



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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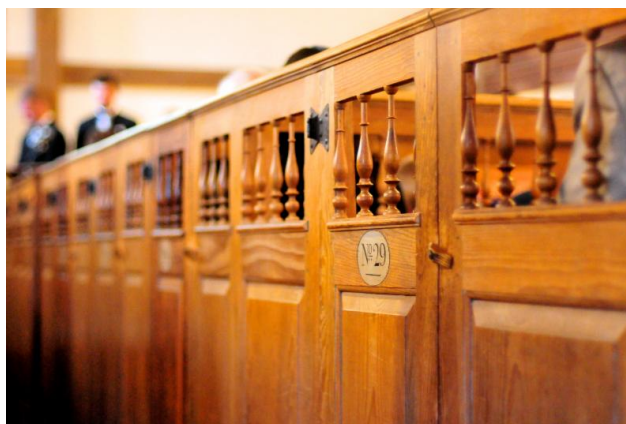
### January 2020 Newsletter

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## Worship

**Sunday, January 5, 10:25am**

**"Touchstones of Wisdom"** will be Ken's sermon as we begin the New Year. A continuation of his "Touchstones" sermon preached last spring, this sermon will also be in preparation for Ken's class "Touchstones of Wisdom," which begins on Wednesday, January 8. What words, quotes, philosophers, poets, composers, artists... have offered touchstones of wisdom for you over the years of your life?



**Sunday, January 12 10:25am**

**"Jumping Fire for All Ages"!**

This will be one of our multigenerational services, and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. During the service we will be invited to "jump fire" as a way of marking the transition from the year past to the New Year beginning.

The monthly outreach offering this Sunday will be given to UU Mass Action, whose "mission is to organize and mobilize UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression. We provide pathways towards justice and identify opportunities in which we can live our values."

A forum after the service, offered by our Green Sanctuary Team, will be led by Turner Bledsoe: "Electrifying Your Life": Demonstrations and descriptions of technologies you can adopt for your home and lifestyle to reduce your carbon footprint and your impact on global climate change.

**Sunday, January 19, 10:25am**

**"Never Delicate to Live"** will be Ken's sermon, words inspired by a Kay Ryan poem and relevant to the many ways we continue to be inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr.. Our service will also relate to the "Next Steps" weekend we will be in the midst of, led by consultant Liz Coit from "Stewardship for Us."

Following the service, Liz Coit will offer a presentation in the Fellowship Hall based on the conversations she's been having with a variety of Old Ship leaders and members.

**Sunday, January 26**

**"Greta and the Power of One":** Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg was Time Magazine's 2019 "Person of the Year," recognizing the extraordinary impact she has had in regard to climate change. We are not all Gretas, but does her story have anything to teach us about our potential impact - whether on climate change or in other ways?

During Fellowship Hour there will be a "Committee Fair"! Come learn about are various Old Ship committees, councils, and other activities.

*Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Women's Breakfast or The Way of the Bodhisattva study group or a Sunday early morning committee meeting and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office (781-749-1679) by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.*

### **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/Meditation Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation. And the Women's Breakfast meets at 8:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month.*

*from the minister's desk*

### **Musing**

I don't always pay much attention to Time magazine's "Person of the Year" designation. But this year I did. Apparently finalists included Donald Trump, Nancy Pelosi, the Hong Kong demonstrators, the whistleblower... and the eventual selection: Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old climate activist from Sweden.

There is no question that the other finalists have been significantly influential during the past year. But I hope that time will tell that Greta has been more influential than all of the others put together, and on a longer timeline on the most urgent issue of our time.

So as the New Year begins, I lift up a glass of hope for our future, yes, even in spite of the failed climate conference in Madrid (yes, even in spite of so many other urgent challenges).

Because with young people like Greta, along with the millions of others of her generation inspiring the rest of us... maybe the tide is not just rising, but turning towards the sort of climate action we desperately need.

