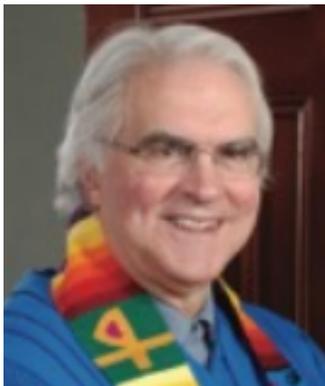




# The Arbella

## CAPTAIN'S LOG



Mark W. Harris

Last weekend we were away attending a family wedding in Atlanta. Andrea conducted the ceremony for her niece at an old trolley barn. We had a fabulous time, but the fun was interspersed with some doses of reality, one of which was a visit to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Part of the tour was an experience of sitting at a lunch counter that tried to replicate what it was like to participate in the sit ins that challenged the Jim Crows laws which denied service to people of color. Levi, Dana, Asher and I all sat on stools and placed our hands on the counter. We then put on headphones. Soon voices came from behind threatening to beat us and kill us. Our stools shook as though someone was kicking it. This went on for only two minutes, but we were all deeply affected by the experience. Asher said it was two minutes of a virtual experience, but "imagine a lifetime of this for real". The museum took us through the entire struggle for civil rights. There was a reference to Unitarian Universalist minister James Reeb who was killed in Selma in 1965.

This experience was updated to the present in a small way by our rides on the subway. It was a reminder of economic disparity in our country. While the five of us rode the subway, we noticed that all the other passengers were

## SERVICES AND SERMONS

**October 7, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Beautiful Souls"**

**Mark W. Harris**

Beautiful Souls is a book about people who showed courage in the face of danger. In the past few weeks we all witnessed the testimony of Christine Blasey-Ford who showed such courage in coming forward to tell her story. Under what circumstances do we come forward? What impels us to defy authority and convention and speak up?

**October 14, 2018, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Arthur Knapp's Journey from Watertown to Japan**

Arthur Knapp was our minister from 1880 to 1886, when he left under the direction of the American Unitarian Association to start a mission to Japan. What can we learn from Knapp, and what does his work tell us about examining our history from an anti-oppressive lens.

African American. It was obvious that white people did not use the public transit. This was for the poor. It reminded me how privileged a life we live every day. We usually have a car. We say it is quicker, more convenient, and safer. But it also means we do not have to interact with others, we live in white isolation, and we don't help the environment. I have been riding the bus over to BU when I teach. Try it.

I suppose it is all about interacting with others who are not like us. What can we learn? How can we grow? A religious community is where we tell our stories of joy and sorrow, struggle and pain. It is not where we hide from or avoid these stories. This week I had an email from a church in California asking for my help in a truth and reconciliation conversation they want to have about eugenics. They had read my book on class issues, and thought I could assist. Their education wing is named for a leading eugenicist in California who was president of their church in the early 1900's. They wanted to remove his name from the building, but they also wanted a process to understand their history. They want to make visible what they have kept invisible for decades.

This brings me back to the wedding. Sunday morning, we had a brunch for the families. My niece asked me about Unitarian Universalism. She said, our religion is a new religion isn't it? After I said no, she followed up with the question, "but we don't have anything that is imperialist or colonialist in our history do we?" Then I started to tell her about eugenics. It is all about telling the story of mistakes and good intentions gone bad. My niece now knows a lot more. She also visited the civil rights museum and read about James Reeb. Finding justice means asking what can we learn, and how do we grow from the past?

