



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

It's been a long, cold winter and I imagine that many of us are more than ready for spring. Thoreau loved the spring more than any other season. "One attraction in coming to the woods to live," he wrote in *Walden*, "was that I should have leisure and opportunity to see the spring come in." "I am on the alert," he wrote "for the first signs of spring...Walden is melting apace...it is glorious to behold this ribbon of water sparkling in the sun...such is the contrast between winter and spring. Walden was dead and is alive again."

Knowing what helps you feel more alive is a great gift. For me, the transcendentalists are a group who admonish me to "wake up" and urge me to go toward more "aliveness." They have spiritual vitality that both inspires and challenges me.

Next spring, in March of 2009, **Lillian Anderson** and I will be leading a trip to Italy to retrace the footsteps of Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Theodore Parker, Hawthorne, and others. "Tracing the Transcendentalists in Italy" is our working title, and we are in the very early stages of planning. Come to a meeting on Sunday, May 4, at 7 p.m. if you'd like to learn more.

Although in his later years Emerson could say disparaging things about travel in general, and about Europe in particular, I believe that his first trip to Italy in 1833 was life-changing for him. His marriage over, his career ended, it was as if his life had literally come to pieces around him. He was not yet thirty. Emerson decided to go to the West Indies, seeking warmth for his lungs, but when he heard of a ship leaving for Malta, he suddenly changed his mind. He gave up his house, sold his furniture at auction, moved his mother, and on Christmas Day 1832, Emerson's ship sailed for Italy. He would spend the next five months in Europe.

Emerson first entered Rome on March 26, 1833. We will arrive in Rome in late March of 2009, and retrace his footsteps there, as well as explore where Margaret Fuller lived and worked. We will then travel to Florence, where Nathaniel Hawthorne and his wife Sophia lived for a time, where Emerson visited, where Theodore Parker is buried.

With Thoreau, I will be waiting and watching in these next weeks "to see the spring come in." And I will be continuing to learn and plan for next spring and our "transcendental pilgrimage" to Italy. I hope you will consider joining us.

—*Jenny Rankin*

Sunday Worship Schedule

April 6

Social Action Sunday
— **Green Sanctuary**

Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 – Gospel Choir
and Junior Choir

11:00 – Adult Choir
and Chalice Choir

Now I Walk in Beauty – Smith

April 13

9:00 & 11:00 – Youth Service

April 20

Becky Johnson, preaching
9:00 – Choir

Hope – Barnwell

Meditation: Oseh Shalom

– Steinberg

11:00 – Handbell Choir

Mother Earth, Spirit Sky – Peterson

For the Beauty of the Earth

– arr. McChesney

April 27

Margie King Saphier, preaching
9:00 – Anderson Manuel, vocals;

Rob Castillo, guitar

11:00 – Choir

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

– Thomson

Twenty-Third Psalm – McFerrin

May 4

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

Grace Choi, piano

A Selection of Four-Part Songs

– Haydn

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:

- **Wright Tavern Center**
- **Pastoral Care Survey**

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — in print and online — September to June, to provide parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community.

Please send address changes to:
First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

Noon Deadline	Mailing Date
Friday, Apr. 18	Wednesday, Apr. 30
Monday, May 19	Wednesday, May. 28
Monday, Aug. 18	Wednesday, Aug. 27

Newsletter items should be limited to 100 words and may be delivered, faxed or e-mailed to the church office.

FIRST HEADS UP ON CONSTRUCTION PREPARATION

As we prepare to begin construction on our dream, there are so many little details to attend to. A lot of what we need to address has to do with all the stuff we have collected over the past 50 years. In the next few weeks we all need to take a long hard look at what we are saving and embrace the spiritual practice of “letting go” in a very literal sense. Please join the staff as we all look forward to clearing our minds and hearts and preparing for consolidating, organizing and storing our stuff during the construction phase of the project. There will be a dumpster on the church property from April 28 to May 12, so this is your chance. Questions? E-mail **Caroline McCloy** at memberfp@aol.com or call the church office, 978-369-9602..

Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee was on retreat on March 7 and 8. Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in), or look for the minutes on the bulletin board in the downstairs hall. The next Standing Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 14, at 7 p.m.

Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Robert Hilsinger** or **Charles Lowell** if you wish to recommend a topic or a speaker.

