



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

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### April 2014 Newsletter

**May newsletter deadline is April 23**

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### A Month of Sundays...

#### Sunday, April 6

Old Ship member Turner Bledsoe will be our preacher. Turner's sermon will be "The Climate Awakening." What do we now know, what we can do about it, and what does it all mean?

Turner and Joan Bledsoe have been vigorously leading the South Shore "node" of 350MA, an activist effort co-sponsored by Old Ship's Green Sanctuary Team, to stem climate change. The local group includes many Old Shippers.

#### Sunday, April 13

"Justice is Planting a Seed" is the theme of this year's annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Justice Sunday" - with a focus on food security and sustainability. "Justice is Planting a Seed" will also be the title of Ken's sermon, into which he will weave Palm Sunday and Passover threads.

The first \$250 of this month's Outreach Offering will be given to the UUSC to support training and materials for a family in Haiti which will help them create their own garden. The remainder of the offering will be given to the Hingham Food Pantry, helping local families for whom "food security" is a daily challenge.

#### Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

"Earth Rise" will be Ken's Easter Sunday sermon.

What inspiration does the two-thousand-year-old Christian Easter story, along with more ancient spring festivals, offer to us today, both personally and for all of us together amidst the many challenges we face in this complicated one world?

For children and youth: we'll have our Easter egg hunt in our beautiful, historic, HILLY, Hingham Cemetery. The hunt involves compasses, clues and working as a team! Wear sensible shoes!

#### Sunday, April 27

"Steady, They Say" is the title of a brief poem by Gary Snyder, and will also be the title of Ken's sermon, which will in some ways be part two of his Easter message. How can we manage to "hold steady" in a world where everything changes, nothing lasts, and events may sometimes invite despair?

Ken's sermon will also serve as an introduction to this year's spring poetry class, co-led by Ken and Elizabeth Torrey. (See details of the class elsewhere in the newsletter.)

## from the minister's desk

### Musing

A few things on my "musing" mind this month:

First: By now you should have received a letter from our Stewardship Pledge Drive co-chairs, Connie Gorfinkle and Jeff Lee. The letter and accompanying brochure make what I hope is a compelling case for the importance of the pledge that each one of us can make to Old Ship to support our programs and our mission. Most of our annual expenses are covered by our pledges. As I said in my sermon two Sundays ago, our pledges are not incidental to the health of our congregation, they are essential.

So, if you haven't already returned your pledge card, I hope you will quite soon, with as generous a pledge commitment as you are able to make. Our prompt return of pledge cards will not only serve to support Old Ship, it will support the volunteers who put in so much time and dedicated effort to leading the stewardship pledge drive and crafting the budget.

\*

On a quite different note: I often muse on how it is we live our lives on at least two tracks - the personal and what we might call the global, the rest of the world spinning around us. Each day we do our work, maintain our households, care for the people we love; and meanwhile the world is much with us too. Headlines concerning Crimea, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, the Mid-East peace process, climate change, budget battles in congress, income inequality, immigration... and on and on.

Further, we are somehow expected to have a considered opinion about each and every one of these and other issues. Well, opinions are important in a democracy, but it seems to me that sometimes it might be better to feel we can say "I don't know" about this or that issue. Sometimes, in our fractious, divided, polarized democracy, a more frequent use of those three words just might open the door to more respectful conversation - which we could sure use!

\*

Finally, on yet a different note I invite you to keep me (and 36,000 others!) in your thoughts on April 21 as we step off near the Hopkinton town green for the 118th running of the Boston Marathon. And we can all especially keep in our minds and hearts those who last year were seriously injured and the families who lost a love one in the bombings; in this spirit we can also, if we wish, support the runners who are fundraising for One Fund Boston. One Fund is among the many charities this year's runners are supporting; you can find them all on the Boston Marathon charities page: <http://www.baa.org/utilities/charities.aspx>. (And as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, if you'd like to support my running on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association you can do so by going to my fundraising page at: <http://alz.kintera.org/boston2014/kenrb>.)

Peace and blessings,  
--Ken oldshipkrib@comcast.net  
781-749-1679

## Most Sunday mornings

Most Sunday mornings at Old Ship begin with gatherings in small circles in the Parish House parlor for sharing and spiritual enrichment. And we are all invited! Our web site has more detailed information about these opportunities:

The "Bodhisattva Study Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month, offering time for meditation and then conversation concerning a Buddhist book the group is reading.

"Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation (and bagels and coffee and tea too).

"Women's Knitting Social Group" meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Bodhisattva Study Group or Women's Knitting Social Group on Sunday morning and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.

