



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

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office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

### April 2016 Newsletter

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### April Worship Services

#### Sunday, April 3

We will have a guest preacher this Sunday, Hannah Burr. Her sermon will be "Praying Outside the Lines". Hannah is a visual artist from Boston and author of the book, *Contemporary Prayers to \* {whatever works}*. A graduate of Brown University in Art and Religion, Hannah has exhibited her interactive art projects at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, The Drawing Center New York, and the Currier Museum in New Hampshire. She is a MacDowell Colony Fellow, and her book, carried in over 50 museum shops in 25 states. You can learn more at [www.hannahburr.com](http://www.hannahburr.com). Ken Read-Brown will lead the service. Our monthly Outreach Offering will be given to the Shelter for Homeless Youth at First Parish in Cambridge

#### Sunday, April 10

There is much going on in the world these days that quite naturally can breed anxiety... and then... more anxiety. From global terror to presidential politics to climate change to sometimes pressured personal lives. How should we respond, how should we live in the midst of... it all... - day to day and for a long time to come? "Considering the Lilies" will be Ken's sermon.

#### Sunday, April 17

On the Hindu calendar, the celebration of "Hanuman Jayanti" this year will be on April 22, which also happens to be Earth Day. The god Hanuman is for Hindus an exemplar of devotion and service. How do we decide what or whom is worthy of our devotion? Ken's sermon will be "Worthy of Devotion?"

Special music for this Sunday will be traditional Indian chants and instrumentals offered by musicians from the Vedanta Centre in Cohasset: Eric Oddleifson, harmonium; Liz McKeen, guitar; and Kim Dunning, drum.

#### Sunday, April 24

Two days after Earth Day, and near the outset of Passover, Ken's sermon will be: "After All I've Done for You!"

#### Sunday, May 1

Mark your calendar now for a service that will be led by our wonderful Youth! Watch next month's newsletter for further details - a service not to be messed!

### 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 "Way of 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 too). And the Knitting Group meets at 8:30 on the final Sunday of each month.*

*Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend any early morning gathering or committee meeting 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.*

### **from the minister's desk**

#### **Musings**

*My "Musing" this month is largely taken from my most recent column in the Hingham Journal, which includes thoughts also from my Easter sermon - and indirectly at the same time looks forward to Earth Day, April 22:*

The Christian journey of Holy Week - from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to Easter - mirrors journeys each of us sometimes take in the midst of our personal lives, journeys through dark nights of the soul towards a fresh dawning of the spirit. The most universal example of this is our passage through grief. We experience first the deepest pangs of loss and sadness; and then, with time and loving support and companionship, we learn to live anew: never forgetting, always feeling the loss, but discovering that we are able to go on - as our loved one would want us to do. It seems to me that the human family may well collectively be in the midst of such a journey these days. There is first of all a grief we may or may not acknowledge. This is grief over the loss of the Earth we have known: loss of biodiversity as we count extinctions of species at a rate not seen for millions of years, loss of a stable climate we have been able to depend upon for thousands of years, and loss of an assured sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Then what? Well, as with any grieving, "the only way through is through." To begin with, how natural and understandable, even healthy, to be deeply sad, even sometimes to the point of despair, as we observe the continued degradation of our Earth home. But the journey must continue through and beyond despair. With mutual support and the companionship of neighbors and friends who share this sadness and concern, we can "learn to live anew". Together we can seek that "fresh dawning of the spirit" through the many ways we participate in the creation of an ecologically sustainable way of life on the planet, from the personal to the political, from changing light bulbs to changing minds.

We cannot know for a certainty what the future may bring. But we can with certainty know what we can bring to the future: Care and kindness, and in the spirit of Jesus and all the wisdom teachers of humanity, love for one another, for all creatures great and small, and for our Earth home.