APRIL 6

No Forum

APRIL 13

To Gaza and Back

Janice Hayden

Concord resident Janice Hayden recently returned from her annual trip to the West Bank and Gaza to purchase Palestinian folk arts. With the help of the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, she was able to get an Israeli permit to enter Gaza, which is under blockade. She will speak about life in Gaza under Hamas rule and an internationally sanctioned blockade, in the West Bank under Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority, and about the likely future of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

APRIL 20

The Food Revolution

Kathryn Shane

Kathryn is a member of the First Parish community who has been studying various aspects of food sourcing for a number of years. In this Forum, she will discuss key concepts and facts covered in the book by John Robbins, *The Food Revolution*. The book explores ideas on how your diet can help save your life and our world.

APRIL 27

No Forum

MAY 4

Two Million Minutes

A documentary film about how six students prepare for college. The students include two from United States, two from China, and two from India. "Two Million Minutes" refers to the amount of time is spent in school from eighth grade to high school graduation.

Parish Notes

SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to provide the Sunday flowers for a memorial or for a special occasion, please leave your name in the office to arrange a date.

DO YOU HAVE MATERIALS IN THE FIRST PARISH ARCHIVES?

Before the church renovation begins, all materials in the First Parish archives are being transferred to our traditional archival storage in Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library. If you or your committee has something in the church archives that you would rather keep, please contact **Enid Boasberg** at harpplayer@comcast.net or **Winslow Pettingell** at LondonSW11@aol.com.

REMINDER — FLEA MARKET/RECYCLE SALE AT FIRST PARISH

Don't forget the WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale, which will take place on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Gently used furniture, antiques, lamps, kitchen stuff, artwork, jewelry and clean toys are all welcome donations. No books, magazines, clothing, plants, sports or exercise equipment, or electronics can be accepted. Items can be dropped off at the church the day before between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Bring yourself and your friends to this fun event to search for your own treasures. To volunteer, call **Pat Kane** at 978-369-8418. This is a major fund raiser and a great opportunity to recycle items that you no longer need.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Diversity Committee will host a second workshop on racism on Tuesday, April 8, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Our guest speaker, Deanne Bonnar, a professor at Boston University, will take us deeper into the question, "Why do we have to think about Racism?" Please join us as we take a closer at race, ethnic differences, attitudes of prejudice and how we can make small changes to reduce racism in our lives. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

FIRST PARISH ANNUAL SEDER — SATURDAY, APRIL 12

As in past years, this is a cooperative experience. Our intern minister, **Becky Johnson**, will be doing the service. Everyone else helps in one of the following ways: shopping on Friday for food or wine, cooking Saturday morning or afternoon, setting up, serving, or cleaning up. Tickets and sign-up choices will be available at coffee hour on Sunday, March 30, and April 8; and in the office, March 24 through April 10. Sorry, no tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket prices are \$5 for children ages 6 through 13, \$17 for those between the ages of 14 and 90; no charge for children under the age of 6 and people over 90 years old. For more information, call **Rhoda Miller** 978-369-6639, or e-mail her at rhodamill@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED — WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Learn the workings of an adult religious education center from the inside out. Energetic, capable, enthusiastic, and thorough person with good communication, writing and people skills needed for a wide variety of tasks and projects, ranging from registration to database management to publicity and marketing, and more. Contact Director **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler** at FTPavertn@aol.com or 978-369-9602, ext. 421.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Money Matters

I am writing this at the conclusion of the Large Church Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Every aspect of church life is discussed here, although I focused on those issues most pertinent to my role as your Business Manager. While I come back with some ideas and tools to use, I think the most important thing I return with is an abiding sense of gratitude for our community. When you work or volunteer at First Parish and you are down in the trenches, it is so easy to see only the things that need tweaking or a complete overhaul; it is harder to make time to actively reflect on the excellence in our ministry and programming.

So I'm thinking about a situation where pledges for next year come in over our goal and we are able to implement some of the great ideas the staff and lay leaders at this conference are bringing back — ideas that more deeply connect our community and help spread the word about this incredible religion we share. I'm dreaming about a budget that lets us fulfill our dreams for our spiritual life at First Parish.

We face a big challenge as a congregation next year. We will be under construction. We will be facing some reductions in outside contributions to our budget. We will have some sizable infrastructure costs to update old and worn out systems (telephone and computer). As of this writing, we have heard from many of you, but we are still far from our \$990,000 goal. Every pledge matters. Your pledge matters. Please pledge today, either online or on a form you can obtain from the office. Thank you.

