

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 24, 2019

This Week

Sun. Mar 24	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon. Mar. 25	7:00	“Say Their Names” Coalition
	7:30	Women’s Book Group
Tues. Mar 26	9:30	Women’s Book Group
	6:00	RJAG Meeting
Wed. Mar 27	9:00	Cancer Support Group
	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:00	T’ai Chi Drop-In Class
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Mar 28	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	No Remedy for Love
Fri. Mar 29	12:00	T’ai Chi
Sun. Mar 31	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Ensemble
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	IJTF Meeting

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 and visit 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.

Have You Pledged for the 2019-2020 Annual Campaign?

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 or contact pledge project manager Darien Smith, darien@smithquest.com.

“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 diannemeweiss@comcast.net.

“Finding Meaning in Retirement: Questions to Ask”

First Tuesday Group; April 2, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Come hear Tom Wilson discuss ways to deal with this transitional moment in our lives. Tom will discuss the book he’s writing and the

questions it has raised for him, such as, “How can you identify what’s not working and figure out how to deal with it?” Come prepared to discuss your retirement transition, as you experienced it, as you are experiencing it, or as you anticipate experiencing it! (*While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.*)

Concord Area Humanists

Peter Alden: “Creating Local Naturalists”

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall

Many are concerned about our planet’s future, worry about climate change and pollutants, and try to be green, but few have identified and consciously observed 100 vertebrates and 100 plants in their own towns. Our speaker will review local flora and fauna and discuss initiatives to create local naturalists. Peter, naturalist and Concord native, has led wildlife tours to over 100 countries. He has published 15 field guides, including *Audubon’s Field Guide to New England*. He also organized the world’s first Biodiversity Days (Bioblitzes), which now occur worldwide.

Get Ready for the Flea Market!

This year’s Flea Market will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Contact Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com to volunteer to help, to donate items, or to rent a table. Donations should be brought to the Bulkeley Room the Wednesday and Thursday (April 3 and 4) before the Flea Market itself, not any sooner. The table rental fee is \$35. Bring family and friends to this event, where crafters and plant and general vendors will be selling interesting items at great prices. Food sold throughout the day. Entrance fee: \$1 for adults.

Meeting House News Deadline

May issue: Deadline Tuesday, April 9, Noon; Published April 17
Due to the Passover and Easter holidays, the May MHN deadline is very early in April this year—April 9. Please be sure to plan ahead, esp. with your committees.

Send final form entry and images as attachments to the Editor at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. Word limit is 100; content can be Word or Text files (not PDFs); and images can be JPEG or PNG. Please review the formatting guidelines available in the “Publicizing Events at First Parish of Concord” brochure. You can download it from the church website News -- News Submission Guidelines page. Thank you.

Nominations for the First Parish Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee is seeking people who would like to be considered to serve on the Nominating Committee. The primary function of the Nominating Committee is to solicit and nominate candidates for open positions on the Standing Committee, as well as the Treasurer, Clerk, and Moderator positions. We are looking for people who like to participate in many aspects of church life. The term is three years, with an option to do two consecutive terms. We typically meet every other month in fall, winter and spring, and the commitment is usually about two hours a month. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving, please contact Kate Svrccek at katesvrccek@hotmail.com or 781-472-0714 by Friday, April 26.

Social Action

Caught in Family Homelessness: Parents Tell Their Stories
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, 14th Annual Forum—Sunday, March 24, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord
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.

FP Members' Experiences at the Southern Border: Conversations with Detained Migrants and Courtroom Injustice
Thursday, March 28, 2:30 p.m., Fowler Library, 1322 Main Street
Come learn about the trip to the southern border taken by several members of First Parish—the conversations with detained migrants and injustice witnessed in the courtroom. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters with the Immigration Justice Taskforce. Contact Tony Rodriguez at trod.rodriguez@gmail.com with any questions.

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.dignityinasyllum.org), a women-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 or at the door (\$20). Contact Lora Venesy at venesy@comcast.net.

Toiletry Drive to Benefit Women
Sunday, March 31, through Tuesday, April 30, Coatroom
Please leave your items for our toiletry drive in the marked box in the coatroom, March 31 through April 30. We will collect unopened full- and travel-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, combs/brushes, and hygiene items (pads, tampons) for Rosie's Place and Open Table. Contact Suzie Weaver at skatesuzie@aol.com.

Join the Vigil! Stand in Solidarity for Immigrants Detained in Boston at the House of Corrections—Only One Week Away!
Sunday, March 31; Film at 11:30 a.m., Carpool at 12:45 p.m.
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. Gather in the Brooks Room at 11:30 a.m. for a showing of the film "Immigrants for Sale," followed by a pizza lunch, and sign making. At 12:45 p.m., we will carpool to the Suffolk County House of Corrections, 20 Bradston Street, Boston. Everyone is welcome. Come for all or part of this event! Contact Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Immigration Justice Task Force Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 1, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room
Are you interested in learning more about the IJTF? Come to a meeting and learn about the programs we're involved in and the actions we take to protest injustice and support immigrants' rights. Meetings are the first Monday of each month. Your thoughts, questions, and presence are welcome! For more information, contact Tony Rodriguez, trod.rodriguez@gmail.com.

Restorative Justice Activist and Greeley Peace Scholar 2019 Fania Davis Will Speak Sunday, April 7, 11:30 a.m.
Dr. Davis is a longtime social justice activist, civil rights trial attorney, restorative justice practitioner, writer, professor, and scholar of Indigenous Knowledge. Honors include the Ubuntu award, the Tikkun award, the Ella Baker/Septima Clark Award, the Ebony POWER 100 award. She is a Woodrow Wilson fellow and named a New Civil Rights Leader of the 21st Century. Please join us! Sponsored by FP and SAC. For more information, contact First Parish at 978-369-8701 or Marilyn Lowitt at Marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series
Friday, April 5, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
We'll show *The Help*, a story of a young white woman, "Skeeter," and her relationship with two black maids during the Civil Rights Movement in 1963 in Jackson, Mississippi. In an attempt to become a legitimate journalist and writer, Skeeter decides to write a book from the point of view of the maids—referred to as "the help"—exposing the racism they are faced with as they work for white families. Contact Lou Toussaint at mloutoussaint@gmail.com.

Religious Exploration

This Sunday, March 24: Religious Exploration
9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level
10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths (Grade 7) – Brooks Room
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," Multiage (K-5)– Upper Level
Neighboring Activists, Grade 6 – Chapel
4:00-6:00 p.m. – 8th Grade OWL: Session 8: Contraception – Emerson Room
6:00-8:00 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Sunday, March 31: Religious Exploration

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.

Would you like to join an RE Team?
Sunday, March 31, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room
This year we have working groups focusing on certain areas of our Religious Education program. We have openings on the following teams:
Social Action Team—Helping all ages make a difference in the world through education and service.
Teacher Resource Team—Supporting our volunteer teaching teams by providing resources.
Welcome Team—Creating a welcoming and warm environment for all families, including guests and newcomers.
Youth Team—Full!
If you'd like to join a team or learn more, please contact Rev. Amy Freedman, our Minister of Religious Education, at afreedman@firstparish.org.

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.