## Religious Education NOTES

I've been teaching Sunday school this term... It's not something I should be doing, but we just weren't able to recruit enough teachers this past term. And you know what? I have been **loving** it.

I've been teaching Grades 2& 3 with Chris Sullivan; the subject matter has been bible stories, under the pillar of "Our Jewish and Christian Heritage".

Today we read and discussed "The Parable of the Good Samaritan"; two adults, and seven children, seven to nine years old, and it was so gratifying exchanging thoughts and ideas and questions and answers with each other.

We were thinking hard; about kindness and help... friends and enemies... safety and danger... In the year 2014, as in the year 14 (or so), it's a complicated world with plenty of reason to be cautious, and still, we do want to be open-hearted... and we want to be willing to help.

We ran scenario after scenario... "What would you do if this?" What would you do if that? More than one of us spent time laying on the floor, while others of us went through the motions of "what to do" about the scene we'd happened upon.

We took stock our individual abilities and our modern day resources... AND we had to come to terms with our limitations... For example, I'm neither as tall nor as strong as Chris is... And a seven or eight or nine year old child is not as big or as strong as I am. And none of us know how to help as well as a police officer or fire fighter or EMT. But any of us can call for help.... And we will if the need arises.

Until that time, I have learned at least as much as the kids have; any Sunday school teacher will tell you that's always the way.

And I've learned that next time I'm recruiting volunteers, I will know that, more than asking a favor, I am offering a gift... and I'll say with complete confidence, "It is the most nourishing and fulfilling thing you'll do all week."

Spring Hugs and Bright Blessings,  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education

## Membership

Spring is here! Spring is here! The snow is (mostly) melted and the temperature warms in preparation for the renewal of plants, animals and, yes, we humans too! I hear the buzz of bees and I smell the sweet scent of flowers and dirt. I watch the clouds roll by on layers of sunlight and fresh air. I close my eyes and I breathe deeply, and I feel Spring. I feel the lightness and excitement that comes with the renewal of our surroundings.

Just as the flowers bloom fresh and new, Old Ship blooms too; there are four new members just as of last month! With Bring-a-Friend Sunday, on April 13th, comes another opportunity to help nourish Old Ship's growth (let's see if we all can bring a friend, or two!). You may have noticed or heard of the postcards we mailed to a group of select individuals living in Hingham: Another attempt at growth by informing the community of the beauty and essence here at Old Ship. (If you'd like to see a postcard, please let me know and I'll be happy to get one for you!) We're also opening the Nursery during the week to playgroups (get in touch with me for booking and further details, if interested).

These are just a few of the ways we can thrive as a community and, as Spring carries on and the days grow warmer, more opportunities will "grow" with it. I will continue to work on giving Old Ship its best possible chance at this and ask that each one of you do the same; together we can make this Spring feel lavish with many diverse and beautiful blooms!

Kindly,  
Erin Alix  
Membership Coordinator  
[membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org)

## New Bylaws- Come hear all about it on April 27

A task force has been hard at work on a new set of bylaws for Old Ship. We have tried to update the bylaws and provide more flexibility in some areas, especially as to committees. We have scheduled a bylaws discussion for noon on Sunday, April 27, in the parlor. The plan is for these bylaws to be voted on at annual meeting. If you would like a set of proposed bylaws before the April 27th discussion, please email Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net). Task force members are Tino Fernandes, Jane Malme, Eva Marx, and Davalene Cooper.

## Annual Report Deadline for Committee reports is May 1

All committee chairs need to have the finalized reports to the office by May 1 for submission to the annual report. After that date, the reports will have to be handed out at the annual meeting.

## The Tall Clock is Back!

By now you may have noticed the renewed ticking and lovely chiming of the "tall clock" in the parlor. Many thanks to Old Ship member Allan Greenberg for generously seeing to its repair and renewal.

On the inside door of the clock is a brief history of the clock by Harris Danzberger, one of Old Ship's unofficial historians, who died in 1985:

When Mary Cotton Hersey died in 1900, she bequeathed her 'tall clock' to the First Parish 'to place and keep said clock in some suitable place in the Parish House of said Parish.'

The description 'tall clock' has since given way to 'grandfather's clock' but the timepiece still ticks out the hours from the northeast corner of the Parlor in the Parish House. In the opinion of Noel Ripley of Cohasset, an expert in horology, the works in this clock are the finest he has ever seen.

According to the Hersey bequest, 'the clock was constructed in the operating works by Bailey, of Hanover, and the case was made by Abner Hersey, of Hingham, the whole being made for Israel Whiton, of Hingham, deceased, for a place in his new home in the process of building on South Street, about the year 1806.'