—Melissa Perdue Gallo

Pastoral Care News

As I write this, Pastoral Care Sunday is two weeks away (March 30). The order of service for that Sunday will contain the same survey included here in the *Meeting House News* to provide you the opportunity to volunteer or to request a visit in this wonderful mutual ministry. I thank **Dianne Weiss** of the Pastoral Care Council for her hard and thorough work in creating this survey.

Frederick Buechner's words, "The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet," are the spiritual essence of what it means to give to others. Because of our independent Unitarian Universalist attitude, which is compounded by our independent New England Yankee ways, we need to remember there can be no heartfelt giving unless there is also open-hearted receiving. When we enter the dance of giving and receiving, we are surprised by the joy and gratitude that fills our hearts. So I hope you will join this beautiful dance by filling out the survey.

In faith,

—Margie King Saphier

ACOUSTICS, CARPETING AND THE SANCTUARY

As part of the upcoming capital improvements to the First Parish Meeting House, the carpeting in the Sanctuary is scheduled to be removed. It will either be replaced with new carpeting, a new hard surface, or a combination of new carpeting and a new hard surface.

A full range of options will be considered when we begin an experiment at the end of April (while our regular services are continuing) by removing the carpeting completely. This will allow us to observe how removal of the carpeting will impact the acoustics in the Sanctuary and affect our worship experience, including hearing the spoken word, our congregational singing and the wonderful music that is so important to our worship services. You as parishioners, the ministers and the staff will have a chance to weigh in on how much of the carpeting should be replaced, or whether it should be replaced at all.

The removal of the carpeting will also assist in the process of refinishing the pews over this coming summer. With the carpeting completely up, the refinishing will proceed faster and we will be able to refinish more of each pew.

This experiment will begin by removing the carpeting during the week of April 21 (school vacation week), and will run through the month of May and into the summer. By September we will have our new floor surface chosen and installed.

We realize that when the carpeting is removed, the aesthetics of the Sanctuary will definitely be affected, and we hope for your patience and thoughtful response to this experiment.

—Gary Smith, Beth Norton and Doug Baker

Music Notes

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN FOR 2008-2009

Sadly, **Judy Burrows**, our beloved and dynamic children's choir director during these past two years, will be leaving her position at the end of this church year. We are seeking a new Children's Choir director to begin in September 2009. We hope to find an energetic and engaging leader who has experience working with children's choirs and appreciates the needs and abilities of elementary-aged children. Contact **Beth Norton** at music@firstparish.org for more information.

A HANDBELL ROAD TRIP

On March 3, the First Parish Handbell Choir rang for the morning service at First Parish in Bedford. The music director in Bedford, Brad Conner, is a longtime friend. I first spoke with Brad last summer about bringing our ringers to his church, which has no handbell choir of its own.

We rehearsed in Bedford the previous Wednesday afternoon to get used to a different setup (down front, and a rather unusual arrangement of tables to fit the small chancel) and different acoustics. On Sunday morning we were comfortable in the space and ready to go. Substitute ringers filled in for one ringer recovering from knee surgery and another on the mend after a serious respiratory infection. A third open position was covered by Bedford's organist, Carol Hamilton. Meanwhile, Brad sat in as organist on the hymns (accompanied by the bells) as well the postlude, a bells-and-organ arrangement of Holst's *Andante Maestoso*.

Our Concord ringers rang splendidly and to the obvious enjoyment of the congregation. In fact, the entire event was such a success that we have been invited back next spring!

— *Martha Goodman*

Handbell Director

MUSings

This winter, on a visit to the UUA Bookstore, I picked up a slim volume, a meditation manual by Rev. Barbara Merritt, the senior minister of our congregation in Worcester. The title, *Amethyst Beach*, hints at the many gems of everyday spiritual wisdom and humor contained in its pages.

Throughout this snowy winter and as we anticipate a spring and summer full of changes and challenges here at First Parish, I have been drawn back to a chapter early in the book



entitled "Feeding the Pit." In this short essay, Merritt recalls a conversation she overheard between two work-

men constructing an elevator at the Worcester church. One of them was on a ladder over a three-story elevator pit. The man on the ladder asked the other for four bolts. His companion replied, "I'll give you five; you need to have one to feed the pit."

Being ready to "feed the pit" has been a helpful metaphor for me. Things usually don't go quite as we expect and the idea of having an extra "bolt" in reserve when one drops into the pit is wise counsel. Rev. Merritt goes on to discuss the nature of "the pit" and our various responses to its existence: denial, protest, indignation, paralysis. Despite the slightly superstitious air, it seems so practical to be ready to feed the pit.

