

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 28, 2018

This Week

Sun., Jan. 28	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Transylvania Culture and Language
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon., Jan 29	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tues., Jan. 30	9:30	Women's Book Group
	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Talk Saves Lives
Wed., Jan. 31	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Feb. 1	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri., Feb. 2	4:30	Beloved Conversations
	6:30	AWE Movie Night
Sat. Feb. 3	6:30	Funderburg Scholars Dinner
Sun., Feb. 4	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	11:30	Mother/Daughter Book Group
	11:30	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	4:00	Reception for Rosemary Bray McNatt

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary

Today, January 28, 11:30 a.m.

"Is Walden Pond Okay?" Could a toxic algae bloom, such as those that have occurred in recent years at White Pond, happen at Walden Pond? A 2001 U.S. Geological Survey collected and organized a huge amount of data about the chemistry of Walden Pond in the years 1995-1999. Among the data were details on the annual variation in concentrations of two elements, phosphorous and dissolved oxygen. The interaction of these two elements is the root cause of modern toxic algae blooms. Jack Nevison will explain a simple dynamic model that ties together the data on these elements and illustrates the level of the current threats to the well-being of Walden Pond. Also shown will be why, when modern high levels of phosphorous are removed, the dynamic model reveals the probable pattern of the pond's functioning in earlier times. Jack is president of New Leaf Project Management and lives within a half-mile of Walden Pond. Contact Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu for more information.

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Regroups Today

We're excited to be starting up another round of the contemporary vocal ensemble (CVE). Do you like to sing? Are you drawn to gospel, jazz, or folk-rock? Can you picture yourself singing a Sara Bareillis tune in church? This next round of CVE singers will begin our four weekly rehearsals today, January 28, and we will sing in worship on Sunday, February 25. Singers commit by the service. We meet in the Chapel from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. If interested, contact Gail Carey, Music Ministry Associate, at improvgail@gmail.com, or just come sing!

WPA's Participation at Open Table's Community Dinner

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 in a communal meal and conversation and help create a caring community. If you would like to join in this rewarding and enjoyable event or offer to help that evening, please contact the office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. The time commitment for attending the communal meal is a little over an hour.

Funderburg Scholars Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, February 3, 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., Parish Hall

It's not too late to join us on Saturday! 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. Make your dinner reservation 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.

Come Meet Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Sunday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt is President of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, and a graduate of Yale University and Drew Theological Seminary. She is a widely acknowledged editor, as well as the author of six books. Her years of service to the UUA in the realms of education and social justice, including UU leadership in the U.S. and UU leadership training in Kenya, have been widely praised. Come to this Forum to be introduced to Rev. McNatt and to share in conversation with her. For more information, contact Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

"Protecting against Elder Abuse"

The First Tuesday Group meets February 6, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to hear Det. Scott Camilleri, the elder affairs officer of the Concord Police Department. Scott will review senior scams, family issues, driving concerns, personal safety, alcohol and drug abuse, the disposal of old medications, and the Council on Aging (COA) lockbox services. After Scott's brief talk, the floor will be opened for what should prove to be a lively and informative general discussion. Please plan to attend and participate! (While our focus is senior affairs, come if you are interested, whatever your age.)

World Day of Prayer Service and Luncheon—March 2

The host church for Concord's commemoration of World Day of Prayer 2018 is the West Concord Union Church at 1317 Main Street. The women of Suriname wrote the service based on the creation story; and will explore issues of climate change, natural disasters, and human abuse of the environment, which are harming our planet and its inhabitants. If you have artwork, textiles, or decorative items from Suriname that you could lend for use at the service or luncheon, please contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net. All men, women, and youth are warmly invited to attend the service at 11:00 a.m. and luncheon at noon.

Here Comes the Survey!

The Standing Committee Listening Sessions end this evening with a meeting especially for our youth, but right around the corner is the second part of our "Year for Reflection and Visioning" effort. Keep your eyes open early in February for the all-congregation survey. Once again, we need your participation. Your input will help us shape goals for both the Standing Committee and staff over the next five years.