\* \* \*

Our personal lives, while inevitably affected, for better or worse, by events in our nation and around the world, also bring their blend of challenges, successes, sorrows, and joys. If for you this New Year brings challenge and sorrow, may you have the strength and support you need. If



for you the New Year brings success and joy, may you generously share the joy. Here at Old Ship may we continue to be good and helpful companions to one another, together rising to the challenges we share - as a community, as a nation, and on this beautiful earth we share with all life.

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

*My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from about 10:00 - 2:00 and by appointment. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell phone if you need to reach me quickly - since when I am not in the office I am either working in my study at home, or making visits or attending meetings elsewhere. I can also be reached via email, oldshipkrb@gmail.com.*

*--Ken*

### **Note from Christopher Nickelson-Mann Music Director**

Happy New Year to you and yours! I would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone that helped make the music special on Christmas Eve -- the brass quartet, featuring our very own Chris Sullivan; Rob Levin who accompanied Silent Night on guitar; the marvelous and hard-working Old Ship Choir; and our superb vocal quartet! Everyone's musical gifts came together for a wonderful evening of joy, peace, and celebration. I'm already looking forward to next year!



We are in the midst of planning some exciting music for the spring, so stay tuned! If you'd like to find a way to contribute your own musical gifts or be involved in some other way, please let me know.

Musically Yours,  
Christopher Nickelson-Mann  
Music Director

### **Children's Religious Education**

December 18, 2019

Dear Old Ship...

I'm missing Sarah Hurley; are you guys missing Sarah Hurley? I'm missing Sarah Hurley.

We have a big Sarah-sized hole in Youth Group and Youth offerings world. Lest you think I'm making a pitch for folks to rush in and fill the void, I'm not. I'm really not. Working with Youth is both science and art and it actually requires official training through the UUA. So... breathe easy, I'm not after just any old volunteer.

Here are just the first few paragraphs of the guidelines for filling the Youth advisor void:

"Adults working with youth must be at least twenty-five years old to participate in youth events organized by the UUA, and most regions and congregations have a similar policy. This has been the practice in youth programs for decades because it helps clarify the different roles of youth and adults and makes it more likely that advisors have appropriate emotional distance from their own youth experiences.

Adults working with youth should:

- be on the staff or members of the congregation
- have attended for more than 6 months
- have a current criminal background check done by the congregation
- have personal references checked when they begin working with youth
- have a confirmed valid driver's license and record clear of violations (if driving youth)"



The documents and guidelines are many pages long; I would be delighted if folks read them. Not so much because I want any particular one of you to fill the role, but I would love it if folks were clear about what we do and how rigorously we care.

<https://www.uua.org/safe/youth>

Meanwhile, we are still offering sincere welcome and love to our Youth, as well as important content. Deb Squires-Lee, Corey Fitz-Marquez and Mason Wiley are currently teaching Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education... for our 8th and 9th graders, on Sunday afternoons.

Some Youth join us every Sunday morning as we offer a range of outdoor (and indoor) experiences.

And, Maureen Butler and I will be meeting with Youth and planning "not on Sundays" activities for the rest of this church year. We'll be meeting on Saturday 12/28 from 7 - 9 pm... for pizza and planning. It would be most fun and most meaningful if all or most of our Youth can be there.

THAT is something you could help me with...

I realize I've buried the headline. I should have started with:

ALL Youth, please come plan with Maureen and I on Saturday, 12/28 at 7 p.m... at the Parish House.

Peace, Love, and Youth Group,  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education

## **2020 is the perfect time for Old Ship to take a look at where we've been and where we are going.**

We are starting off the new year and decade by working with Stewardship for Us, a Unitarian Universalist affiliated consulting team. Consultant Liz Coit will be with us the weekend of January 17th - 19th to help us identify, measure and determine our specific needs as they relate to stewardship. Our Board of Trustees has been in talks with Liz since November, providing her documentation about Old Ship's organization and finances. During the Next Step Weekend, she will be speaking with committees and individual members to hear their perspectives. At the end of the weekend she will give a summary to the congregation and, a few weeks later, will follow



up with an extensive written report with specific recommendations as to how we can achieve our goals.

