In harmony with Unitarian Universalist principles and sources of inspiration, learning opportunities at Old Ship serve our community by encouraging spiritual growth and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Gatherings will be in person or on Zoom, and some will be multi-platform or hybrid — in-person with a Zoom option. Watch the newsletter and website for additions, changes and updates. Contact information for course leaders is on the last page of this brochure.

AUTUMN

Gender And Importance Of Allies

Abby Diamond-Kissiday
Mary Diamond-Kissiday

Three Wednesdays, Oct. 5 – Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

Transgender, gender-fluid, non-binary, they/them — it’s everywhere! It’s in the news, legal battles, movies, neighbor’s kids, everywhere. What is it, really? Why is it important to you? We will explain the three parts that make up one’s gender, what a good ally is — it’s more than using your pronouns — and current anti-LGBTQ+ laws/bans. Most importantly, it is a time to ask questions and open discussion. For information and Zoom link, contact Abby.

WINTER/SPRING

On The Path

Susan Trausch, John Stobierski

Four Wednesdays, Jan. 4 – Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

What religious traditions shaped your beliefs as a child? What shapes them today? What wisdom did you keep from long-ago teachings? What did you discard? What answers are you seeking as you age? We’ll start our conversations with readings from Richard Rohr’s Falling Upward — Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. Participants may also explore National Public Radio’s archived “This I Believe” series, in which people, famous and unknown, spoke their spiritual truth. We hope this inspires participants to write their own “This I Believe” statements and, if they wish, to share them in our final class. For information, contact Susan or John.
Living With Dying  
Rich Elliott, Claire Petrie  
Six Wednesdays, Feb. 22 – March 29, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

Despite the presence of death, dying and grief in our lives, we tend to avoid speaking of it directly. This class will facilitate a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on topics relating to death and dying. We will invite participants to experience death and dying as a natural part of life. For information, contact Rich or Claire.

Spring Poetry  
Elizabeth Torrey  
Four Wednesdays, April 5 – April 26, 3:30 p.m., Zoom

This course is still being planned. Please watch for revised editions of this brochure, and online Constant Contact emails, for further information.

Widening The Circle  
Davalene Cooper, Ralph Brown  
Postponed until Fall 2023

An exploration of the Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, and how we can make its findings visible in the Old Ship community. We want to learn how we can transform our privilege and power so that it shows up as love. For information, contact Davalene or Ralph.

Engage and Create  
David Nelson  
Five Wednesdays, May 3 – 31, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Come together to engage and create. Creativity is about relationships — with objects and with people. Talking about convergence, and divergence, can prompt new ways of thinking about creating images and words. Sessions include conversations, and showing and making artworks. Participants will be limited to the first 15 who register. For information, contact David.

2022 – ONGOING GROUPS AND GATHERINGS – 2023

Crossing Time Poetry Circles  
Elizabeth Torrey  
At turnings of fall, winter and spring; Sep. 22, Dec. 20, March 20, 7 p.m., in-person, Zoom

We begin our 26th year! Come join the ongoing poetry renaissance in America. Bring a favorite poem to read or speak— it’s an opportunity to share and perhaps deepen our appreciation of poetry, and reinforce our connection with the natural cycles of life. All welcome! Only be willing to search for poetry, / and there will be poetry. / My soul, a tiny speck, is my tutor. — Yuan Hei. For information and a Zoom link, contact Elizabeth.
The Way of the Bodhisattva

Lisa Sawyer, Catherine Mayes

Every Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., Zoom

Twenty minutes of sitting meditation, followed by a discussion of a Buddhist or related text. Currently we are reading No Death, No Fear, by Thich Nhat Hanh. Newcomers are warmly welcomed — no experience with Buddhism needed. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Lisa or Catherine.

Men’s Breakfast

Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott

Second Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m., Zoom

An ongoing opportunity for men to get together in a safe, nurturing environment to speak freely and listen deeply to each other as a form of spiritual practice. We also seek to have fun together and rekindle our playful souls. For information and the Zoom link, contact Ralph or Rich.

Women’s Breakfast

Davalene Cooper, Janice McPhillips

Fourth Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting monthly via Zoom, these virtual meetings are open to all Old Ship women. They give us an opportunity to get to know each other better. We are looking forward to seeing you! For information, contact Davalene or Janice.

Anti-Racism Book Group

Davalene Cooper

Third Sunday evenings, starting Sep. 18, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

Each month, volunteers will lead discussions about racism and/or white supremacy. People can come when they wish or when they are most interested in the book being discussed. The first two books are Waste: One Woman’s Fight Against America’s Dirty Secret, by Catherine Coleman Flowers, and Solio, Solita, about immigration from Central America. For information and a Zoom link, contact Davalene.

Ceilidh (“kay-lee”)

Eric Cornetta

First Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.

Sharing of songs, stories, poems, and an old-fashioned good time. Bring an instrument or just bring yourself to listen and maybe sing along. Everyone is welcome. Come anytime between 7 and 9:30. Gatherings will be in the Parish House Parlor, in person and via Zoom. For information and a Zoom link, contact Eric.
Fiber Funship  
Joan Wilson, Diane Elliott

Wednesday afternoons, 1:00 p.m.
We gather in our homes to sew, craft, knit and enjoy each others’ company. Our goal is to make items to sell at Merrie Market and May Breakfast, and we have lots of fun and good conversation as we work together. New members and new project ideas are always welcome.
For information, contact Diane or Joan.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group  
Rich Elliott

Second and fourth Thursday afternoons, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Each session will have a reading, a 15-minute meditation, and exploration of one chapter from the Tao Te Ching, including its meaning to each of us, as well as related writings, poetry or art. Newcomers are welcome. Gatherings will be Zoom only. For information and the Zoom link, contact Rich.

How to contact leaders and committee members

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