

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 18, 2018

This Week

Sun. Mar. 18	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
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
	3:00	Family Forum on Homelessness
Mon. Mar. 19	7:30	Environmental Leadership Team
Tues. Mar. 20	6:30	T'ai Chi
	7:00	Amnesty International
	7:00	Annual Campaign Meeting
Wed. Mar. 21	9:30	Buddhist Group
	11:30	WPA Luncheon
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thur. Mar. 22	7:30	Reclaiming Our Democracy
	7:30	Buddhist Group
Fri. Mar. 23	7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sun. Mar. 25	9:00	Chalice Choir Rehearsal
	9:00	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00	Sunday Worship
	11:30	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Parish Notes

Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary Today, March 18, 11:30 a.m.

“Ranked Choice Voting.” Last November, Maine became the first state in U.S. history to pass a voting system called Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), which could transform politics in America. Instead of choosing just one candidate on your ballot, RCV allows you to rank multiple candidates in the order you prefer, allowing a gradation in the outcome that guarantees the candidate with the best overall support wins the race in a crowded field, and virtually eliminates the need for any runoff election. Eleven major cities in the United States already use RCV, including Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Jim Henderson of Voter Choice Massachusetts will be our speaker. To suggest a topic or speaker, join the Forum Committee; or to get emails about future Sunday Forums, contact a Forum Committee cochair: Pat Brinkman at pabrinkman@comcast.net, or Alan Whitney at awhitney@alum.mit.edu.

The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness Presents: Children Caught in Family Homelessness—How They Are Hurt and How We Can Help; Today, March 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Hear from experts about life for families struggling to find housing, long-term implications for children, and how to actively engage in advocacy that supports important programs. Speakers include Dr. Megan Sandel, Associate Director of the GROW Clinic at Boston Medical Center and Principal Investigator with Children’s Health Watch; Carl Howell, Division Director of Housing and Homeless Services for Community Teamwork in Lowell; and Kelly Turley, Associate Director, Mass Coalition for the Homeless. Contact: jane_blumberg@me.com.

WPA Luncheon—Sign Up at Coffee Hour Today

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. For reservations, contact the office at 978-369-9602, sign up at coffee hour today, or email Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net by March 18.

First Parish Trustees Looking to Fill a Vacancy

The First Parish Trustees of Parish Donations need to fill a vacancy effective July 1, and are looking for anyone who might be interested in serving. The five Trustees meet seven to nine times per year, and their mission is to affirm and support the mission of First Parish in Concord to be a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world. In support of that mission over the long term, the Trustees are the stewards of the funds and properties donated to First Parish over more than two centuries. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the Trustees, or if you’d like to learn more about what the Trustees do, please email Trustee Victoria Rizzi at victoria@rizzi.us by March 31.

First Parish Cooperative Passover Seder Saturday, April 7, Parish Hall, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Our Passover Seder is a fun and meaningful ritual for all ages! Rev. Amy Freedman is leading our Seder with Dana Snyder-Grant and Zach Roe. Our gathering will include a retelling of the Passover story and a potluck dinner. Whether you have a Jewish background or have never attended a Seder before, you are welcome. Each person is asked to choose a job (setup or serving or cleanup) and to bring one or two items. Sign up online: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45aaaa2baafa7-passover1>. Questions? Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at 978-760-1129 or dana.snydergrant@gmail.com, or sign up at the Passover table during coffee hour on March 11, 18, or 25.

“Emerson Believes” Lecture

On Tuesday, April 10, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., Emerson scholar Wendell Refior will present a brief lecture on Ralph Waldo Emerson’s beliefs, influences, and thought. A seminar will follow, with participants invited to discuss selections from Emerson’s major works, including “Nature,” “Self-Reliance,” “Spiritual Laws,” “Circles,” “The Transcendentalist,” “The Over-Soul,” and the Divinity School Address. Limited to 20 participants. Fee: \$10. Preregistration is required. Contact Dianne Weiss at diannemeweiss@comcast.net, or sign up in the First Parish office. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord.

Flea Market Update

Get ready to donate to this important fundraiser, organized by the Women’s Parish Association. It will be held on Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com to arrange for donations of household goods, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, etc. Contact Marilyn Lowitt at marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net or 978-793-0267 if you need items picked up. Contact the office at 978-369-9602 or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to rent a table. Rental fee is \$35. Tables are going fast, so rent one now. Bring family and friends to socialize, have snacks and lunch and shop for bargains!

Social Action

March Is Share the Plate Month for Centro Arte Para La Paz

Today, March 18, is the third Sunday to Share the Plate with Centro de Arte Para La Paz (a matching grant of \$3,000 will double the impact of your gifts). If you were fortunate enough to have heard Sister Peggy last weekend, you would have understood the

importance of our continued support of her work. She has spent over 30 years in Suchitoto protecting during the Civil War, caring for the refugees that fled to Honduras, supporting them as they returned to their destroyed villages and ever since helping the survivors heal from the effects of the trauma. Her work continues, helping the new generation of children who have grown listening to the stories of the war. Sponsored by the IJTF. For more information, contact Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com or like us on the First Parish Immigration Justice Task Force Facebook page.