Liz will be here beginning Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. The schedule is in the works but will include time for specific committees to speak with her and a working lunch on Saturday. The goal is to give as many opportunities for all of us to contribute to the discussion.

In addition to the jam packed weekend, Liz has been speaking with some of us already. She will

also be sending out a survey to the entire congregation at the beginning of January.



To help support the success of this weekend, the Board will be asking for volunteers to help coordinate a luncheon and snacks for breaks on Saturday the 18th. If you are able to help, please let Janet Asnes, Maureen Butler or Ginny Perelson know.

**Please save these dates.** With the phone calls ahead of time, the survey and weekend participation, it is the Board's strong hope, and goal, that we will have, in some capacity, 100% church member participation

Although intended for, and focused on, our finances, this exercise will give us an insight into all aspects of our community. In "The Spiritual Roots of Stewardship", author Wayne B. Clark discusses stewardship as

"growing, nurturing, promoting, and building. It is an act of worship of the gifts, call and spiritual vocation of the members of a faith community."

In keeping with our Mission **(We agree to nurture and challenge one another to become our best selves. Inspire one another to act courageously consistent with our UU principles. Welcome all seekers in the spirit of love. Work together for peace and justice, and to cherish the earth.)** it is time for Old Ship to embrace a stewardship model of commitment to our mission, vision and ourselves.

\* \* \*

This January will be all about community and communing with each other. Nurturing Community Council is planning on a community dinner in members' homes. This is always a fun way to get a chance to have those conversations with one another that we don't get to finish during fellowship hour while sharing a delicious meal together. Look for a Committee Fair to happen during fellowship hour in January as well as a meeting of all of the committee chairs.

\* \* \*

Building & Grounds needs YOU! Old Ship's Building & Grounds is undergoing a restructure as longtime members have left, having served well beyond their terms out of loyalty. You don't need to be an engineer, project manager or a contractor to be part of this committee (although we'd be very happy to have those skills!). You just need to be committed to helping keep the Old Ship afloat. This year they will be focusing on prioritizing the list of building needs and using the resources we have to tackle them one at a time. If you think you might like to participate in this very important work that supports ALL ministries at Old Ship, please reach out to Rick Mattila or Brian McPhillips.

\* \* \*

This year also brings the retirement of our Director of Religious Education, Beverly Tricco. Beverly has been with Old Ship for 12 years and has been a DRE for 25 years in a job that the averages between 7-9 years. We have been blessed to have her work for us for so long! Our Religious Education Committee has been putting in a lot of time researching the best way to move forward, and have decided on hiring an interim director of religious education for next

year. The work that the R.E. Committee and all of us will do as a congregation during an interim year will help us fine tune where we are heading in this new decade. For more information about the interim position please read the article by Kate Doyle elsewhere in this newsletter.

\* \* \*

**Here is the financial update as of 11/30/2019:**

<b>2019/2020 Budget: Expenses</b>	<b>\$415,190</b>
<b>Year To Date 11/30/19 Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$173,809</b>
<b>Year to Date 11/30/19 Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>\$189,079</b>

For a complete breakdown of our YTD monthly comparison, please visit our website [HERE](#).

On the income side, we are running about even with our budgeted pledge income - thank you! We also were fortunate to receive a generous bequest from the Penney/Livingstone families, which has helped us absorb some of the extra large costs of maintenance and steeple repair. The monthly breakdown of expenses will be available during Fellowship Hour on Sunday.

We just completed a successful Merrie Market, (those numbers are not reflected in the above) netting \$15,647. Here are the totals broken down by area.

Table	Net (before expenses)
Bake	603
Books	602
Crafts	952
Baskets	965
Jewelry	593
Jingle Café	598
Gingerbread House Raffle	262
Silent Auction	4060
Toys	367
Treasures	3116
Wreaths	3529
TOTAL	\$15,647

As you can see, we still need to raise a lot of money to meet our operational budget for FY '20. Participating in the Next Step Weekend in January will give us guidance as to how proceed operationally and, if warranted, the possibility of a capital campaign to refurbish the Parish House. If you have not completed your pledge for this year, and are able to do so, please consider doing it soon. The earlier that we have final numbers for the current year, the better we can plan for next year.

