



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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May 2014 Newsletter

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A Month of Sundays...

Sunday, May 4

Ken's sermon will be "What About Evil?" The question of "evil" is an enduring, if not eternal, human concern. How should we understand the nature of evil? And how do we live in a world that includes the interwoven realities of what we call good and evil? Examples and exemplars ancient and modern may help us consider these and related questions - and live our lives.

A noon Forum will feature Old Shipper Brian McPhillips, sharing slides and stories from his sabbatical journey last year as the medical officer on the Tall Ship, Picton Castle.

Sunday, May 11

Mostly Music Sunday

"Mostly Music Sunday" has become a Mother's Day tradition at Old Ship. Berni Nadeau and our choir will continue the tradition with selections from the uniquely American tradition of spirituals. Ken Read-Brown and others will weave into the service Mother's Day readings along with reflections on the theme "Just What is 'Spiritual' Anyway?"

Sunday, May 18

Religious Growth and Learning Sunday

Our annual Religious Growth and Learning Sunday will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Parish House and will feature reflections and presentations from Spirit Play to Youth to the adult Life Learning classes.

Following the service we will bring our coffee and refreshments to our Annual Meeting, during which we will discuss and vote on the budget for the upcoming year, on our revised new bylaws, and other matters. All members who have made financial contributions during the past year (or had that requirement waived by our minister or the deacons) are qualified to vote. "Friends" are also welcome to attend.

All morning we will also be celebrating the 10th anniversary of marriage equality in Massachusetts, recognizing the landmark court ruling that designated the constitutional right of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and the day marriage licenses were first issued on May 16, 2004. We will celebrate all this with a rainbow wedding cake at coffee hour, and couples are invited to bring and display their wedding pictures.

Sunday, May 25

Our guest preacher will be Rev. Richard Fewkes. Minister emeritus at First Parish

Norwell, where he served for about thirty years, Dick has preached several times at Old Ship, including last year on Easter Sunday during Ken's sabbatical. His warm presence and lively, insightful preaching are gifts.

Ken and Susan will be in Maryland happily celebrating their son Adam's wedding ceremony!

from the minister's desk

Musing

There are bigger problems and, sad to say, suffering on much larger scales in the world than even the tragedy and terror of last year's Boston Marathon bombings. And in the sweep of human history, not to mention geologic and cosmic history, a footrace and a local Monday holiday are modest events. But though all this may be relatively small in one way of measuring, the lessons we can draw from all that has transpired from last year to this - lessons in kindness and compassion, lessons in resilience, lessons having to do with the nature of community - are huge and are surely good things. Oh that we could transplant to troubled parts of the world, and to the earth in its wholeness, the spirit of care, kindness, community, and resilience that seemed to freshly grow during this past year in Boston.

Gary Snyder, one of the two poets we are studying in this spring's poetry class, encourages us in this direction with his poignant and beautiful "For the Children" first published over forty years ago, but still resonating today:

The rising hills, the slopes,
of statistics
lie before us.
the steep climb
of everything, going up,
up, as we all
go down.

In the next century
or the one beyond that,
they say,
are valleys, pastures,
we can meet there in peace
if we make it.
To climb these coming crests
one word to you, to
you and your children:
stay together
learn the flowers
go light

Peace and blessings,
--Ken oldshipkrb@comcast.net

p.s.: Great big thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement for my Boston Marathon run. I felt you at my side!

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

May Breakfast and Plant Sale: May 3, 7:30am to 1:00PM

A 100+ year tradition...start the day with a delicious pancake breakfast and pick up some beautiful flowers and plants to welcome in spring! A great community day-all kinds of help needed. Set up on Friday, May 2, cooks and dishwashers and waitstaff for Saturday morning and folks to work the plant table 7:15 to 9:45, 9:30 to 1:00...and clean-up. We still need folks to collect plants...and manure (!) (Seriously, we sell out of this - great for composting).

What? You want to flip some pancakes and join in on the kitchen fun? Of course you still can! Please email Elaine Gomez to jump on the pancake wagon. [Email Elaine by clicking here.](#)

Upcoming Social Justice Events

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.

5/9/14: Life 2.0 (2010 Documentary) follows a group of people whose lives are dramatically transformed by a virtual world -- reshaping relationships, identities, and ultimately the very notion of reality.