Support Lowell's Displaced Puerto Rican Families

More than 300 hurricane-displaced Puerto Rican families have arrived in Lowell and live temporarily in motels funded by FEMA—with no transportation, cooking facilities, or money. Please consider helping these families by donating the following: toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush), Uber gift cards, Spanish- and English-language books, diapers of all sizes, backpacks with basic school supplies, and Instapots. You may also write a check to the Jericho Road Project, which is sponsoring this drive. Drop donations in the coat area and checks in the church office. Visit our coffee hour table in March or contact Katharine Roberts at katharine@goodstory.works to learn more.

Share-the-Plate Check Guidelines

The following are the guidelines for checks placed in the offering plate. Please fill in the memo line of your check in one of the following way: "Share the Plate" or "STP"—50% to Charity and 50% to FP (as pledge or gift), 100% "Charity Name"—100% to Charity, "Pledge" or "Annual Fund"—100% to FP Annual Fund. If there is nothing written on the memo line, 50% will go to Charity and 50% to First Parish as a pledge or gift.

Amnesty International

Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

First on the agenda is signing letters to support human rights activists determined by Amnesty/USA to be urgent cases. We'll have progress reports on our plans for April 26, when Sister Helen Prejean will speak in Concord. Ongoing projects include Massachusetts prison reform, death penalty abolition, the prevention of violence against women worldwide, and the freeing of two Azerbaijanian student activists. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons at njlyons22@gmail.com or 978-369-6109.

Tawakkol Karman—2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Sunday, April 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

The First Parish in Concord Social Action Community, in conjunction with the Greeley Peace Scholar Program, presents Tawakkol Karman. Karman (this year's Greeley Peace Scholar) was the first Arab woman and the second Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She was also the youngest. She is a women's rights activist and does peace building work in the struggle for human rights in Yemen. She is the cofounder of Women Journalists Without Chains. The topic will be "My Experience in the Revolution and Making Change." This event is free and open to the public.

Volunteer at Rosie's Place

We are looking for volunteers (age 12+) to join us to cook and serve dinner at Rosie's Place on Sunday April 22. We'll carpool from church at 1:30 p.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. Rosie's Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston and serves 3 meals a day, 365 days a year. Past volunteers have found this a meaningful way to do direct social action work. Sponsored by the Advocates for Women's Empowerment (AWE). Please contact Suzie Weaver ASAP at skatesuzie@aol.com to sign up.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 18: 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
10:15-11:15 a.m. – Religious Exploration
Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level
Grade 2– Emerson Room
Grade 3– Bulkeley Room
Grade 4– Ripley Room
Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel
Please note: OWL (Grade 8) and Middle OWL (Grade 5)– Not meeting on March 18.

Next Sunday, March 25: Religious Exploration

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
10:00 – 11:15 a.m. – Middle OWL (Grade 5) – Wright Tavern
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
10:15-11:15 a.m. – Religious Exploration
Kindergarten & Grade 1– Lower Level
Grade 2– Emerson Room
Grade 3 & 4– Ripley Room and Greeley Rooms
Neighboring Activists (Grade 6)– Chapel
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. – OWL (Grade 8), Session 8– Emerson Room
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Coming of Age with Mentors– Parish Hall
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Youth Group– Loft

March for Our Lives: Boston Rally for School Safety

Saturday, March 24, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., Boston Common

If you are interested in being part of First Parish's participation in March for Our Lives: Boston, please contact Leslie Pelton Nichol at lpelton@ljpcconsult.com. For anyone who signs up, Leslie will send out information about an evening gathering to center us before we march and meet up at locations for our community and friends in Concord and West Concord, Alewife, and Boston, on March 24. All who stand against the senselessness of American gun violence are welcome to attend.

Easter Egg Decorating

Sunday, March 25, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

During our regular RE time, Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 will decorate Easter Eggs. Families are asked to bring one dozen hard-boiled eggs (if you can). Everyone will be able to take four eggs home. We will decorate eggs for our First Parish Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m. (between the two services). We will have a rainbow of colors and other supplies ready for you to join in the fun!

Youth Group

Sunday, March 25, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

If you are a teen in grades 9 to 12, join Youth Group on Sunday evenings in the Loft. We are currently working on some social justice projects and will be looking ahead to our trip to CityReach, April 27 and 28. Pizza dinner is provided. Questions? Our Youth Coordinator is Rev. Jo VonRue, who can be reached at jvonrue@firstparish.org.

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.

May 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, April 17, 12:00 Noon

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

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The May 2018 edition will be published April 25.