Through these weeks, in my own reflection and in conversation with colleagues at First Parish, where we are entering a period promising its share of "pits"—both real and metaphorical—I have wondered, What are the extra "bolts" I am carrying with me up on that ladder? What are the extra bolts I need to ask for from my companions? The answer depends on the day and the situation, but faith, patience, flexibility and a sense of humor are usually high on the list.

I recommend Barbara Merritt's *Amethyst Beach* to you. Read "Feeding the Pit" and the other jewels in this volume. And think about what your extra "bolts" might be.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Social Action Community News and Events

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

One success factor of effective social action is collaboration; partnering with others to improve impact and likelihood of success. Isn't that what we try to do here at First Parish? We are a community that creates partnerships. We collaborate — staff and congregation, lay leaders and staff, congregation and organizations, etc. At First Parish we are now facing a unique opportunity to collaborate, to combine forces to effect change during the upcoming construction renovations here at the church. Our church life will continue, as will our social action work, and we can partner together to make it happen successfully. So during the next year, plan on thinking "out of the box," collaborating with others in unique ways. We will continue to put our faith into action and make a difference! Please contact me with your causes and concerns at Fbade@firstparish.org.

— *Faith Bade*
Social Action Associate

JOIN US FOR THE BOSTON PRIDE PARADE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14

The Diversity Committee will be taking a group from First Parish to march in the Boston Pride Parade on Sunday, June 14; the parade starts at noon. Help us show our support for the GLBT community by joining us for this fun, family-friendly event. Please put the date on your calendar, and look for more details in the *May Meeting House News*. Contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org with any questions.

PRACTICE YOUR SPANISH WHILE SUPPORTING THE HERNANDEZ SCHOOL

Come to the Hernandez School festival Friday, April 11, 7-11 p.m. at the Student Center of Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Roxbury Crossing. There you can join families from the Hernandez two-way bilingual school in Roxbury for dinner, dancing, kids' activities and a raffle. The festival raises funds for arts, culture and wellness programming at the school. First Parish has been supporting the Hernandez school for the last ten years, ever since we went there on our first City Year. For more information, call Megan Wolf at 617-522-3249.

UU LOBBY DAY IS APRIL 3—BE THERE!

The issues UU's voted to address this year are Global Warming and Hunger Poverty. On April 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Rev. Bill Sinkford of the UUA, Dr. Charlie Clements of UUSC and Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie will speak on these topics. This is your opportunity to speak directly to your legislators. We will visit our state senators and representatives at 1:00 pm. Meet at the grand staircase of the State House at 10:00 a.m. Check out uumassaction.org for information on this and other topics, such as global warming, fair housing and healthcare.

THANK-YOU FROM UUSC

The UUSC wishes to thank First Parish for contributing over \$1700 to the holiday Guest at Your Table Program.

SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Join together on Sunday, April 6, in a Social Action celebration of Earth Day and the First Parish Green Sanctuary program. Information will be available at coffee hour that day and throughout the month of April on current efforts to make First Parish an accredited "Green Sanctuary" church and the launching of Low Carbon Diet groups within the church.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION COMMISSIONER TO SPEAK IN CONCORD ON APRIL 9

On April 9, Concordians will have an early opportunity to hear the state's new Department of Correction Commissioner, Harold Clarke, who comes with national experience in running prisons. Commissioner Clarke is an interesting and skilled speaker, as those who heard him interviewed on Emily Rooney's show in December can attest. He will be discussing the current state of our prisons, and his vision for addressing their needs in the near future. This program is being presented by Concord Prison Outreach at Trinitarian Congregational Church at 7 p.m. Contact **Linda Reynolds** for more information at 978-371-0562.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH

The First Parish Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org, see our website, www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/, e-mail our Social Action Associate **Faith Bade** at Fbade@firstparish.org, or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.

SPIRIT IN PRACTICE CONTINUES

The Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal is pleased to sponsor ten workshops for Unitarian Universalist adults created by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, a UUA Tapestry of Faith field test program.



"Spirit in Practice" explores eight spheres of holistic and whole-hearted spiritual practices.

Ninety-minute workshops are facilitated by First Parish staff and lay leaders. The complete course schedule with coleaders is available at www.wrighttavern.org, or in the First Parish office.