Mark

**October 21, 2018, 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Notable Women of Watertown"**  
**Rosemarie Smurzynski**

*In the mid-1800s some notable women were born in Watertown, among them poets and artists Maria White Lowell, Caroline Frances Orne, Anne Whitney, Harriet Hosmer, and Ellen Robbins. A single mom Lois Robbins Curtis raised Benjamin who served on the Supreme Court of the United States. Many were related—they were cousins. In exploring the lives and connections of these women the Rev. Smurzynski will explore the era that contributed to this flourishing.*

**About Rosemarie Smurzynski**

*Rev. Rosemarie Smurzynski is a Unitarian Universalist minister. She graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1980 and served many congregations, including Sherborn. She retired from active Parish Ministry in 2011. Currently she is a Compensation Consultant for the UUA. Upon retiring Rosemarie became a volunteer docent at Mount Auburn Cemetery. In 2018 she received the Watertown Historical Commission Historical Research Preservation Award for her 2017 cemetery walk Notable Women of Watertown.*

**October 28, 2018, 10:30 a.m.**  
**"All Our Losses" - Mark W. Harris**

*As Halloween approaches, we think of it as a time of year when the veil between the living and the dead is thinnest. Grief for a loved one is one kind of loss, but we all wrestle each day with other losses in our lives.*

*Religious Education News**Lauren Strauss, DRE*

Dear friends,

Can I brag for a minute? I spend time talking to religious educators all over New England and the country, and this is a stressful time for all of us. Getting the classrooms ready, finding all the Spirit Play boxes, cleaning out the

chalices... so much to set up! But this year when I asked for volunteers to help teach our lovely children, I got enthusiastic response from parents and even from a few people who don't have children in our program! I am not worried about who will be teaching classes this Sunday. We have a team of fantastic, enthusiastic Youth Teachers who come and make the adults' lives SO much easier. And we had twenty-six adult and youth teachers at our Teacher Training Breakfast on September 16. This is what congregational commitment to children and youth looks like. I am humbled and grateful.

That said, if anyone wants to snuggle our five infants and toddlers on a few Sunday mornings this year, we need two nursery teachers to fill out our team. Or, conversely, if you like deep conversation and *The Twilight Zone*, we are looking for a few adults to help staff that class – either as teachers or as helpers. Please come talk to me or [email me](#) if you're interested.

September has flown by, and I'm really joyful about what's going on in our children's and youth program. This month's RE theme has been "Our Unitarian Universalist Foundations," which included not only the Rainbow UUnicorn story in the sanctuary on September 9, but also another one

about the Seven Principles on September 23 which I told to all the classes on the rug just before they headed to their classrooms. In classes they're reviewing our UU values, as well as creating the worlds that go along with their separate classes. The Harry Potter class has been making wands and creating their House Crest, and the My Little Pony class has been creating their own "cUUtie Marks," the symbols that represent what special gift each of them brings to the world. All the classes have been honing their covenants and creating class names.

Our Youth class has been extra busy creating our very first church-school-wide Faith in Action project. Often this will be a social action or social justice project, but this time I asked them to do something to give back to or take care of our church. They decided on a multi-age collaborative art project to present to the church. They led the rest of the children and youth in this activity on Sunday, September 30. We have five beautiful letters that will be united as one piece by the youth and presented in coming weeks.

We will have our first UU Makers Sunday on October 7, where we'll be encouraging our children and youth to live their UU values by exploring, creating, growing, and learning together.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all you give to the children and youth of this congregation.

*Lauren*

*Musically Speaking*

*Charlyn Bethell, Music Director*

Sometimes, I think we serve ourselves and those around us better if we SAY less and DO more. I have had days when my voice was raspy because of a cold when I had to lead singing but could barely speak. While a bit stressful for me as the leader, usually the rehearsal was productive, to my

surprise.

This summer, at the UUMN conference in Portland, OR, I attended a session about how to lead a choir rehearsal non-verbally. The leader simply started doing whatever and we copied him. He started stretching, which is how we start all of our choir rehearsals. Then he started singing and we followed suit. He did some motions that directed how he wanted us to sing. This continued for most of the session. There were some advantages to this approach:

The level of engagement was much higher.

All tended to be looking at the leader rather than at a page of something.

All listened to the others around us more.

All were self-evaluating at a higher level.

We all had a LOT of fun.

I am trying this out in choir rehearsals, hoping for the benefits listed. I cannot say that I am not speaking but I am trying to speak less. Perhaps there is a metaphor here as I believe that actions

do speak louder than words. What we thoughtfully say is also important. We remember to follow our careful words with actions. May this be so, as a singer/song leader and as a UU!

