

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 14, 2018

## This Week

Sun., Jan. 14	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 11:30 Listening Session
Mon., Jan. 15	7:30 Environmental Leadership Team 7:00 Immigration Justice Task Force
Tues., Jan. 16	12:00 Newsletter Deadline 5:00 SAC Board Meeting 6:30 T'ai Chi
Wed., Jan. 17	7:00 Amnesty International 9:30 Buddhist Group 6:00 Listening Session 7:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Jan. 18	7:00 Bill McKibben Event 7:30 By Your Side Singers 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 19	12:30 Ta'i Chi 7:00 Jewish Awareness Affinity Group
Sat., Jan. 20	1:00 Resist and Persist March
Sun., Jan. 21	9:00 Chalice Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Sunday Worship 11:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal 4:30 Listening Session

## Parish Notes

### Women's Retreats Registration

The theme for this year's Women's Retreats is "Connections and Connecting." Registration continues at coffee hour today. Forms are also available during the week in the church office and online at [firstparish.org/forms](http://firstparish.org/forms). All women of First Parish are welcome to attend one of the away weekends at Senexet House (January 19-21 and January 26-28, 2018) or the at-home retreat at First Parish (February 9 and 10, 2018). Information available at coffee hour or contact Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com).

### We Want to Hear Every Voice!

January is half over, but there are still five more Standing Committee Listening Sessions; opportunities where you can share your thoughts about what you think First Parish goals should be for the next five years. There is a session today, January 14, at 11:30 a.m. You can also sign up online (link on the First Parish website Home page) or at coffee hour today.

### February Meeting House News Deadline

#### Tuesday, January 16, 12:00 p.m.

Submissions in final form for the February Meeting House News are due by noon, Tuesday, January 16. Please send your submission and images as attachments to the Editor, Wendy Wolfberg, at [wolfberg@post.harvard.edu](mailto:wolfberg@post.harvard.edu). After you email your submission and image(s), you will receive a confirmation email. Submission is limited to 100 words and sent as a Word or Text file. Images can be either JPEG or PNG. Please be sure to send all files as attachments.

### Jewish Awareness Group—Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem

#### Friday, January 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

The stories of two beloved Jewish icons are woven together in this enchanting documentary: Sholem Aleichem, the great Jewish storyteller; and Theodore Bikel, troubadour, actor and one of the most popular stage interpreters of Aleichem's work. This 90-minute documentary, narrated by Alan Alda, is a joyous extravaganza of Jewish storytelling and song. Please join us for an evening of refreshments and discussion following the film.

### Interfaith Environmental Potluck

#### Wednesday, January 24, 6:00 p.m.

Held at First Parish in Concord, come meet and share a meal with concerned environmentalists from different faith communities in the area. Bring a dish or drink to share, learn about current issues and activities, and discuss local environmental projects. This dinner may become a regularly repeating series, rotating among different congregations. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Brad Hubbard-Nelson at [bradhn@mindspring.com](mailto:bradhn@mindspring.com).

### WPA Assists at Open Table

#### Thursday, February 1, 5:30 p.m.

Come join the WPA at Open Table's Community Dinner that will be held on Thursday, February 1, at 5:30 p.m. All WPA members and friends are welcome to participate. If you would like to volunteer to help at this rewarding event, please contact the office or Dian Pekin at [pekincd@comcast.net](mailto:pekincd@comcast.net).

### Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner

#### Saturday, February 3, 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., 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](mailto: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.

### First Parish Auction 2018

The Auction is back! Mark your calendars for this fall—Saturday, October 27, 2018! In the meantime, we need your creativity and inspiration. The 2018 auction is going to be bigger and better than ever. We have plenty of time to plan the event at a relaxed pace. Join us for an Auction kick-off meeting on Sunday, February 4, 8:30 a.m., in the Parlor. We will identify subcommittee leads, select a theme, and develop an action plan. Hope to see you there! Contact Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) or Val Vallancourt at [valvallancourt@gmail.com](mailto:valvallancourt@gmail.com) with questions.