All are welcome to register for the entire course at a substantial discount or attend individual sessions at the drop-in rate. Child care is provided with advance registration through the First Parish office. Contact: **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Center Director, at 978-369-9602 or at FPTavern@aol.com for registration information or questions.

8 Mondays remaining:

3/31 – 6/9 (no class 4/21, 4/28 & 5/26)
7:00-8:30 p.m.
\$50 FP mbr/\$10 drop-in
\$100 non-mbr/\$15 drop-in

Communal Worship Practices

March 31

Beth Norton & Rev. Cricket Potter

Spiritual Partnerships

April 7

Rev. Margie King Saphier & Becky Johnson

Mind Practices

April 14

Don Leopold & Donna Davis

Body Practices

May 5

Edi Pasalis & Donna Davis

Soul Practices

May 12

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler & Pam Howell

Life Practices

May 19

Melissa Gallo & Caroline McCloy

Justice Practices

June 2

Jim Reynolds & CC King

Integration: Looking Back and Moving Forward

June 9

Beth Norton, Mary Elizabeth Wheeler & others

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

PHOTO CLUB EXHIBIT

On Sunday, April 20, from 3 to 6 p.m., the First Parish Fine Arts Photography Club will host its sixth annual exhibit at the church. All those who enjoy good photography, whether church members or the public at large, are enthusiastically invited to attend, free of charge. There will be two galleries of hung photos; a continuous slideshow; "expert tables" where club members will gladly talk with you about their work and photographic equipment; hands-on demonstrations of equipment and software; good food and vibrant music. Artists will have a selection of their matted and/or framed photographs, calendars and cards available for sale.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY IS COMING TO FIRST PARISH!—APRIL 22

The Women's Parish Association's luncheon program on April 22 will give everyone a chance to meet Susan B. Anthony, the feisty activist who fought diligently for women's suffrage, abolition of slavery and women's rights. Sally Stanton's critically acclaimed one-woman show about this invincible woman is a great gift to First Parish. A catered luncheon buffet will begin at noon followed by the program at 12:45 p.m. The charge is eight dollars. All men, women and youth are invited. For reservations, contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net or 978-263-0426 by April 18.

FERRY BEACH REGISTRATION IS COMING!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend, May 23-26 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registrations for the weekend will be taken at coffee hours on April 27 and May 4. Look for the Ferry Beach information table in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, April 20. For questions before then, contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471). Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at www.ferrybeach.org.

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP WITH FATHER LEONEL NARVÁEZ GÓMEZ

Wright Tavern Center and the Social Action Community are pleased to cosponsor Father Leonel Narváez, Colombian Catholic priest, visiting scholar at Harvard University and internationally recognized founder of the Foundation of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Bogotá, Colombia. Father Narváez returns to First Parish to introduce his ground-breaking methodology in forgiveness and reconciliation. Over the course of four days, 15-20 individuals will have the opportunity to participate in a six-module process: (1) establishing commitment and motivation; (2) moving emotionally from darkness to the light; (3) deciding to forgive; (4) seeing with new eyes; (5) understanding the offender; and (6) establishing a bridge to reconciliation. Visit www.wrighttavern.org and watch the *Sunday News* for details. Register now through the First Parish office at 978-369-9602. Contact: **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Director, FPTavern@aol.com or **Faith Bade**, Social Action Associate, fbade@first-parish.org.

Thursday & Friday, May 1 & 2, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

\$175 (includes Saturday lunch)

Reflection and RE News

We are about to begin registration for Religious Education for next year. Things will be slightly different as a result of the building project beginning this June. We will need to move away from our current workshops and approach RE in a different way. We will need to be creative and flexible about delivering our religious education program. Our RE staff and the RE Council are both fully engaged in a way that will make this year just as meaningful as other years at First Parish. We are lucky to have both teams so committed to our children and teens here at First Parish.

Our program will continue to be one that uses the Cooperative Teaching Parent model. When you register your child in RE, you also register yourself. We know that you count on us to plan for your child's time in our program. At the same time, we truly count on your commitment to fulfill your teaching obligation.

This year we have had so much success in our RE program. When parents bring their unique talents to our children, we all benefit. It is wonderful to hear children actively engaged in learning, in community and in spirit. Thank you for this blessing.