Closing an article with our financial situation may not appear to be uplifting. For me it is. Taking an honest look at the state of Old Ship inspires me. The times we are living in are changing. People don't "church" the way they once did. On paper, this manifests with fewer contributions and lower attendance. It is also an opportunity for all of us to identify and pinpoint those areas of our church for which we have passion and to find ways to share that passion with others. This is not going to be easy but it will be insightful, and I believe, beneficial to the long-term health of our congregation and our faith. Let's start 2020 by setting a clear vision for where we want to go.

Janet Asnes, President, writing for the Board of Trustees:

Ginny Perelson, Vice President  
Nina Wellford, Treasurer  
Joan Wilson, Clerk  
Maureen Butler

Diane Jordan  
Dana Kintigh  
Brian McPhillips  
Chris Sullivan  
Angel West  
Rev. Ken Read-Brown, ex officio

### **Merrie Market - Thanks!**

Many thanks to everyone for helping to make our 2019 Merrie Market a success. If you've participated in the preparation, day of, and days after, you know how much hard work and camaraderie it takes to make this one day event happen. If you haven't, then please consider joining us for the next one. It is a time of bonding with fellow Old Shippers that reinforces our commitment to each other and our community. With a lot of love and laughter, together we can make anything we do a success. Thank you again to everyone that worked so hard for many many weeks leading up to Merrie Market and the days after. We are so fortunate for your presence and so appreciate all that you do.

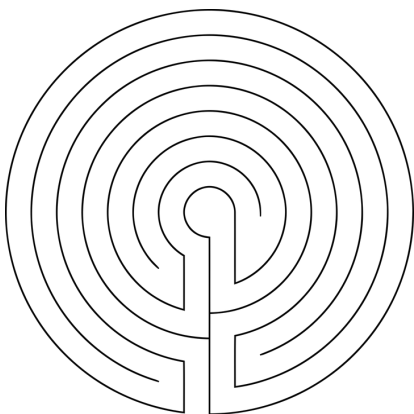


Diane Jordan, co-chair

### **Blessed are the Wreath-makers**

As we give thanks to all the cogs and wheels that make up Merrie Market, a special thanks must be given to the wreath-makers who enjoy the quiet times together - listening to music, laughing, talking, and decorating beautiful pine wreaths. Thank you for the many hours and happy times it takes to make 72 natural wreaths.

### **Labyrinth Walk - Friday January 10 from 6:00-7:00 PM.**



Please join BodySong musicians for a New Years Candlelight Sound Meditation,  
On the Labyrinth in Old Ship Parish House.  
Opening Ceremony will start at 6:00.

### **Nurturing Community**

#### **Community Dinners - January 25**

Shake off the winter doldrums and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship on Saturday, January 25 for a Community Dinner. These dinners are groups of 5-10 adults who gather at the home of another Old Ship member for a congenial evening of dinner and conversation.

To host, you are responsible for sending an e-mail invitation to the group assigned to your home, preparing your home for dinner guests, coordinating the contributions for the potluck dinner, and enjoying the evening.

To attend, you are responsible for cooking or bringing some part of the dinner and enjoying the company of other Old Shippers. The only agenda is to get to know one another better, and all are invited!

We will offer one alcohol-free dinner house. At the other homes, wine and beer will be available. To host or attend please contact Sharon Prehn, 781-925-0101 or [prehn@verizon.net](mailto:prehn@verizon.net)

#### **Volunteer to be a Fellowship Hour Host**

Every Sunday following the service we gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. The only tasks for the Fellowship Hour Hosts are to pour the coffee, put out food, and clean up. Our church sexton makes the coffee, and each week a rotating segment of the alphabet (A-H, I-P, & Q-Z) brings coffee hour food. Please volunteer to help out occasionally for this recurring Sunday task. Many hands make light work! Sign up at coffee hour, or online with SignUp Genius:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c49a8aa2aa3f94-sunday1>.  
Contact Ivy Butterworth for more info ([ivy\\_butter@yahoo.com](mailto:ivy_butter@yahoo.com))

#### **Fellowship Hour Food for January**

Fellowship Hour is a time to reconnect or get acquainted over a cup of coffee and a snack. Every Sunday we ask a different segment of the alphabet to bring a plate of food for coffee hour.