Upcoming Immigration Events

Plymouth Detention Center Vigil

The next vigil outside the Plymouth Correctional Facility, which holds the detention center, will take place on Saturday, May 10, at 10:30am. This vigil is sponsored by the Brewster UU Alliance for Immigration Justice.

Plymouth Rock July 4th Vigil

A vigil will be held on July 4th in the center of Plymouth with the goal of calling attention to the immigration issues that continue to remain unresolved in this country. Specific time and exact place have not yet been decided upon. please stay tuned.

For more information about vigils, please call Ursula Stone at 781-826-2031

Plymouth Detention Center Phone Project

Seven people, mostly from the Brewster UU, have formed a group that will make free phone calls available to the detainees inside the detention center in Plymouth. Each day there will be a two hour time slot where detainees can call a free number which has been already set up within the prison through the CIVIC organization (endisolation.org) It is hoped that not only will this phone project reduce the isolation detainees experience during their detention which is often undetermined in length, but it also will make free phone calls available to them. Phone calls from

prisons are extremely expensive and usually not affordable to inmates. The phone project also hopes to provide access to family members of detainees via three-way phone connections established via this free phone number. If you are interested in joining us in this effort and have two hours per week available to receive calls, please call Ursula Stone at 781-826-2031. I will be glad to tell you more about this project and will be able to get you hooked up to this system. We are especially looking for people who speak Spanish.

SJC News

Cupcakes with a Cause

Thanks to the many Old Shippers who baked, sold and bought Cupcakes, we raised \$495 to support teachers and projects for their classrooms.

The Children's RE and Adult monies have been donated to fully fund the two donorschoose.org projects which received the most votes: "Headphones for Students who are Struggling Readers" and "Environmental Science in My Class". The Youth group will be deciding how to donate their funds in the near future. Check out the thank you notes from the teachers and their students on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Successful Food Collection Drive at Stop and Shop (4/5/14)

Thanks to the efforts of Belinda and Paul Arams, Carol Valentine, Davalene Cooper, Julia Monz, Maddy Chan, Nigel Harvey, MJ Shultz, Ron, Scott and Brenda Pollara, and the generosity of Stop and Shop shoppers on 4/5, a total of 1081 pounds of non-perishable foods were collected and delivered to the Hingham Food Pantry.

Social Justice Sunday 4/13

Our Social Justice Special Plate collection on Social Justice Sunday brought in \$400, enough to fund one garden for a Haitian family as part of the UU Service Committee's Plant a Seed campaign to provide Haitian families with the means to sustainably raise sufficient food and also to donate \$150 to the Hingham Food Pantry to help feed local families.

Did you miss the screenings of Girl Rising, or The Graduates/Los Graduados, or The First Grader? 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!

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 summer vacation. 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!

Guest Reader Day at Mather

Mather Elementary School welcomes guest readers again this year on Friday May 30th, approx..9-11am. Bring a book to read to your assigned class (the teacher will offer suggestions) and then leave the book for the class library. Ride to and from Mather provided. Contact: Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net if you would like

to be a Guest Reader.

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

May 17 8pm \$12

Honey Dew Drops - This Virginia-based roots duet of Laura Wortman (banjo) and Kagey Parish (guitar) blends new Americana and traditional folk music sung with a sparse Appalachian clarity that is accessible to listeners everywhere. One observer noted that their disc " 'Silver Lining' perfectly captures the spirit of the Blue Ridge foothills, feeling like a collection of tunes delivered late at night on someone's front porch." They have had two #1 albums on Folk Radio and been on Prairie Home Companion. Now it is our turn to hear the Dew Drops in New England for a mellow end to the season.

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 or (781) 740-2835.

Nurturing Council News

In the coming newsletters you'll see biographies on new members; here's some info about new members Frank Cheney and Kate Doyle! Give them a warm welcome when you see them!

Frank Cheney joined Old Ship in March.

"I have lived in Hingham most of my life and recently moved to Hull. I have two children and two grandchildren. My job as a Mechanical Designer has been very interesting and rewarding as I have worked on large projects for various companies in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. After considering my spiritual options and knowing I did not want to be boxed in by any religious affiliations, I began attending Old Ship with Ginny (Perelson) and I liked what I heard there. I knew I was right where I was supposed to be. My activities and hobbies include running, biking, social ballroom dancing, reading, and learning to play the guitar again after many years."