— Pam Howell

RE REGISTRATION DATES

Thursday, April 3, from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 6, at both coffee hours

Sunday, April 13, at both coffee hours

NEIGHBORING FAITHS

Once again, Neighboring Faiths has attracted terrific leaders and many 7th graders. This is one of our most treasured programs in our RE program at First Parish. Our teens visit many different faith communities and experience how others worship and experience something larger than themselves. This is the kind of program that serves to breakdown prejudice and builds an appreciation for other faith traditions. A special thanks to **George Gagliardi**, **Patty Popov**, **Patti Satterthwaite** and **Suzie Weaver** for their leadership in this dynamic program.

APRIL RE CALENDAR

Sun., April 6	Regular RE, Babies–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, 11 a.m.
Sun., April 13	Regular RE, Babies–4 years, 9 and 11 a.m. Intergenerational Service (K–6th Grade), 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, 11 a.m. 8th Grade Pre-COA Youth Group, 11 a.m.
Sun., April 20	Regular RE, Babies–4 years, 9 and 11 a.m. Chapel Sunday, K–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. No 7th Grade Program
Sun., April 27	Regular RE, Babies–Pre-K, 9 and 11 a.m. Social Action Project, K–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. No 7th Grade Program
Sun., May 4	Regular RE, Babies–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, (TBD)

NICK RESSLER BLOOD DRIVE—MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

You can make a difference on Saturday, April 5! Donate blood at the 7th Annual Nick Ressler Blood Drive.

Over 300 blood donors in our community stepped up to make a difference to Concordian, Nick Ressler, before he died of cancer at age 14 in 2001, now others need the same help. Join the Concord Carlisle High School National Honor Society and Nick's friends and family in rolling up your sleeve to donate blood in honor of Nick and the many others in our community who have needed the specialized care Massachusetts General Hospital provides. Massachusetts General Hospital's bloodmobile will be at Hunt Recreation Center, 90 Stow Street, Concord, on Saturday, April 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you are between the ages of 17 and 65 you may be eligible to donate. To allow for convenience and efficiency in donations, appointments are necessary. Call **Pam Ressler** (978-369-0869) or **Cindy Tenner** (978-371-0306) for an appointment to donate.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

ROCK 'N' ROLL BINGO...

...FOR EVERYONE!

FRIDAY, MAY 9

6:00–8:30 p.m. — Youngsters, RE Families

8:30–10:30 p.m. — Dance for Teens and Adults

*Live Music * Dancing * Bingo*

Tickets on sale at coffee hour and at the door.

GOTTA BE ROCK 'N' ROLL MUSIC!

Back by popular demand — Rock 'n' Roll Bingo is returning to the Parish Hall on Friday, May 9. This year, it's an entire evening of great music for people who can kick off their shoes. All ages invited! Rock 'n' Roll Bingo for kids and families from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. And then dancing for teens and adults from 8:30 'til late. Proceeds go toward helping to bring our Keresztúr friends to Concord in September.

UU News

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008 IN FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA

The Denominational Affairs Committee reminds everyone that this year's General Assembly will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from June 25 through June 29. If you

would like to be a delegate, contact **Holli Jones-**

White right away at 978-371-1964. Registration opened March 1, and the best hotel rooms are going fast. Register on the UUA website.



WITNESS FOR PEACE

At a March 7 Interfaith Witness For Peace event in Washington, D.C., the UUA President, Rev. Bill Sinkford, gave the following advice on the cost of war: "Perhaps the greatest cost is to the soul of this nation ... Innocence for us is no longer an option; we need to acknowledge that our nation is operating as an empire, and we're part of it ..." Sinkford said that our response must be one of love: "I believe that we can move toward love if we hold up a vision of right relationship, and it applies as much to international relations as it does in this sanctuary. The interdependent web of existence does not stop at the U.S. border." Check the UUA website for further details.

Every year the youth get the opportunity to create their own worship service for the greater First Parish community. This is an incredibly rewarding experience for our youth; they pick a theme (this year the theme is "shoes"), discuss that theme, write reflections, choose readings, perform music and come together as a group. The Friday before the service we sleep over at the church and rehearse until the a.m. hours. This year we have a record number of youth participating, which is very exciting for me. I am so proud of the heartfelt effort all of our youth put into the service. It is a highpoint of the year for all of us.