Abner Hersey, who was one of several gifted cabinetmakers of Hingham, made the graceful clock case of warm mellow maple with hand fitted joinery in an uncompromising design. 'Captain' Abner was a fifth generation descendant of William Hersey who came to Hingham in 1635.

## Social Justice Council

Social Justice Council Coming Events and Opportunities to Serve Others this month

Sunday March 30th 12 noon: Forum on Education at Mather Elementary  
Third grade Mather teacher, Katie Hussey and her Old Ship classroom volunteer, Erica Goode, will be talking in the Parlor about their experiences in the classroom at Mather. Join us to talk with them about their work.

### **Annual Stop & Shop Food Collection for the Hingham Food Pantry**

**Saturday, April 5th 12 noon to 3 pm**

Lincoln Plaza Stop & Shop, Rt 3A

Similarly to other UU Churches in the Ballou Channing District, Old Ship holds a food collection drive at Stop & Shop each spring to help replenish our local Hingham Food Pantry's supplies. You can help by asking shoppers to purchase something for the food pantry and collecting donations as they leave, boxing up the donations or driving them to Second Parish (where the food pantry is located). Old Shippers of all ages can help, children included. Contact: MJ Shultz [mjs191@verizon.net](mailto:mjs191@verizon.net) or 781 925-3395 if you can help.

### **Social Justice Film series: "Let's Talk about Education"**

7pm in the Parish House. Free and open to all thanks to the generosity of the Williamson-Green family's donation of screening costs.

4/11/14: The First Grader- 2010 enactment of the true and inspiring story of an older Kenyan villager and ex-freedom fighter who fights for his rights to go to school to get the education he has always wanted. Appropriate for all ages.

### **Social Justice Sunday- April 13th**



Annual Social Justice Sunday, raising funds and awareness for the UU Social Service Committee's campaign, Plant A Seed, a program to provide the makings of family garden plots for 100 Haitian families so that they will sustainably be able to feed their families (and when a family has sufficient food they can use whatever cash they have to pay for schooling for their children and thus Plant a Seed also supports access to education).

Old Ship plans to donate the first \$250 raised in the SJC plate collection to cover the costs of one family's garden and donate any additional funds to the Hingham Food Pantry.

Did you miss the screenings of *Girl Rising* or *The Graduates/Los Graduados*? These films, along with many others on social justice topics, can be borrowed from the Jamie Williamson Memorial Social Justice Collection, located in the 4th drawer of the chest of drawers in the Parish House Parlor. Please remember to sign out the DVD you are taking and return when you have watched it so that films will be available to all who are interested!

### **Immigration News**

#### **Massachusetts Trust Act**

On March 20, the Massachusetts Trust Act legislation was moved out of committee and was recommended to the State Legislature. This was an essential step in moving this legislation forward. If passed, state and local police will no longer be required to hold undocumented immigrants and hand them over to ICE for detention and deportation, unless the immigrant has committed a serious crime. Please contact your state representative and senator in support of the Massachusetts Trust Act.

#### **Gathering in Support of Hunger Strikers in Detention at MA State House**

On April 4 (Friday) there will be a gathering in support of the hunger strikers in the Tacoma, Washington State, private detention facility, run by the GEO group. To support the 11 detainees who are still on hunger strike some people will try to fast for the day. The gathering will be from 12:00 to 2:00 in front of the Mass. State House. This action is supported by UU Mass Action and Boston New Sanctuary movement among other organizations.

### **Opportunities to Serve Others**

Collecting Healthy Snacks and Children's Books for Mather: Mather needs a few more book donations to send a book home with each student to read over the April vacation week. Any donations of new or gently used children's books would be gratefully appreciated, including picture books, easy readers, simple chapter books (similar to the Magic Treehouse series for 2nd-3rd grade) or more complex children's chapter books (similar to the Percy Jackson books for 4th and 5th grade).

Also needed are donations of healthy snacks, granola bars (no chocolate) and fruit snacks for Mather students to help them with taking the Math MCAS tests in May. Thanks!

### **Food donations needed for the Hingham Food Pantry**

The food pantry needs non-perishable food donations and is especially looking for canned soups and stews for the colder months. Please refer to the list on the Serving Others section of the Old Ship website for suggestions of foods/supplies they need regularly. Our food pantry donation box/basket can be found in the front entry way of the Parish House and the Meeting House vestibule. Thanks!