Peace and blessings,  
Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com  
cell: 781-635-2060

**p.s. You will find a note from our Annual Canvass chairs elsewhere in the newsletter. Please read it with care, and if you haven't yet made your pledge for**

***the upcoming year, please help our dedicated chairs, and most importantly help Old Ship, by doing so soon with whatever measure of generosity is possible for you. Thank you for all that you each do for Old Ship!***

## **Board of Trustees**

### **Parish House Vote May 1**

Please plan to attend the All Parish Special Meeting on Sunday, May 1 at noon. We will vote on whether to allow the Board of Trustees to accept an offer on the entire parish house property, should we receive one in the future, only if it is sufficient to enable us to build a new parish house across the street next to the Meeting House. The complete warrant will be posted on April 11.

In the weeks before the meeting, and briefly at the meeting, we will send out information that summarizes the options and the critical financial details, lays out a timeline for the process involved, answers some of the many questions we all have, and give us an idea of what a new parish house would look like inside. Members of the Steering Committee will be at coffee hours to hear your concerns and suggestions. We hope you come to the meeting well-informed, so we can discuss together the unique opportunity that we have to affect our parish for generations to come. Looking forward to it!

## **Religious Education Notes**

First of all, OWL stands for Our Whole Lives. It's named that way deliberately; the curriculum is designed to be taught to groups as young as K-1st grade and as old as... well... adults.

Our Whole Lives Assumptions:

- All persons are sexual.
- Sexuality is a good part of the human experience.
- Human beings are sexual from the time they are born until they die.

There are more assumptions, but that's enough for now.

You may be asking yourself, "What's Religious about Sexuality Education?" Good question.

Here's the answer from the flier published by the UUA:

In liberal religious sexuality education, we seek to provide roots and wings for program participants. The roots are our Unitarian Universalist religious traditions and values, which accept participants and value them for who they are so they feel good about themselves and their sexuality. The wings are the freedom they have to make meaning of their own lives; the opportunity to clarify their own values and apply them to their own experiences; and the strength to develop into their own true, best selves.

The Our Whole Lives curricula help transform a cultural climate of fear and confusion into a new reality of lives lived congruent with the values of the inherent worth and dignity of each and every person. When supplemented by the Sexuality and Our Faith curriculum, Our Whole Lives is religious because it seeks to nurture:

- religious community
- spiritual depth
- prophetic vision and action for justice
- values congruent with participants' religious beliefs and the skills, attitudes, and knowledge to live out those values
- the worth and dignity of every participant

I'm going to print out some brochures and put them out in the literature stands around the Parish House. If you are curious and you don't find any, ask me.  
Or, look on the UUA website for more information. <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

Bright blessings and happy spring!  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education  
[beverlytmail@gmail.com](mailto:beverlytmail@gmail.com)

Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education  
[beverlytmail@gmail.com](mailto:beverlytmail@gmail.com)

### **Membership**

Spring has sprung and how beautiful it is! I'm enjoying seeing the flowers bloom and hear the birds chirping their sweet songs. Spring always has a sense of renewal and new beginnings about it and this year is no different.

At the Community Dinner last month I met some newcomers and got to know some of our newest members better. It was a lovely evening. If you missed it don't worry because there's another one planned for the 14th of May! The last dinner had 60 Old Shippers total with five sets of hosts--what a great turnout! If you'd like to sign up for May's dinner, as a host or guest, please let me know.

We have many new faces around Old Ship and I encourage you to seek them out. Going to a Community Dinner is a great way to get to know people better and many of our newest members and friends are attending them. If you don't get the opportunity to do that, Coffee Hour is another chance to say hello. We all know how wonderful it feels to have someone introduce themselves and take the time to get to know you. It can feel overwhelming to attend a Coffee Hour on your own and a friendly face can make all the difference.

Thank you all for making Old Ship a more welcoming place!

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

### **Pledge Update**

As we move into April, the canvass is officially over, but as of the release of this, we are almost \$100k shy of our goal. Your heartfelt commitment for the coming year ensures the Board can get down to business setting our budget for next year. We need members, and EVERYONE who loves and is fed by our ministries to consider what you can allocate to our community for the coming fiscal year.

Not pledging means we can't count on your financial support for staff salaries, beautiful music, programs to educate and inspire. Your pledge supports a warm place to gather and worship to bring renewed and refreshed love outward to our community and the wider world, shaped by our UU principles.