Save the Date

Our First Parish community will come together on March 9 and 10 for an all-congregation retreat, the final part of our "Year for Reflection and Visioning." This important community-building event will give us all a chance to begin work on setting goals for the next five years. Children will be participating too.

WPA Luncheon Program: The Art of Resistance

Don't miss a special luncheon program on March 21 at 11:30 a.m., organized by the Women's Parish Association. 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*.

Her findings present a compelling picture of what dedicated resisters against oppression can accomplish. Her book gives a very interesting understanding of Chinese art and culture and inspiration to resisters today, who know well that resistance against oppression is crucial to protecting a democracy. Book signings will follow. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net.

Flea Market Date Has Been Scheduled!

It's not too early to start setting aside items that you want to donate to this great fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Household or gift items, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, toys, etc., all in good condition, are welcome. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekincd@comcast.net if you want to rent a table. The table rental fee is \$35. Tables go fast, so rent one soon!

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 kickoff 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 or Val Vallancourt at valvallancourt@gmail.com with questions.

Social Action

Social Action Grant Applications Due on January 31

Any pledging member of First Parish may sponsor a grant application for a worthy organization. See the SAC Grants page on the First Parish website for our grant-making policies and the application form.

AWE's Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., in the Chapel

Join us to watch "Albert Nobbs," a story set in 19th-century Ireland about a painfully shy butler, Albert Nobbs (Glenn Close), who hides an incredible secret: he is really a she. Some 30 years after donning men's clothing in order to make a living, she finds herself trapped in a prison of her own making. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

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. Participation is limited to 64 people, so don't delay!

AWE Book Group

Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., at First Parish

We'll read *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, by Jesmyn Ward. Goodreads writes: "An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* examines the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power—and limitations—of family bonds." Contact Jen Izzo at jbizzo@hotmail.com. Our corresponding social action will be announced at a later point. AWE's meetings and events are open to women, men, and people of all gender identities and expressions who wish to advance women's rights and improve their lives.

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.

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

March 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 12:00 Noon

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

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The March 2018 edition will be published February 21.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, January 28: Religious Exploration

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

10:00 a.m.—Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7)—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 their classroom 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.

Kindergarten & Grade 1—Lower Level

Grade 2—Greeley Room

Grade 3—Bulkeley Room

Grade 4—Ripley Room

Grade 5—Wright Tavern

Grade 6—Emerson Room

4:00-6:00 p.m.—8th Grade OWL, Session 3—Emerson Room

6:00-7:30 p.m.—Youth Listening Session—Loft

Next Sunday, February 4: Religious Exploration preparing for LOVE Service

LOVE—All-Ages Service

Sunday, February 11, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a service celebrating love! Our children will help lead this service with Rev. Amy Freedman and Dawn Van Patten. On Sunday, February 4, during Religious Exploration time, each age group will prepare to lead the service. We will reflect on what love is and how we can bring more love into the world.

Hospital Care Packages for Children

Our Neighboring Activists (Grade 6) invite our First Parish community to help them in supporting kids being treated at local hospitals: Emerson Hospital in Concord and Lowell General Hospital in Lowell. Items to donate include small toys, crafts, crayons, books, markers, and bubbles. All items must be new and in original packaging. Please *no* food, candy, stuffed animals, or used items. A collection box is in the First Parish coat closet. Your contributions will be delivered in early February.

Youth Listening Session

Sunday, January 28, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the Loft

High School teens are invited to join the Youth Group today at 6:00 p.m. in the Loft for pizza and check-in. A Youth Listening Session will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Join us for pizza, tell us what matters to you, and help us to plan for the future of First Parish in Concord!

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. This event is intended for parents and adults. The event is free and open to the public. Make reservations online at tinyurl.com/talksaveslives.

Middle OWL Parent Orientation

Friday, February 9, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Emerson Room

First Parish is pleased to offer OWL (Our Whole Lives) comprehensive sexuality education, not only to adolescents but also to 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 10:00-11:15 a.m. 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 at afreedman@firstparish.org or Dawn at dvanpatten@firstparish.org.