January 5: Last names beginning A-H.  
January 12: Last names beginning I-P.  
January 19: Last names beginning Q-Z.  
January 26: Last names beginning A-H.

#### **Thank you carolers!**

On Saturday, December 21, seven Old Ship carolers sang at Harbor House Nursing Home, Allerton House assisted living (where two Old Ship members live), and then at the homes of two Old Ship folks. Christmas spirit and pretty darn good singing was abundant! Many thanks to Pat Bianco, Frank Cheney, Julia Londergan, Anne McGuire, Cynthia McKeon and David White, and Ken Read-Brown.

#### **Candlelight Concert set for Sunday, on January 19 at 4pm**

In the depths of winter, music can certainly lift our spirits. On Sunday, January 19th at 4:00 p.m., our Meeting House will host a concert that is sure to inspire all of those present: Violist Anna Griffis, bassoonist Jensen Ling, and pianist Sarah Bob are all celebrated Boston performers and collaborators. The three come together to highlight the pairing of the bassoon and viola, two instruments with a natural affinity but very little music expressly written for them. The trio will perform music spanning the 17th to 21st centuries by Bach, Britten, Hersant, and others.

This very special concert will be presented free of charge; your contribution is welcome.





## EDUCATING MINDS AND HEARTS

### Life Learning programs

#### Touchstones of Wisdom

- five sessions, Wednesdays, Jan. 8 - Feb. 5,  
1:00 and 7:00

led by Ken Read-Brown

I'll be sharing (and together we'll be discussing) many of my "touchstone" readings collected over the decades - passages and lines from the world's ancient wisdom traditions as well as from contemporary writers and poets. Along the way we'll learn something of the world's religious traditions through the window of words that have inspired me in my life - perhaps you too.

Class members will be encouraged to compile - and share if they like - their own unique touchstones. For more information and to sign up, contact Ken, 781-749-1679 or [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).



For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, see the "learning" page on our web site ([www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)), where the complete list of this year's offerings of classes and ongoing groups will be listed: including meditation sessions, the Bodhisattva Study Group, Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, ceilidh (song circle), Sacred Texts Meditation Group, and Fiber Funship.

The Life Learning Committee invites and welcomes your suggestions for classes, forums, and workshops for the coming year. Contact any member of the committee with your ideas:

Ken Read-Brown ([oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com))

Beverly Tricco ([dre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:dre@oldshipchurch.org))

Ralph Brown ([ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com))

Rich Elliott ([richelliott56@gmail.com](mailto:richelliott56@gmail.com))

Claire Petrie ([cdpetrie@aol.com](mailto:cdpetrie@aol.com))

Elizabeth Torrey ([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com))

## Children's Religious Education and Youth Programs: 2020

Happy 2020! This marks the start of a 2+ year transition to re-envision our religious education and youth programs.

We need strategies to:

- Update our thinking about RE based on UU trends and family/congregation needs.

- Make Old Ship a place of sabbath and rest instead of another place that is demanding of time and energy.
- Further institutionalize very intentional integration and teamwork between ministry, music and faith formation efforts.
- Provide family ministry including children's and youth ministry in a flexible and proactive and responsive way.
- Deliver religious education in a less traditional way that can increase family's ability to participate.
- Support a robust youth ministry option.
- Welcome young adults.



We're currently looking for someone to take us through the interim process, a similar process Old Ship Religious Education went through 12 years ago. This includes (but is not limited to) helping the congregation:

- Heritage: Come to Terms with Congregation's Religious Education Program History
- Mission: Evolve a Unique Religious Education Program Identity
- Leadership: Address Leadership Changes During the Interim Period
- Connection: Renew Associational and Community Linkages
- Future: Commit to the Future of the Religious Education Program's Vitality

The successful candidate will work with our minister, Board of Directors, and Children's Religious Education Committee, as well as reach out to the whole congregation.