Our choir is singing this Sunday, October 7th, two songs that come from excellent Classical composers: Jean Sibelius (Finlandia) and Antonin Dvorak ("Goin' Home from the New World Symphony). We will speak about how this music sings the story of who we are. This music asks the question of us: just what are our values? When we think about our songs in the context of our UU principles and sources, our songs will help us grow.

See you in church!

*Charlyn*

**What to expect musically at First Parish this month:**

October 7th: First Parish choir will sing For Justice Now (Sibelius Finlandia arranged by Clif Hardin) and Goin' Home (Dvorak New World Symphony theme arranged by Paul Langford). We will have a guest cellist, Sandi-Jo Malmon, to assist us on Goin' Home.

October 21st: Guy and I will be away in New Orleans, and Carole Berney will be our pianist that day. She is planning some special music!

October 28th: Our guest musician will be Stephen Buck, a baritone singer. Stephen sings with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and has a beautiful voice.

Choir rehearsals are on October: 4th, 11th, NOT the 18th, 25th, and November 1st. (We next sing at the November 4th service.)

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*Social Action Corner*

The Social Action Committee continues its focus on Sanctuary, Immigration & Refugee Issues. There are a few events coming up in October.

**Designated Offering for Sanctuary in**

**Bedford:** On Sunday October 14 we will have a designated offering for the work of First Parish Bedford in offering sanctuary to a woman from Central America. Supporting her family and paying legal fees are on-going expenses. Many FP Watertown people support the Bedford church's sanctuary program by taking shifts to be at the church for the guest's protection.

**Prayer Vigil at the ICE Detention Center at South Bay Correctional**

**Facility:** Also on October 14, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm, a prayer vigil will be held at the ICE Detention Center at the South Bay Correctional Facility in Boston, led by clergy and parishioners from the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. Everyone, and all ages, are invited to join them. After introductions, the participants march around to the side of the facility which houses immigrants detained by ICE. They are able to wave, show signs, sing, pray and chant in view of the detainees who crowd the windows. The men and women can see and hear their supporters, wave back and know that they are not forgotten.

This is a powerful opportunity to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. The meeting place will be up the street from the Correctional Facility at 20 Bradston St., Boston, MA.

**Jericho Walks at the ICE office in**

**Burlington, MA:** Held one Tuesday a month at 1:00 pm, the Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to people of all or no faiths. Participants are encouraged to bring signs calling for just treatment of those who are caught in our broken immigration system, such as "Keep Families Together", "No Family Separation", "Not One More/Ni Una Mas", "Not In Our Name". The next walks are Tuesday, October 16 and Tuesday November 20, both at 1:00 pm. All will gather in front of the ICE Office, at 1000 District Avenue, Burlington MA. Meet along District Ave. You can park in the parking lot adjacent to the ICE Office.

Please see a form to suggest a Designated Offering (included with this Newsletter mailing).

**Among Us**

Congratulations to proud grandparents Marianne and Michael Collins as daughter Molly and her husband Owen Collins are parents of Eleanor Marie Collins born on Thursday, September 6, at 2:37 p.m., weighing in at 7 lbs. 4 oz., and measuring 18.5"

A warm welcome to welcome to George Fitch who joined the church in September. He will be welcomed into membership during a worship service at a later date.

Our deepest sympathy to Susan Lind-Sinianian on the death of her father Harry Sinanian on September 25 at the age of 98.

Our deepest sympathy to former member Deb Stein at the recent death of her mother.

**Faire on the Square - Thanks**

We are grateful to all those who help organize and volunteer at the First Parish table at the Faire on the Square. The event was organized by the Membership Committee:

Sue & Clint Sours, David Morrison, Martha Scott, Bob Shay, Katherine Cass, and Pari Bilimoria, most of whom volunteered that day. Additional volunteers included Rachel Jones, Marianne Collins ( who was key to tent set up and frosting preparation) , Missy Shay, Gates Morton, Carole Berney, Tom Ostfeld, Alyssa Lawson, Bobbie Brown, Ashok (Pari's friend), Victoria Grafflin and Elizabeth Strekalovsky. We also had several cookie makers, who may be missing those from this list.