## Social Action

### Amnesty International, Group 15

**Tuesday, January 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Greeley Room**

It's not too soon to put the evening of April 26 on your calendar. Sister Helen Prejean ("Dead Man Walking") is coming to town at our invitation, and our planning for that event begins tonight. Also on the agenda are updates on criminal justice reform in Massachusetts and our continuing advocacy for two students in Azerbaijan imprisoned for nonviolent political actions. We welcome all to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at [njlyons22@gmail.com](mailto:njlyons22@gmail.com) or 978-369-6109.

### AWE Meeting on Saturday, January 20, Is Cancelled

The Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 20, is cancelled so that members can attend the Women's March in Cambridge that day. Please see the following announcement, "Resist and Persist," for information on the march. If you would like to join the AWE mailing list, please contact Lora Venesy at [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

### Resist and Persist Women's March

**Saturday, January 20, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

On January 20, the people of New England will take to the streets again to reaffirm our commitment to the values of liberty, dignity, and equal protection. Come join a diverse coalition of social justice and human rights groups on the Cambridge Common (bordered by Waterhouse Street, Garden Street, and Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge) to send a message to an administration that is systematically eroding the rights of women and other marginalized people, dismantling and destroying our democracy, and putting the entire world at risk. January 20 is the first anniversary of Donald Trump's inauguration and the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) and Reclaiming Our Democracy groups invite parishioners and friends to gather at the Cambridge Common and tell the world how we feel. Event information can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/862995990536253>.

### Community Building Dinner at First Parish

The First Parish Men's Group, the Women's Circle, and the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE) cordially invite you to attend an Italian Dinner on February 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Join us for some warm companionship and yummy food. The cost is \$5 per adult; children are free. BYOB. Please RSVP by February 4 to Jen Izzo at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com). Participation is limited to 64 people, so don't delay!

### The White Card

The Race Conversations Group is organizing a group outing in March to see the ArtsEmerson play, *The White Card*. Written by Claudia Rankine, this play explores the question, "Can American society progress if whiteness stays invisible?" Stop by our table at coffee hour today to learn more and tell us if you're interested in joining us, or contact Leslie Fisher at 978-287-0456 or [lesliefisher@treitman.com](mailto:lesliefisher@treitman.com).

**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).

## Religious Exploration

### This Sunday, January 14: Multiage Program

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

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. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.*

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. – Multiage Program (K-7th grade) – Emerson Room

We will gather to remember Martin Luther King, Jr., and his message of freedom, equality, justice, peace, and love. As a way of honoring his legacy, we will begin planning for our participation in the Mother's Day March for Peace on Sunday, May 13, 2018.

6:00-7:30 p.m. – Youth Group – The Loft

### Next Sunday, January 21: Religious Exploration

#### Hey, Teens!

In January we will meet at First Parish in the Loft on Sundays January 14 and 28, both from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We will focus this month on social justice—discuss what is going on in the world and ways we can promote peace and equality. Pizza will be provided! Questions? Contact our Youth Coordinator, Jo VonRue, at [jvonrue@firstparish.org](mailto:jvonrue@firstparish.org).

#### Talk Saves Lives

**Tuesday, January 30, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Parish Hall**

Talk Saves Lives is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees will learn the risk factors and warning signs of suicide and how together we can help prevent it. Brought to us by funds raised by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, [afsp.org](http://afsp.org). This event is intended for parents and adults. The event is free and open to the public. Make reservations online: [tinyurl.com/talksaveslives](http://tinyurl.com/talksaveslives).

#### Our Whole Lives (OWL)

First Parish is pleased to offer comprehensive sexuality education not only to adolescents but also to First and Fifth Graders! This program will be offered in the spring for eight Sundays and will begin a little earlier than our regular Religious Education time. These classes will meet from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Please save the date! Little OWL (1st Grade) Parent Orientation: Sunday, January 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Middle OWL (5th Grade) Parent Orientation: Friday, February 9, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. If you decide not to have your child participate, they will be included in another RE class during the eight-week program. For more information, contact Amy Freedman at [afreedman@firstparish.org](mailto:afreedman@firstparish.org) or Dawn Van Patten at [dvanpatten@firstparish.org](mailto:dvanpatten@firstparish.org).