The Interim Religious Education Director will report to the Board of Trustees.

Volunteers will manage the day-to-day activities, including facilitating our religious education programs, coordinating events, and communicating with volunteers and the church at large.

Our plan is form a search committee to find an Interim Director of Religious Education by March 1, 2020, with the start date in July/August 2020.

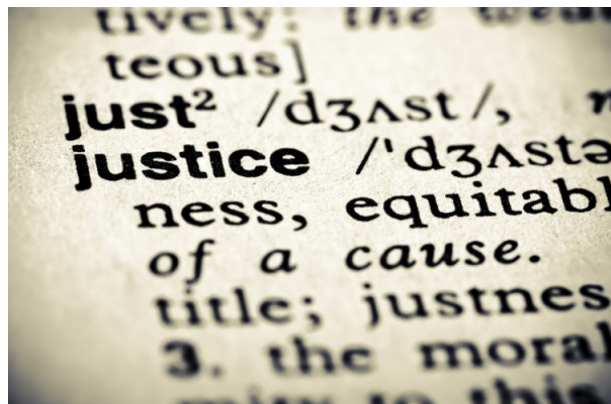
For more information, please contact Religious Education Committee Chairperson, Kate Doyle, at [kathleen.n.doyle@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.n.doyle@gmail.com) or 781-749-2404. Thank you.

### Social Justice Council

**A Big Thank You to all who helped make the South Shore Friends of the Homeless Holiday Party such a wonderful evening!**

Thanks to all the cooks, the servers, the baby holders, and the clean-up helpers! The evening was a festive success and the families very much appreciated taking the extra holiday foods with them.

**Guest at Your Table Report:**



Thanks to everyone for your donations to the UUSC through this year's Guest at Your Table program. On Sunday, December 15, we collected \$3548.73 as our special plate collection. We know many of you donated directly to UUSC and we will get a final donation amount from UUSC in January. And if you have not yet made a donation, and want to do so, you may donate online at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) (be sure to indicate your connection of Old Ship on the online form). Thanks for your continued support of our UUSC!

**November Special Plate Collection Report:**

Thanks to everyone who donated a total of \$769.51 for the South Shore Friends of the Homeless Holiday Dinner.

**Save the Date: Sunday January 12th: " Electrify Your Life"**

During Fellowship Hour our Green Sanctuary team will host a demonstration of technologies you can adopt for your home and lifestyle to reduce your carbon footprint and your impact on global climate change.

**Serving Others by Supporting the Hingham Food Pantry**

The SJC invites you to continue to Serve Others by bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry whenever you come to Old Ship. There is a collection basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime.

**UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)**

The mission of the UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is to unite communities and transform individuals through education, service, and advocacy. We engage communities and congregations in social action and change, with programs that empower youth and adults to realize their full potential. Over nearly 200 years, our programs have adapted to meet the needs of our community. Updates on programming and ongoing events are at [uum.org](http://uum.org)

**Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?**

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net)

**Old Ship Coffeehouse Off the Square:**

**Saturday, January 18, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Admission is \$15.00 per person.**

Nothing can beat this "Two Man Big Band," in the words of Garrison Keillor. This lively duo, back by popular demand, will give the audience a much-needed mid-winter lift. Guy's strong, playful jazz guitar combines with Billy's sweet, spicy clarinet and unique vocals for an ever-growing range of jazz and pop standards. The pair recently celebrated their 40 years together as a duo, yet their music remains fresh. Profits from the Coffeehouse are donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), so this is another way to support UUSC and their justice work around the world!

**Interested in helping plan Social Justice Actions for our congregation?**

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Look for announcements of the next SJC meeting date in the Order of Service in January. Contact Brenda Black [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or Davalene Cooper [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net)

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