**October Calendar****Thursday, October 4**

Safe Congregation, 7 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, October 7**

Special Congregational Meeting, 11:45 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 10**

Parish Committee, 7 p.m.

Fellowship Committee, 7 p.m.

(at Katherine Calabro's home)

**Thursday, October 11**

RE Committee, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, October 13**

A Neighborhood Party, 2 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, October 14**

Adult RE, 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, October 15**

Social Action Committee, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, October 17**

Parish Council, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 23**

Building and Grounds Committee, 7 p.m.

(At David Morrison's home)

Green Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 24**

Worship Committee, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, October 25, 7 p.m.**

Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, October 27**

Harvest Art & Craft Show, 10 – 3:00 p.m.

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**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS****Saturday, October 13, 2 to 5 p.m.**

First Parish will be hosting a neighborhood party on our church lawn [rain or shine](#). There will be hot food from the All Purpose Bakery (hot dogs, burgers, whoopee pies, french toast and more), a drumming circle, circus arts for kids of all ages, chalk painting and other fun activities! Please help us spread the word, both within and beyond our church community. Posters are available on the table outside the sanctuary.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to staff the event in two-hour shifts. [Please sign up here](#).

Finally, we are looking for cornhole or other safe outdoor games, If anyone has supplies we can use, please talk to Pari, Clint or Sue, or email us at at:

[fpwmembershipcomm@gmail.com](mailto:fpwmembershipcomm@gmail.com).

**Harvest Art and Crafts Show****Volunteers Needed!**

First Parish's fourth art and crafts show, now our primary autumn fundraiser, is less than a month away. We have an exciting array of painters, jewelers, fiber artists, and other crafters, including five who are new. This year the show is earlier in both date (Saturday, October 27) and time (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) than it has been in previous years. Also, this year we hope to include a bake sale table, featuring pumpkin, apple, and maple treats, wrapped to take away.

At this point we need someone to help make the bake sale happen during the Harvest Fair. And, the rest of the show cannot go on without the help of volunteer cashiers, greeters, bakers, bake sale table staff, and cleaner-uppers. As in past years, there will be two 2.5 hour shifts for on-site volunteers: 10a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30-3 p.m.. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Social Hall, but you may also send an email to Judy Kamm ([jbkamm@me.com](mailto:jbkamm@me.com)). Please consider helping with what always proves to be a fun community event!

**Designated Offering - October**

At a recent church service we had an offering to assist with the response to the gas disaster in the Lawrence area. Emmaus House (headquarters in Haverhill) administers the Rapid Rehousing Funds from the Department of Transitional Assistance for Lawrence and the surrounding communities. Donated funds supplement the government funds for housing, furniture, etc., especially for those who are homeless. Our total offering was \$967.00. Thank you so much to our generous members.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Highlights of September's Parish Committee Meeting**

- **Priority Setting:** *Priorities for the coming year were discussed, and ranked as "Urgent", "Begin" and "Continue". They include a more robust pledge campaign, preparing for the transition of the minister, reconciling with those who may be unhappy with the church and continued support of refugees and immigrants.*
- **Garden Project:** *The Parish Committee realized that rules for the use of the space by outside groups need to be formulated.*
- **Rental Policy:** *The new rental policy is in place. Wording about canceling a renter's function will be changed to be more accommodating.*
- **Giving Committee:** *The formation of an ad hoc Giving Committee was approved. The purpose of the committee will be to plan and hold a more robust pledge drive.*
- **Filling a Vacancy:** *The Parish Committee recommends that Jean Merkl fill a vacancy on the committee. Congregational approval is needed, and a vote will take place after the service on October 7.*

**November 4, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.**

**"What Are the Risks to Our Democracy?"**

*Led by Mark Harris*

This interactive discussion is on the state of democracy in America

The discussion is taking place the Sunday evening before the election. It is the same day as the lay service on related topics.

