

# THE FOCALPOINT

FIRST PARISH <sup>IN</sup> LEXINGTON  
UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST

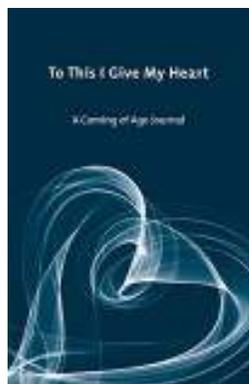
## *May 2017—What Does It Mean to be a Community of Embodiment?*

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**Deadline for June issue: Monday, May 22nd**

## Worship Services for April What Does it Mean to be a Community of Transformation?



### May 7, 9th and 10th Grade Youth Coming of Age

The Coming of Age service is the culmination of our ninth and tenth graders' year long exploration of their Unitarian Universalist identities and will mark their transition into the next stage of spiritual development. Coming of Age participants will be sharing their personal credos answering the question: "what do you set your heart to?"

### May 14, Rev. Anne Mason "The Divine Feminine"



Kwan Yin is the Bodhisattva of compassion for most of the Eastern Buddhist world. What inspires reverence in her? What would it mean to be like Kwan Yin in the modern world? And what have our mothers taught us about responding to the cries of the world with wisdom and love?

### May 21, Rev. Anne Mason "Cast Off Those Chains"



Rev. Anne, along with the History Committee, will explore the hidden history of slavery within First Parish. What was our role in both continuing and abolishing the practice of slavery in Lexington? As we explore our history, we will also take a hard look at how this legacy creates continued racial oppression today.

## Worship Services for April What Does it Mean to be a Community of Transformation?

### May 28, Rev. Anne Mason "Day is Done"



On this day we honor the brave men and women who have given their youth, their energy, their strength, and sometimes their very lives for our country. But far too many of our returning soldiers find their hardest battles happen once they are home. Rev. Anne will explore these issues in our Memorial Day worship service.



Poppy Chorale by Stushie

From Your Minister

This month we explore what it means to have our faith as an 'embodied' faith. What would it look like if we paid attention to our internal voice rising from within our bodies - that amazing blend of sensory awareness and intelligence in the flesh. We are not a people who simply have bodies - we are bodies. Perhaps if we could learn to understand the wisdom that arises from the organic computer of our flesh, we might live in a new way of wholeness and joy. And perhaps, as these unlikely words of St. Augustine suggest, we might learn to dance!

IN PRAISE OF DANCING  
~ by St. Augustine

I praise the dance, for it frees people  
from the heaviness of matter  
and binds the isolated to community.

I praise the dance, which demands everything:  
health and a clear spirit and a buoyant soul.

Dance is a transformation of space, of time, of people,  
who are in constant danger of becoming all brain,  
will, or feeling.

Dancing demands a whole person, one who is  
firmly anchored in the center of his life, who is  
not obsessed by lust for people and things  
and the demon of isolation in his own ego.

Dancing demands a freed person, one who vibrates  
with the balance of all his powers.

I praise the dance.

O (hu)man, learn to dance, or else the angels in heaven  
will not know what to do with you.

May the coming Spring find you with your nose to the  
rose, your eyes to the skies, and your breath quickened by  
the beauty of the world around you as you celebrate your  
place within this glorious creation.

In faith,

*Rev. Anne*



**A Broadway Cabaret**

**Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 3:30 PM**

First Parish in Lexington

Suggested Donation: \$20/adults; \$10/Students and Seniors

(More if you can and less if you can't - all are welcome!)



First Parish in Lexington will present a Broadway Cabaret on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 3:30 PM. The concert will feature the First Parish sanctuary and children's choirs and soloists, guest singers, and a pit band (piano, drums, electric guitar, electric bass, trumpets, horns, flute, saxophone and clarinet) performing solo and choral music from Broadway including selections from Rent, Jesus Christ Superstar, Annie, West Side Story, and Show Boat. Suggested donation: \$20/adults; \$10/students and seniors (more if you can and less if you can't - all are welcome!).

For more information call the church at 781-862-8200 or visit [www.fplex.org](http://www.fplex.org).