If you have pledged, please accept our gratitude. If you haven't pledged yet, you can mail your pledge form into the office, or you may expedite the pledge by simply emailing the pledge chair with your pledge amount, Pam Harty at [pamharty@comcast.net](mailto:pamharty@comcast.net). Thank you warmly from canvass chairs Pam Harty and Nigel Harvey and Florence Noonan.

### **May Breakfast and Plant Sale May 7**

May Breakfast is a fund raising event and a community event that many of us look forward to. It is a long time tradition. Traditions unite us as a community and the May Breakfast is just such a tradition. The first May Breakfast began in the early 1900's and here we are over 100 years later still going strong. Of course ways of doing the traditions do change, but the things that hold the tradition in place: Plants, Breakfast and People have not changed.

The Breakfast portion of the Tradition includes: pancakes, eggs and sausage, coffee cakes and coffee, tea and juices. The plant portion includes plants from your garden or a friend's garden that can be potted and brought to the Parish House where they will be sold. The people portion involves YOU!

To help with the breakfast Volunteers are needed to help shop for the breakfast, make the breakfast, serve the guests, wash the dishes and clean up. There are two shifts available. People from throughout Hingham enjoy a morning of good food and company while welcoming the rites of Spring. If you would like to volunteer to shop, cook, serve or help in any way contact Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com).

The Plant Sale involves, You or any member of Old Ship, digging up plants from your yard or a friend or neighbor's yard, potting them and bringing them to Parish House. Plants need to be labeled with their name and any special growing instructions (sun, shade, wet, dry, etc). Donations can be dropped off by the side door of the Parish House any time during the week prior to the plant sale. We also need cardboard trays for people to carry their purchases to their cars. These cardboard boxes can be picked up at a local liquor store and dropped off at the Parish Hall door. Please make sure they are weighted down. We will also be offering bags of manure from a local riding stable. We will need volunteers to help us in bagging up the manure. This is not as dirty a job as it sounds, and it is even fun. If you would like to help with the plant sale or need additional pots or any plant information please contact Janice McPhillips [jbmcpPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbmcpPhillips@gmail.com) or at 781-740-8782.

An important piece of this event is that it helps to raise money for Old Ship. Last year we were able to raise \$2613.00. A noble cause and one that helps to create community.

I hope you will get on board and sign on to help carry on this wonderful tradition. There will be sign up sheets available at coffee hour or you can contact Janice McPhillips or Diane Elliott to become involved.

Thank you so much for getting involved and helping out

## May Breakfast Schedule for 2016

MAY 6: Friday Set-up...morning and afternoon

MAY 7: Shift 1 and 2 and Clean Up starting at one o'clock

### **BREAKFAST: Shift 1-7:15 to 9:15, Shift 2-9:15 to 11:00**

Ticket Sellers-2 workers each shift

Counter People-1 for each shift

Pancake Makers-2 for each shift

Sausage and Egg Cookers-1 for each shift

Dishwasher-2 for each shift

Pots and Pans-often overlooked and Super Fun!-1 each shift

Supplies and Refills-1 for each shift

### **WAITSTAFF/DINING ROOM-8 FOR EACH SHIFT**

Busing Tables-2 for each shift

Barker-1 for each shift

### **PLANT TABLE: Shift 1-7:15 to 9:45, Shift 2-9:30-One**

Cashier-1 worker each shift

Workers-4 to 5 needed each shift

\*Any Shift sign-up: Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com), 781-749-2248,

\*Plants & Compost (!) Collecting Opportunities: Janice

McPhillips, [jbbmcpillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcpillips@gmail.com), 781-740-8782

\*Kitchen: Alicia Harkness, [pajl7@verizon.net](mailto:pajl7@verizon.net), 781-749-7825,  
Janet Asnes, [asnes@comcast.net](mailto:asnes@comcast.net), 781-878-9886

### **Educating Hearts and Minds**

#### **Life Learning Programs**

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

**Spring Poetry** - five sessions, Wed., April 6 - May 4, 1:00 and 7:00 led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown

Our annual spring poetry, to be held during National Poetry month, will be exploring the work of Irish poet William Butler Yeats - whose 150th birthday was celebrated this year. For more info and to sign up, contact Elizabeth or Ken at [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

#### **The Way of the Bodhisattva - first and third Sun. mornings 8:30**

This ongoing group of meditation and conversation is always open to newcomers; and in April we will be beginning a new book - so this is an even better time than usual to start attending. Each session begins with half an hour of sitting meditation, which is followed by an hour conversation based on a Buddhist text, ancient or contemporary.