### **Support the UUSC through attending Coffeehouse off the Square**

April 19th: Bill Staines tickets \$15

The legendary Bill Staines returns. With slices of Americana delivered in his rich, supple baritone and low-key humor, Bill, author of the perpetual favorite, "Roseville Fair" is always a hit. He has recorded 22 albums, and many songs have been

recorded by other major performers such as Peter Paul and Mary and Makem and Clancy. Most important, though, are his live performances. His excellent playing and memorable singing are combined with a disarmingly gentle manner. He arrives, says "Hi, I'm Bill" and gives yet another far-ranging, excellent performance, according to his listeners. These reflect the ease of his feelings about the prairie people of the midwest, adventurers in the Yukon, over-the-road truckers, and everyday workers. Every appearance at our Coffeehouse has been memorable, and we look forward to another great show this spring.

Mather School Volunteer Opportunities Still available: Please get in touch with Brenda Black if you have are interested in helping or have questions about any of the opportunities below ([blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or (781) 740-2835)

- Promote literacy and excitement about reading by helping put up bulletin board displays (you are invited to design your own or use materials the librarian will give you) :1-2 hrs per month
- Help in the Mather Library by checking-in, shelving, cataloging books: whatever hours you can offer per month.
- Help deliver donations to Mather and see the school: one time, 1- 1 ½ hrs

Note: If you are involved in serving others in other ways and would like to let our Old Ship community know how they too could become involved, please contact Brenda Black, Chair of the Social Justice Council to have such opportunities included in future newsletters. [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or (781) 740-2835.

## May Breakfast Plant Sale is Saturday May 3

Aren't we are all ready for spring to arrive after this long, very cold and snowy winter? Spring is here and it is time to thing about plants, and warm weather the May Breakfast Plant Sale! If you have plants that you can donate to the plant sale this year, please divide them by mid April so they will have time to recover from transplant shock and be in good shape for the plant sale. It would be great to have interesting and different plants to make the sale fun and successful. If you need pots, there will be a stack of them by the Parish House office beginning in April.

Don't forget to label the plant with the name and any special growing instructions(sun, shade, wet. dry, etc.) You can drop your donations off by the side door of the Parish House any time during the week prior to the plant sale. Also - we need cardboard trays for people to carry their purchases out to their cars. If you can, please stop at a local liquor store and get some "beer flats," the cardboard bottoms of beer cases, very handy for this purpose. Please either drop them by the side door (weighed down by a rock so they don't blow away) or leave them in the lobby area outside the office. If you would like to help with the plant sale or need additional pots or any other information, please contact Janice McPhillips at 781-740-8782 or [jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com). Welcome spring!

## The Mad Hatter Auction postponed until Saturday, October 18th at 7:00 PM.

Sixty items (goods and services) for our community auction and fundraiser have

been generated and will be auctioned in October. To make this event a success we need to acquire about a 100 donations and it was decided to take more time to accomplish this. We hope to see you October 18th to bid on a sail boat cruise of Boston harbor, Red Sox tickets, pizza pie, hiking/skiing trips, and anything from fish to granola.

We thank those who have already donated and will continue to accept items from those who have an offering to give. We look forward to October, when we will don our hats again!

Betty Fernandes, Diane Elliott, Joan Wilson, Dianne Willson, Carol Schuler, and Elizabeth Cossette

## Can we cook breakfast for you?

Saturday morning, MAY 3, 7:30-1:00PM: MAY BREAKFAST & PLANT SALE...The 100+ year old tradition continues-start the day with a delicious pancake breakfast and pick up some beautiful flowers and plants. Celebrate spring! Contact Elaine Gomez if you want to help out-or just come!

More details on the website (Events).

LOVE TO SEE EVERYBODY!

## Nurturing Council News

Thank you to everyone who has done their part this year to help us make Old Ship more warm and welcoming. If you have not yet been able to take on the fun and friendly tasks of ushering, greeting, serving at coffee hour, we may be calling you soon to ask you to confirm a date or two that you can help!. Thank you, the Nurturing Community Council.

### **With Thanks from the Nurturing Community Council**

This past Saturday night, 30 Old Shippers enjoyed dinners in 3 homes. Thanks very much to our "Community Dinner" hosts Arlyn and Stefan Vogelmann, Ivy and Rick Butterworth, and Janice McPhillips. These fun pot luck dinners happen a few times a year and give Old Shippers - new comers and old timers alike - a chance to get to know each other in a setting other than committee meetings or coffee hour. If you would like to be part of one of these dinners in the future, please speak to one of the NCC members and we will be sure to put you on the list for next time. Thanks again to the hosts who opened their homes and for all who came and enjoyed a night out with friends, new and old!