**Yukino Sekino Piano Concert**

**Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 2pm**

First Parish in Lexington

Suggested Donation: \$10



Pianist Yukino Sekino will give a solo piano recital at the First Parish in Lexington on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm. Works will include Chopin's Etudes, Op. 25, Copland's Piano Variations, preludes by David Rakowski, and sonatas by Scarlatti. Yukino plays piano for First Parish worship services in the summer. The Gold Medalist of the 2006 International Russian Music Piano Competition and a winner of the S&R Foundation's Washington Award, she has performed as a soloist and a chamber musician in the United States, Europe, Japan, and China. Currently, she is piano faculty at the New England Conservatory's Preparatory School and School of Continuing Education, and an Affiliate Artist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Suggested Donation: \$10.



Amazing music will be sung and played by a very talented group of singers and instrumentalists. Our choirs are included in the list of performing artists. How can we make this major event at First Parish even more successful? Donating refreshments, that's how!

There is still a great need for donations of food in the form of cookies, brownies, fruit, and other small size tasty items. It is not necessary to do the baking as store-bought packages seem just as popular. Bottles of cider, lemonade, and ginger ale are needed also.

Food items can be brought in when you come for the morning service and left in the church kitchen with clear labels on them. The tables will be set up during the day and the food put out during the program.

If you can offer some food, and I hope you can, please let me know what it will be so I can monitor what else we will need.

Thank you.  
Hazel Graham

[Hazel.Graham@RCN.com](mailto:Hazel.Graham@RCN.com)

As the church year winds down, I wanted to remind everyone of some important year-end events:

- On May 7th, Rip and the Sanctuary Choir present our Annual Spring Concert, this year featuring a Broadway Cabaret. The choir, with guest singers and a pit band, will be rockin' with pieces from Rent, Jesus Christ Superstar, and other Broadway musicals. Come early -- the Sanctuary will be packed!
- May 13th is our Annual Mayfair. This popular community-building event features a large collection of jewelry, treasures and collectibles, books, plants, and white elephants for sale. I want to thank Amy Breiting and Marty Kvaal for co-chairing this year's Mayfair.
- June 3rd is our Annual Day of Service. Each year on the Day of Service, dozens of First Parishioners spend the morning working at different locations in Lexington and neighboring towns. I want to thank the Social Action Ministry for organizing this important First Parish event, which embodies our affirmation that Service is Our Prayer. Contact any member of the Social Action Ministry to participate.
- June 4th is the church's Semi-Annual Meeting. After church on Sunday, we will hold our Semi-Annual Meeting. Among other things, First Parish members will vote on next year's church budget and on new payout terms for the Good Samaritan Fund. Participation in the Semi-Annual Meeting is one of the basic obligations of membership, so please put this on your calendar!

I hope to see you at these events!

In the spirit of community,  
Tom Rich, Board Chair

## MAYFAIR is HERE!!

Mayfair will be here on, Saturday, May 13! We invite you to come, to help, and to bring your stuff!

Please mark your calendars and sign up to share your talents. This is the big fund-raiser for the church this spring.

Do you dig plants? Help at the Plant table. Like to dress up? Help at the Jewelry table. Savor good coffee? Brew the best at the Coffee bar. Are you a neat-nik? Push a broom during clean up. There's something for each of us. You can sign up at the piano on Sundays or visit our on-line sign-up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4daca922a7f58-mayfair>.

We are looking, too, for irresistible items in these categories:

- **Treasures and Collectibles:** china, artworks, silver, furniture, fine art
- **Jewelry:** jewelry of all kinds, handbags, scarves, and small purses
- **Books** (all types except textbooks): current fiction & nonfiction, art books, children's books, cookbooks, gardening, field, and travel guides, books on CD
- **Music:** CDs, DVDs, instruments in good working order
- **White Elephants:** Pottery, kitchenware, linens, small furniture, knickknacks, frames, small appliances, tools, electronic goods in working order, art & craft supplies, gift items, holiday decorations

- **Toys, Games, and Puzzles:** clean & in good condition
- **Plants:** plants that you're thinning or have grown from seed
- **Home-baked and other homemade items:** your favorite breads, muffins, cookies, brownies/bars, biscotti, cupcakes, granola/muesli, fudge, etc.

