7, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to discuss life events that are so big they require adjusting to a "new normal." Examples include retirement (last month's topic) to the loss of a partner, a changed medical status, or the advent of a grandchild. A panel of Bill Fry, Berni Jenkins, Dick Shohet, and Dana Snyder-Grant will share some of their personal adjustments. Small group discussions will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss their own personal "new normal." Come learn more about how we all can successfully adjust to our "new normals"! (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.

Lucy Stone—Amazing Abolitionist and Suffragist

Don't miss this event on Friday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m., about Lucy Stone—ardent abolitionist, supporter of general human rights, and a fierce fighter for women's right to vote. She inspired thousands of women to work tirelessly to secure the right to attend college, to vote, and have their voices loudly heard in the public square. Critically acclaimed actor Judith Kalaora, will educate and inspire you by her powerful portrayal of Lucy Stone. Men, women, and youth will thoroughly enjoy this event. Refreshments served. Entrance: \$10. Children under 12, no charge. Reservations appreciated: contact the office or pekindc@comcast.net by Tuesday, May 7.

Love and Friendship—Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, May 11, 3:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room

Jim Sherblom will lead a conversation based on our reading of Emerson's essays, "Love" and "Friendship," and how they relate to our lives today. Contact Shelley Hawks at shelley_hawks@msn.com to register and receive a digital copy of the essays. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council, as part of the "Hidden Treasures" program of Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 12—All Ages are Invited

A free bus from First Parish will leave at 8:30 a.m. to take walkers to Boston and return by 1:30 p.m. We will walk three miles from Madison Park High School to City Hall. \$10 fee to register online at mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Go to the "First Parish Concord team" to make a donation. To get more information and sign up for the bus, go to the Peace Walk table during coffee hour or contact Margie Saphier King, margie.king.saphier@gmail.com or 781-424-2179.

First Parish Photo Club Field Trip to Plum Island

The First Parish Photo Club is planning a field trip to Plum Island on Tuesday, May 14. Want to join us and know more about what we do? Get a sneak preview of club activities and outings. For more information about this upcoming photo club trip, and/or other club happenings, contact Barbara Olson, BOinBoston@aol.com or call 781-646-5015.

An Evening with David Blight—Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Renowned historians David Blight and John Stauffer discuss Frederick Douglass, the escaped enslaved man who became the greatest orator of his day and one of the leading abolitionists and writers of the era. Free to public, register through the Concord Museum at concordmuseum.org/events/frederick-douglass-prophet-of-freedom/.

AWE Monthly Meeting—Saturday, May 18, 8:00 a.m., Art Gym

We'll have a quick business meeting, then we'll discuss white feminism, guided by the articles below. Read one or both! Our meetings and events 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). Contact: Lora Venesy (venesy@comcast.net). www.bustle.com/articles/120684-7-things-feminists-of-color-want-white-feminists-to-know and www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/politics/a22717725/what-is-toxic-white-feminism.

Meet with Marion (A Note from Rev. Marion Visel)

I'm retiring in June, and there will be an opportunity to say goodbye on my last Sunday, June 16. It's been wonderful to talk with so many of you during appointments, meetings, and after services. I want you to know how much I value our time together. As June approaches, know that if you would like time to meet with me, I'm most available on Sundays, Mondays (including evening), and Tuesdays. Contact me at mvisel@firstparish.org or 203-931-5239 to arrange a time for us to talk.

Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

At Annual Meeting, we will vote for officers and Standing Committee members, approve delegates to the UUA General Assembly, approve our budget, hear reports, and conduct other business. Members are encouraged to attend; child care available. Per our bylaws, those who have signed the membership book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote. If you are considering joining and would like to participate and vote, please sign the book by Friday, May 9. The Standing Committee requests that warrant articles (agenda items) be submitted ASAP. A presentation of the proposed 2019-2020 budget is planned for June 2 at 11:30 a.m.; this is your opportunity to see the budget in advance. Contact Dave Elwood, chair, Standing Committee, at daveelwood@hotmail.com.

Social Action

All-Parish Social Action Book Read: *Climate Church, Climate World*

Thanks to all who submitted nominations for an all Parish read. The Social Action Council has selected *Climate Church, Climate World* by Jim Antal, with an intro from Bill McKibben. [The author protested the West Roxbury gas-line extension alongside Tim DeChristopher and John Gibbons (FP Bedford).] It is timely for us as a congregation to consider how we are called to take action for care of the earth. This book is a moral argument addressed foremost to Christians. Our discussion leaders will help us explore this book through our UU principles. We will be ready for a Concord speech by Jim Antal in June. The book is available for purchase at coffee hour. Watch for discussion group announcements.