From the Nurturing Community Council - Erin Alix (Membership Coordinator), Janet Asnes, Brenda Black, Elaine Gomez, Alicia Harkness, Pam Harty, Santjes Oomen, and Janice McPhillips

## Among Us

We extend our deep sympathy to Betty Fernandes and her family; Betty's brother, William Reed, died recently at his home in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, following a long illness. Our sympathy is all the deeper, knowing than another of Betty's brothers also died earlier this year.



Diane Shull has moved away - and we miss her already! But we can stay in touch. Here is Diane's new contact information:

Diane Shull  
126 Berry Patch Lane  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
339-236-2777; [dshull@yahoo.com](mailto:dshull@yahoo.com)

#### Need for a Room

A friend and colleague of mine is in need of a room (with kitchen access) near public transportation; ideally the 220 bus line. She would be able to pay between \$300 and \$500 per month. You may contact me for more information or if you have or know of such a room. Thanks!

--Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkrb@comcast.net](mailto:oldshipkrb@comcast.net), 781-749-1679.

Old Ship Hingham family looking for in-home help with elderly woman. Responsibilities include assisting with getting in and out of bed and into wheelchair, personal care, dressing, meals, and oral medications. Day time hours, possibly full-time. Experience as a caregiver or working with seniors preferred. Non-smoker. Competitive hourly rate commensurate with experience. If interested, contact Liz Maillett, 781 608-6812.

#### **Pastoral Care Leadership Team Needs You!**

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team continues to affirm that everyone at Old Ship is on the pastoral care team, since we each care for one another as the need arises. But if you would like to be part of our Pastoral Care Leadership Team, just let one of us know. We meet once a month on a Friday afternoon to consider the pastoral needs of members of our congregation and to plan an occasional program that we hope will be helpful to Old Ship members and friends.

Abbey Diamond-Kissiday, [Abby@AbbyCMA.com](mailto:Abby@AbbyCMA.com), (781) 925-1305

Betty Fernandes, [bettyfern@comcast.net](mailto:bettyfern@comcast.net), (781-749-0095)

Elaine Gomez, [eh-gomez@comcast.net](mailto:eh-gomez@comcast.net), (781) 740-1663

Alicia Harkness, [PAJL7@verizon.net](mailto:PAJL7@verizon.net), (781) 749-7825

Fan Leonard, (781) 749-2852

Bob Shepard, [cheney777@verizon.net](mailto:cheney777@verizon.net), (781) 878-2766

Beverly Trico, [oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org), (781)-749-1679

Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkrb@comcast.net](mailto:oldshipkrb@comcast.net), (781-749-1679)

Please send any items for "Among Us" either to Julianna Dunn in the Parish House office ([office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org)). Like our Candles of Joy and Sorrow on Sunday mornings, this page helps us to knit the fabric of community.

## **Old Ship Life Learning Programs**

For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, go to our web site: [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

Spring Poetry - five sessions, Wed., April 30 - May 28, 1:00 and 7:00  
led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown

We celebrate National Poetry Month (though slightly belatedly this year) by exploring the work of two poets whose work is infused with and inspired by their life-long studies of Buddhism: Jane Hirshfield (born in 1953) and Gary Snyder (born in 1930). May is a good month for our poetry this year, though, since it is traditionally the time of year during which the Buddha's birth and enlightenment are celebrated.

Here's how Jane Hirshfield begins one of her poems:

When your life looks back -  
as it will, at itself, at you - what will it say?

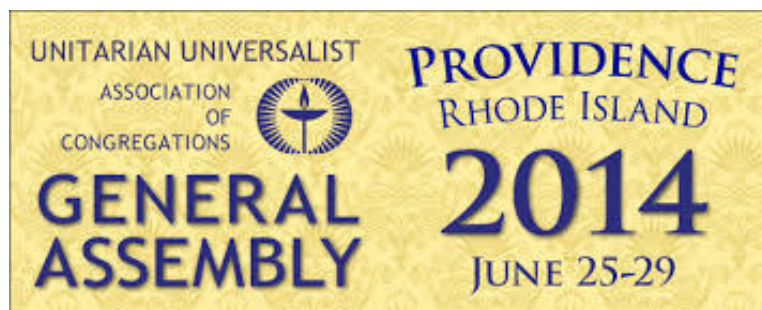
And here's one of Gary Snyder's, in its entirety:

This present moment  
that lives on  
to become  
long ago.

For more information and to sign up, contact Elizabeth, 781-749-0543,  
[elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com),  
or Ken, 781-749-1679, [oldshipkrb@comcast.net](mailto:oldshipkrb@comcast.net)

## Want to represent Old Ship as a delegate at GA?

If you are interested in representing and voting on behalf of Old Ship, please contact Elaine Gomez, president, by email or calling 781-740-1663. We have five delegate positions. Thanks!



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