The YAC would like all the youth of First Parish to know that they can come to youth group at any point. Even if April is your first time, you will fit right in. Here's what's happening in April:

- Apr. 6 Discussion about civil disobedience with our Jericho Road intern, **Becky Johnson**
- Apr. 11 Lock-In to rehearse our worship service; we have jobs for everyone!
- Apr. 13 Youth Service at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (youth meet at 8:00 a.m.)
- Apr. 20 No YRUU – school vacation
- Apr. 27 Music Vespers; bring a song to share with the group

In May the YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) is getting ready to go on a leadership retreat in Boston, where we will spend the night at the First Church of Boston in the Back Bay. It will be a good opportunity to think about the 2008-2009 year. We are looking to get more youth involved, so let me or a youth leader know if you would like to join our leadership retreat.

April can be the calm before the storm for youth. May and June are crazy with concerts, proms, graduation parties, spring sports, etc. It is my hope that First Parish continues to be an oasis of peace and welcoming place for our youth in these busy times.

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Women's News

SECOND IN A SERIES ON THE WPA

How Does the Women's Parish Association Raise Money for Its Good Works?

With the help of many in the First Parish community, the WPA organizes two fundraising activities each year. The first is the juried Artisan Fair in November and the second is the Flea Market in April. At both of these events, participants pay for booths to sell their wares and the WPA sells donated items and runs a luncheon cafe. The money raised is donated to specific charities, used to purchase gifts for First Parish, and pays for the Christmas Tea and Concert, and the Spring Tea and Concert, open to all at First Parish.

WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The April selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *One Thousand White Women*, by Jim Fergus. The evening session will be held Monday, April 28, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, April 29, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com.

Remaining book and dates for '07-'08:

May 19 (p.m.), May 20 (a.m.)

The Year of Magical Thinking,
Joan Didion

June TBD — Potluck Dinner and
book choosing for next year

Miscellaneous

WOMENSPHERE SPRING GATHERING

The Womensphere spring gathering, "Aging with Grace and Spirit," will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Womensphere organizes sacred circle gatherings for women of the Ballou Channing District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our spring gathering will be a day spent celebrating the wonderful journey that aging can be. Our panelists are six wise and spirited women in their 70's, 80's and 90's. Cost is \$27, including lunch. A limited number of scholarships are available. To register or for more information, please contact Kate Gillis, 401-823-7929, ksgillis@netzero.net.

Partner Church Committee Notes

Exciting news! We're video-conferencing with Székelykeresztúr! Being able to see and talk with each other adds a new dimension to our connection. József, Anna, Sándor and Emese send best wishes to all!

The six youth and five adults from Székelykeresztúr who will be visiting us in September are (adults) Csézár Lajos, Rev. Sándor Lakatos, Emese Nagy, Márton Szabó, Rev. Amália Varró; (youth) Réka Balogh, Magdiika Sára Bodó, Ferenc Gábos, Réka Gagyí, Attila Hegyi, Réka Simó.

The partner church website has been updated with further details; <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/140/88/>.

TWO EXCITING SPRING EVENTS ARE IN THE WORKS

Please join the PCC, FP choir, **Gary** and **Beth**, on Saturday, May 3, for a home-cooked Hungarian dinner and a special program of music, images and reminiscences from Transylvania. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the fall visitors' travel expenses and the renovations of the Székelykeresztúr Unitarian Community House. Tickets are available at coffee hour.

Also look for details of Rock 'n' Roll Bingo, Friday, May 9, on page 9 — proceeds will also benefit the fall visitors' travel expenses.

VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS NEEDED FOR FALL 2008 VISIT

We want to open our homes and hearts to these special guests this fall and provide them with an exciting and informative program of activities. **Dana Booth**, **Peter Fischelis**, **Bill Seaver** and **Winslow Pettingell** are coordinating arrangements. They'll need many volunteers to plan and coordinate activities, as well as financial sponsorships to help bring our visitors to Concord. Please contact them directly to volunteer your time or financial sponsorship. Together, we can make this a most rewarding visit for everyone.

SUMMER 2008 PROJECTS

Our two projects are the Memorial House in Bözödújfalú, József's home village, and the Unitarian Community House in Székelykeresztúr. In addition to hands-on work, we will enjoy sightseeing trips, discussion sessions, etc.

Week 1: Bözödújfalú Memorial House: working with a multi-cultural team

Week 2: Kerestúr Unitarian Community House: images of the building, the initial work, budget, and plans at <http://firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/PCC-pics/>

We'll spend a week on each project, tentatively August 2–17. People are welcome to join us for either or both projects, so maybe you can fit this in with your European travel plans.

Minden jól! (Best wishes!)

—**Lillian Anderson** and **Rodger Mattlage**

April 2008 Calendar

*Listings in italics represent classes offered through
the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.*

Every Week...