IJTF April Vigil—Please Join Us, Even at the Last Minute!

Today, April 28, Suffolk County House of Corrections 20 Bradston Street, Boston, Mass., at 2:00 p.m.

We return this month to gather in solidarity for immigrants who are being detained in Boston at the House of Corrections. Gather with the IJTF and neighbors from other congregations to let those detained, while waiting court dates related to immigration, know they are not forgotten. The detainees will see us and hear us and hopefully take courage from our Vigil. On-street parking is available. If you would like to carpool, please gather at the IJTF table after the service and arrange with others. Questions, contact Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

POTUS 1: The Next Fight for Democracy—Lawrence Lessig

Monday, April 29, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Can we make the 2020 election about something more than simply electing a new President? Can it become an election that unites America? Can we leverage what unifies America, and get an (unrigged) democracy that could work? Professor, Lawyer, and Political Activist Lawrence Lessig will be presenting his thoughts on how to unify America and reclaim our democracy. He is the author of several recent books, including *America Compromised* and *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Our Congress—and a Plan to Stop It*. Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy. Contact Fred at fredvandeu@gmail.com for additional information.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, May 3, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

We'll show Mary Queen of Scots, nominee for Best Costume Design at the 2019 Academy Awards. The film explores the turbulent life of the charismatic Mary Stuart. Queen of France at 16, widowed at 18, she defies pressure to remarry and returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her throne. By birth, she also has a rival claim to the throne of Elizabeth I, who rules as the Queen of England. Mary asserts this claim to the English throne, threatening Elizabeth's sovereignty. Betrayal, rebellion and conspiracies imperil both Queens - driving them apart, as each experience the bitter cost of power. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

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.

“Write Here! Write Now!”: Tell U.S. Senators to Take Urgent Action to Address the Climate Crises

Sunday, May 5, 11:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall

Cosponsored by the Environmental Team and Reclaim Our Democracy

UU's for Social Justice (UUSJ) has a monthly letter writing program to members of Congress. We will collect your letters, send them to UUSJ, and they will hand deliver them to the appropriate Senate offices in D.C. The primary focus for this month's letters will be addressing pressing climate change issues to create a new, more just and livable world for our communities, our planet, and all creation. At coffee hour we will provide all you need—paper, pen, legislative information, sample letter format—and you will provide your own personal handwritten message. Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Immigration Justice Taskforce, Next Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 6, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

If the purpose and many activities of the IJTF are unclear to you, we can explain! Please join us tomorrow or the first Monday of each month. We'd love your thoughts, questions and presence! For more information contact Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Three Minutes, One Phone Call!

Refugees with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) need your help. Please stop by the IJTF table after the service and pick up the flyer with information on how one quick phone call from you may make a difference. Any member of the IJTF can provide you with additional information. Thank you!

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, April 28: Religious Exploration

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

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

Little OWL – Lower Level

Middle OWL – Wright Tavern

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15-11:15 a.m.

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

Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Chapel

Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room

11:15-11:45 a.m. – Grade 7 Parent Orientation – Brooks Room

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age – Parish Hall

4:00-6:00 p.m. – Youth Group making dinner for CoA – Kitchen

Special Guests from Drumlin Farm

Sunday, April 28, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., in the Emerson Room

We are excited to welcome special guests from Drumlin Farm! As part of our “Connecting with Nature” program (K-5), a naturalist will visit First Parish with live native wildlife. All living things are connected. We will observe native animals and learn about their adaptations, habitats, and interrelationships with each other, humans, and the environment. Come join the fun!

Next Sunday, May 5:

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00-11:30 a.m. – Coming of Age Service (Grade 5 & older encouraged to attend. All ages are welcome!)

10:15-11:30 a.m. – Kids Yoga (Kindergarten- Grade 4), Emerson Room

Coming of Age Service

Sunday, May 5, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

9th Graders & their Mentors, with Kristin Moore and Rev. Ken Reeves

Our Coming of Age Service will be the culmination of our 9th grade program. The youth will present their credos, personal statements of belief to our congregation as well as lead other parts of the service. This is always a moving rite of passage. We encourage children who are in the 5th grade and older to attend the service. All ages are welcome!

“The Wilderness,” A Family-Friendly Show

Saturday, June 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall Stage

Save the date! The Neighboring Activists are staging a play written by our very own Sam Vallancourt. Our 6th graders are putting on this original show to benefit Tomten Farm and Animal Sanctuary in Haverhill, New Hampshire. The show features fun animal characters. Admission is pay-what-you-like to support this worthy cause.

June 2019 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, May 21, 12:00 noon

Keep article length to 100 words and send to the Editor,

Wendy Wolfberg, at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The June 2019 edition will be published on May 29, 2019.