In thinking about this session Mark thought of the title of a Parker Palmer book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. Let's all share ways we survive and respond to the threats to democracy we witness every day.

**Introduction to Unitarian Universalism** – An introduction to our church and to UU traditions. Coming on November 18

**Friday, November 16, 7:30 pm at First Parish of Watertown:**

"Hub of the Musiverse: Immigration, Integration, and Imagination"

Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin of Watertown Citizens is working with our Social Action Committee on an immigration-themed concert of her contemporary classical music ensemble

Dinosaur Annex.. Sue-Ellen is a flutist and Co-Artistic Director of the group.

This event focuses on the intersection of immigration and contemporary music. All of the composers on this program are immigrants who have come to America and settled here to study, work, and pursue their artistic endeavors. Three of the pieces on the program will be newly commissioned for this concert. The composers will be present, and included will be discussion of the issues they have faced and currently face as immigrants. The featured composers are:

Anahita Abbasi (Iran), Osnat Netzer (Israel)

Yoon-Ji Lee (South Korea), Lu Wang (China)

Mu-Xuan Lin (Taiwan), Ron Smith (Canada)

Felipe Lara (Brazil)

Come Join Us for this Nov. 16 event at 7:30 pm: "Hub of the Musiverse: Immigration, Integration, and Imagination". The concert will be followed by a reception.

**From the Trustees of the Endowment Funds**

Last year the Trustees of the Endowment Funds began running a series of short “Did You Know” articles in the Arbella, to help the congregation understand more about our three endowment funds: Perpetuity, Ministerial, and Helen Robinson Wright. We continue with the following description.

The Perpetuity Fund was established by the Parish in 1929, using bequests, donations, and money that the Parish had at the time. The trust document specifies that a special collection should be taken annually to add to the fund’s principal. This has not been done in decades. The Trustees of this fund are to be elected by the Parish at the Annual Meeting. Although each of our three endowment funds could have its own separate board of trustees, it is more efficient in such a small parish to have one committee to manage all three. As a practical matter, all trustees are nominated by the incumbent trustees, then voted upon by the Parish at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees annually elect a Chair, Treasurer, and Clerk.

**FPW Social Action Committee**

**Request for Designated Offering**

Are you aware of a worthy organization to recommend for a Designated Offering? If so, the FPW Social Action Committee would like to hear from you.

For many years Designated Offerings have been taken during worship services at FPW. Some organizations, such as the UUSC Guest at Your Table, are yearly recipients. Others have been beneficiaries for several years, but each year there are opportunities for offerings for new (to us) organizations.

The FPW Social Action Committee decides which organizations will be recipients of Designated Offerings, based on criteria developed by the

committee, as well as on requests by members of the First Parish.

Recipient organizations generally have a UU connection, and/ or involvement of a member / friend of FPW. Usually the recipients are doing work to address an urgent human need, a social justice concern, or to respond to a humanitarian crisis at home or abroad. The general amount of a designated offering ranges from \$500 to \$900, sometimes more.

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If you would like to recommend an organization for a Designated Offering, please use the form included with this Newsletter. Provide the following information for consideration by the Social Action Committee. (The form is included with this Newsletter mailing). You can give it to the church administrator who will see that the committee receives it.

Your name:

Name of organization:

Brief description of its mission and current work (including any connection to UU):

What is your connection to this organization?

Has this organization been the beneficiary of a Designated Offering in the past?

Other information about the organization, including length of time in existence, its size, the sources of its funding:

Please provide any brochures or other information about the organization, and its website address.

Would a speaker from the organization be available to attend a Sunday service?

# The Arbella

Newsletter of the First Parish of  
Watertown

First Parish of Watertown

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*Minister* – Mark Harris

*Church Administrator* – Brenda Asis

*Religious Education Director* – Lauren Strauss

*Music Director* – Charlyn Bethell

*Accompanist* – Guy Urban

*Parish Chair* – Sue Twombly

*Co-treasurers* – Jean Merkl & Martha Scott

*Sexton* – Frank Griggs