But please :

No firearms    No exercise equipment    No broken items  
No worn-out or outdated sporting goods  
No televisions    No large pieces of furniture  
No household chemicals    No clothing or shoes  
No monitors, desk-model, or old computers  
No air conditioners    No tape cassettes or videotapes  
No magazines or textbooks

You can bring your donations to church on Thursday night, the 11th, after 6:30 pm and all day on Friday, the 12th. The earlier the better so we have time to sort and price items.

Join us for this fun-filled, spring tradition at First Parish. Mark your calendars! Collect your donations! And COME!! (It's the day before Mother's Day and, come to think of it, just 5 weeks before Father's Day!)

Amy Breiting and Marty Kvaal  
Mayfair co-chairs





### Coming of Age

Please come to the Coming of Age service on Sunday, May 7th, when we will celebrate youth who have been participating in the Coming of Age program over the church year. The CoA program follows a curriculum that helps them to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and also how to articulate their own beliefs. They've met twice a month with Katie Camire, youth coordinator, and with their mentors, who've helped guide them in discussion about our faith, justice, and their beliefs. The youth will share their credo statements with the congregation during what is sure to be a moving and uplifting service. Please join me!

### Chalice Circles

It's never too late to join a chalice circle! These small groups meet monthly and follow the Soul Matters curriculum, which engages participants in a deepening of understanding and spirituality around our church's monthly themes. Information about Soul Matters can be found at [soul-matterssharingcircle.com](http://soul-matterssharingcircle.com). Please contact me to learn how to get involved at [dre@fplex.org](mailto:dre@fplex.org) or 781-862-8200 x3.

*~Lisa Maria Steinberg*

The Unity Group invites you to their monthly luncheon and program on Monday, May 8th. Refreshments and social time begin at 12:00pm, followed by lunch and program.

This month, lunch will be catered by a local Italian restaurant. The cost is \$11. The program will be a presentation of piano music. Watch for more information in the Weekly Update.

Especially for women, the Unity Group meets monthly for lunch and a program (but men are welcome , too!).





*"Our Faith Calls Us to Change the World"*

The recipient of the special plate collection for May will be UUMass Action, a state-wide UU advocacy group that "connects the 140 Unitarian Universalist congregations and 20,000 members to 'work smarter, not harder' for social justice by sharing ideas and joining forces to raise our compassionate voice in Massachusetts." Visit [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org) for more information.

On Sunday, May 21st, Lynn Holbein from UUMA will be joining us. Lynn is the founder of UU Mass Action, and she has been the board president for the past 11 years. This year, she transitioned to vice-president and she plans to step down off of the board in June.



### Lexington Food Pantry

The annual food collection drive at the Lexington Post Office will take place on **Saturday, May 13th** between 2-6 PM. Help is needed with sorting, packing, and stacking food being dropped off at the Post Office on Mass. Ave. If you can help, please stop by.

### Waking Up White Book Discussion

First Parish is co-sponsoring with Temple Isaiah and other congregations in Lexington a presentation by Debby Irving on June 8 entitled "I'm a Good Person – Isn't that Enough?"

In anticipation of that, John Oberteuffer will be leading a discussion of her book, *Waking up White*. Please borrow, or buy a copy now and join together on **Sunday, May 21st** at 4 pm in the Common Room for an interesting discussion.

### Day of Service

All members of First Parish and their families are asked to keep **Saturday, June 3rd**, free to participate in our Annual Day of Service. A wide spectrum of activities will be available to all ages. We will highlight the day's activities in the coming weeks.

Past activities for the day have included helping these various organizations in and around Lexington: the Lexington Food Pantry, Lexington Interfaith Garden, Communities Without Borders, Town Conversation Project, WATCH, and Cambridge Homeless Shelter.

Don't miss out on this annual tradition of working for justice!



On Friday, April 7, the First Parish *Voices on the Green* presented its second program, “Balancing on the Hyphen,” a rich exploration of living multicultural-ly. The title is taken from *Together Tea*, a book by Marjan Kamali, one of the evening’s storytellers. More than 160

people heard storytellers and featured speaker First Parish member Dr. Mary Brinton talk about the challenges and rewards of their multicultural heritages and experiences.