<i>Spirit in Practice: Ten Workshops for UU Adults</i>	Monday 7:00 p.m. (not 4/21, 4/28)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday 9:30 a.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday 7:00 p.m. (not 4/22)
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Gulf Coast Works	Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday 4:30 p.m. (not 4/23)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday 5:00 p.m. (not 4/23)
<i>Gentle Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday 7:45 p.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday 9:30 a.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday 7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday 9:30 a.m. (not 4/25)
Men's Group	Saturday 7:30 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday 7:00 p.m. (not 4/20)

<p>Wed Apr 2 7:00 Youth Advisory Committee</p> <p>Thu Apr 3 12:00 Transcendental Awakenings</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:00 Stress Reduction Drop-in</p> <p>Fri Apr 4 9:30 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers</p> <p>Sat Apr 5 9:00 SAC</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">9:00 Recycle Sale</p> <p>Sun Apr 6 12:30 Nominating Committee</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">4:00 SAC Event</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">6:00 SAC</p> <p>Mon Apr 7 12:00 <i>Creativity as a Spiritual Practice</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:30 RE Council</p> <p>Tue Apr 8 WPA Board Meeting</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3:00 <i>Tea and Poetry</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:30 Diversity Workshop</p> <p>Wed Apr 9 7:00 <i>Healing Environments</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">12:00 Just Like Life: Stories of Illness</p> <p>Thu Apr 10 10:00 InterPlay</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">12:00 Transcendental Awakenings</p> <p>Fri Apr 11 9:00 Seder Cooking</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">11:30 T'ai Ji</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5:30 YRUU Lock-In</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:00 <i>Kripalu Partner Yoga/Date Night</i></p> <p>Sat Apr 12 8:00 SAC Grants Committee</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">9:00 Photo Club</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5:00 Passover Seder</p> <p>Sun Apr 13 4:00 Coming of Age</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5:00 Mass Bay District</p> <p>Mon Apr 14 7:00 Standing Committee</p>	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:00 <i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Maintenance</i></p> <p>Tue Apr 15 1:30 Denominational Affairs Committee</p> <p>Wed Apr 16 12:15 <i>Listening for God</i></p> <p>Fri Apr 18 12:00 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Sun Apr 20 3:00 Photo Club Reception</p> <p>Tue Apr 22 11:30 WPA Luncheon</p> <p>Wed Apr 23 7:00 YRUU</p> <p>Thu Apr 24 10:00 <i>InterPlay</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">5:30 Brugh Joy</p> <p>Fri Apr 25 7:00 Brugh Joy</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i></p> <p>Sat Apr 26 7:00 Brugh Joy</p> <p>Sun Apr 27 12:15 <i>Emerson and the Art of Resilience</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:00 Brugh Joy</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:00 Sarasa Concert</p> <p>Mon Apr 28 7:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i></p> <p>Tue Apr 29 9:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i></p> <p>Wed Apr 30 9:15 Newsletter Mailing</p> <p>Thu May 1 7:00 <i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i></p> <p>Fri May 2 9:30 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">9:30 <i>Reflective Walk: Spring Excursion</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">6:30 The New U Dinner</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:00 <i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i></p> <p>Sat May 3 10:00 <i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">6:00 Transylvanian Supper</p> <p>Sun May 4 12:30 Nominating Committee</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1:00 <i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i></p>
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First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

The **May Newsletter deadline** is ***Friday,* April 18**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, April 30.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

WPA RECYCLE SALE

Saturday, April 5
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, April 12
5:00 p.m.

**First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Staff**

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister
Jenny M. Rankin, Minister
Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education
Jane Barnes, Religious Education Administrator
Liz Davis-Chaffin, Workshop Rotation Coordinator
Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children
Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
Eric Huenneke, Organist
Martha Goodman, Handbell Choir Director
Judy Burrows, Children's Choir Director
Anderson Manuel, Music/RE Associate
David Huston, Music Director Emeritus

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Wright Tavern Center Director
Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director
Leslie Koplou, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road
Rebecca Johnson, Jericho Road Ministerial Intern

A. Bigay, Assistant to the Ministers
Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
Jane Johnson, Office Manager
Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager
Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector
Caroline McCloy, Director of Member Services
Faith Bade, Social Action Associate
Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff

COME ONE, COME ALL!

ROCK 'N' ROLL BINGO...
...FOR EVERYONE!
FRIDAY, MAY 9

Don't Miss This One! See Page 9 for details.

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