As grounding for our conversations we will now be reading the book, *When Things Fall Apart* by American Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron. No previous experience with Buddhism or meditation is needed. For more info contact Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

#### **Women's Knitting Group meets fourth Sundays at 8:30am**

The knitting group, which meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, will gather



next on April 24 at 8:30 in the Parish House parlor. Knitters, crocheters and beginners welcome.

### **New: Old Ship Book Group!**

Lots of Old Shippers like to read: for a glimpse into another part of the world, another time, imagined futures, issues of the day... Join the Old Ship book group to talk about it! We'll begin on May 9 in the nursery of the parish house at 1pm and the parlor at 7pm. It is open to all teenagers and adults, and you can move between the two times if necessary. The group will meet on the second Monday of each month, so the next date will be Monday, June 13.

For the first book we'll read a powerful 2015 National Book Award Winner, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, in which the author writes a letter to his teenaged son about the feelings, symbolism and realities associated with being black in the U.S. We will also discuss the types of books people want to discuss, and the process for choosing the next book as a group, so bring some titles to suggest. At the June meeting the group will choose the title for the next meeting which follows the summer on the second Monday in October. Let Erin Alix ([erinalix1212@gmail.com](mailto:erinalix1212@gmail.com)), Nina Price ([nina@steelepress.com](mailto:nina@steelepress.com)) or Florence Noonan ([flnoonan@gmail.com](mailto:flnoonan@gmail.com)) know if you would like to join in on May 9.

### **Help us create next year's Life Learning Programs!**

Do you have an idea for a workshop, forum, or class? Is there something you would like to lead? Or is there someone at Old Ship you would like to learn from?

Please share your wonderful and interesting ideas with any member of the Life Learning Committee: Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott, Bryan Hurley, Claire Petrie, Elizabeth Torrey, Ken Read-Brown and Beverly Tricco.

## **Social Justice Committee**

### **Hingham Food Pantry**

The next food collection will be Sunday, April 24.

Thanks to all who donated on Sunday, March 20. Old Ship collected 130 lbs. of food!

### **April Sunday Forum**

The speaker at the Sunday Forum on April 10 at 12 p.m. in the parlor will be Katie Bennett and a representative from Spare Change News.

The mission of Spare Change News is "to present, by our own example, that homeless and economically disadvantaged people, with the proper resources, empowerment, opportunity, and encouragement are capable of creating change for ourselves in society."

### **Refugee Committee**

New (or gently used and clean) bed linens, towels, blankets and clothing for refugees will be collected through the month of April. All sizes of clothing are needed for men, women and children as we enter the spring season. Leave the items on the bench outside the office. The First Parish UU in Norwell and also in Kingston have joined us in this. All items will be distributed to Ascentria Care Alliance and The Greater Boston Refugee Ministry. Various volunteer opportunities are available in Boston. If interested, call the International Institute in Boston at 617-695-9990 or The Greater Boston Refugee Ministry at 857-249-9983.

## **Green Sanctuary/ 350.org**

"The Surge," a film that chronicles the unprecedented devastation Hurricane Sandy had

on the New Jersey coastline in 2012, will be presented by 350Mass South Shore at Loring Hall Theater in downtown Hingham on April 2, beginning at 10 a.m. An episode of the Emmy Award-winning climate series, "Years of Living Dangerously," it has become a cautionary tale for all seaside dwellers, including those on the South Shore of Massachusetts, according to studies currently being done. A discussion will follow the screening, which is free and open to the public.

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