The evening was created in partnership with the Lexington Youth and Family Services, a counseling service for teens which meets at First Parish. Teenage and adult LYFS Board members and their families helped create the evening and provided a table of delicious international food. Ruth Rose managed the feast.

Speakers reflected on widely different experiences. FP member Larry Prusak described a Brooklyn of the 40’s and 50’s in which “everybody was hyphenated,” Italian-Americans, Jewish-Americans, African-



Americans, and others. The groups engaged with one another, not always without conflict, but with a sense that they all belonged.

FP member Shawna Yen immigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan at the age of four, growing up “at home” as an American, but realizing that her Asian features mean that some white Americans have trouble seeing her as a fellow citizen.



Austin Fowlkes, an African-American student from Boston at Lexington High School, moving-ly recounted a difficult experience in class when some white students made assumptions about his dancing interests and skills.

Marjan Kamali, author of *Together Tea*, and her daughter Mona Tavangar spoke about being Iranian-American. Marjan, an immigrant, and Mona, a first-generation teenager, talked about the ways in which their experiences are related but also different.



Mary Brinton, Chair of Harvard’s Sociology Department, grew up in the U.S. and fell in love with Japan at

## Voices on the Green Balancing on the Hyphen

twenty, a passion which led her to learn Japanese and shaped her scholarly career. Her experiences of her home and her “chosen” countries enrich and complicate her understanding of human groups and of herself.



The band, Paint Mine Medicine Show, led by LYFS board member Geoff Keith, provided music enhancing the theme, including “An Englishman in New York,” “That’s Right, You’re Not from Texas,” and “Wayfaring Stranger.”

The Rev. Anne Mason concluded the program, observing that “Unitarian-Universalists” balance on the hyphen, and expressing appreciation for all who contributed to the evening.

The VOG committee thanks Munroe Saturday Nights for providing the curtain and lights, Bill Pittore for the sound system, and First Parish members who provided food and attended the evening. \$1000 of the proceeds will go to LYFS, \$500 to fund future VOG programs. David Rose led the event; Deb Lapidés was House Manager; Ben Juitt was Stage Manager; Laura Juitt designed the programs and banner; Regie

## Voices on the Green Balancing on the Hyphen

O’Hare Gibson helped coach the speakers; Anne Khudari worked on communications and finances; and Lee Brami, Tish Callahan, and Helen Cohen helped with publicity. Jane Foley, church administrator, provided invaluable help.



Recurring Events

Choir Warm-up, Sundays, at 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service, Sundays, at 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Choir Rehearsal, Sundays, at 11:45 a.m.  
Social Action, monthly, 3rd Sunday, at 11:45 a.m.  
Sr. High Youth Group, Sundays, at 7 p.m.  
Members & Friends, monthly, 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Music Committee, monthly, 1st Tuesday, at 3:00 p.m.  
Parish Board, monthly, 2nd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.  
Insight Meditation, Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m.  
Finance Committee, monthly, 1st Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.  
Building & Grounds, 3rd Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m.  
History Committee, 2nd Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal, Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m.  
Creative Callings, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday Meditation, Thursdays, at 4:00 p.m.



Saturday, May 6th

Rehearsals for Broadway Concert, 1:00pm, Sanctuary

Sunday, May 7th

Broadway Cabaret, 3:30pm, Sanctuary

Monday, May 8th

Unity Group program, 12:00pm, Parker Hall

Thursday, May 11th

Mayfair Set-up Begins, 6:00pm, Parker Hall and Parish Hall

Friday, May 12th

Mayfair Set-up, Parker Hall and Parish Hall;

Saturday, May 13th

Mayfair, 9:00am, Parish Hall and Parker Hall; Munroe Saturday Night, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Sunday, May 14th

Congregational Conversation, 12:00pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 17th

80+ luncheon, 12:30pm, Parker Hall

Saturday, May 20th

FUSE Fest, 1:00pm

Sunday, May 21st

Newcomer Drop-In, 11:45am, Minister's Office; JHYG 3:00pm, Parker Hall; Social Action Book Discussion, 4:00pm, Common Room; SHYG, 7:00pm, Common Room & Parish Hall