Kate Doyle joined Old Ship in March. She and her husband Joe grew up in Hingham and are now raising three sons here - Seamus (11), Michael (9) and Jake (5). She came to Old Ship looking for a religious education program for her boys. She was thrilled to find one that is everything and more than what she hoped for. She loves being part of the Old Ship community - she is going to Spirit Play training next month, she has been actively involved with the Mather School, and attends The Way of the Bodhisattva. Outside of Old Ship, she enjoys biking, skating, kayaking, hiking, and reading with her family. She works on a website, part-time - ednaccess.com. She volunteers at East School. She was a doula (attending births at hospitals and home) and a breastfeeding counselor.

Among Us

Celebrations and Sympathies

We extend our deep sympathy to Laura Harbottle, whose mother, Naomi P. Harbottle, died at the end of March at the age of 91. A celebration of her life will be held in Setauket, New York, on Long Island, where Laura's mother lived.

We are very pleased to report that Rick Mattila is continuing his recovery now at home.

We are likewise happy to report that Paul Riggs is also home recovering from his hospitalization for pneumonia.

We are pleased too that Peter Richmond is home and rehabbing from his hip replacement surgery.

Lucy Osborne was hospitalized at Beth Israel Deaconess and is now continuing her recovery at home.

More good news is that Marty Saunders is now at Rose Court (the Linden Ponds nursing and facility) rehabbing from her knee replacement surgery and doing well.

Healing thoughts and prayers to all!

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team meets monthly with Ken and often coordinates meals and other forms of caring for Old Ship individuals and families in the midst of illness or crisis. If you have a need or are aware of a need that the PCLT might be able to help meet, you may be in touch with Ken or any member of the group. At Old Ship we all share in our mutual caring and helping one another; the Pastoral Care Leadership Team simply helps to identify needs and coordinate responses. There are specifically three ways Old Ship members might want to help out:

- Rides: Would you be able to give an Old Ship parishioner a ride to church, either regularly or from time to time?
- Food: Would you be willing to prepare a casserole to be given to someone who could use a little extra help following a hospitalization or in the midst of illness or treatments?
- Companionship: Would you be willing to spend a few hours now and then with an Old Ship member when the primary caregiver in their household needs to be away from the home for a short while?

If you might be able to help in any of these ways, please be in touch with a member of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team. Thanks very much!

Abbey Diamond-Kissiday, Abby@AbbyCMA.com, (781) 925-1305
Betty Fernandes, bettyfern@comcast.net, (781-749-0095)
Elaine Gomez, eh-gomez@comcast.net, (781) 740-1663
Alicia Harkness, PAJL7@verizon.net, (781) 749-7825
Fan Leonard, (781) 749-2852

Bob Shepard, cheney777@verizon.net, (781) 878-2766
Beverly Trico, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org, (781)-749-1679
Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkrb@comcast.net, (781-749-1679)

Thanks for an Old Ship Print

Old Ship member from afar (now living all the way on the North Shore) Robert Brown, has given us a beautiful old print of Old Ship that had hung in his parents' home on Main Street where he grew up and where his parents, both members of Old Ship, Dorothy and Ray, lived until the end of their lives.
Thank you Bob!

Please send any items for "Among Us" either to Julianna Dunn in the Parish House office (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

Brian McPhillips' Tall Ship Adventure: May 4 forum

Brian, a member of Old Ship and a family physician, took a three month break from his practice in early 2013 to serve as medical officer and trainee aboard the three-masted Tall Ship, Picton Castle. On Sunday, May 4, at noon in the Parish House parlor, he will show slides and talk of his adventures on this 180 foot barque, which sails out of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. The ship travels around the world on a mission to provide trainees with the adventure of sailing the open ocean and preserve traditional seamanship skills.

Spring Poetry - five sessions, Wed., April 30 - May 28, 1:00 and 7:00
led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown - not too late to sign up!

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: Gary Snyder (born in 1930) and Jane Hirshfield (born in 1953). 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.

It's not too late to sign up and join us, even if you miss the first class. We will mostly be drawing from "Danger on Peaks" by Gary Snyder, and "Come, Thief" by Jane Hirshfield.

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

'Tis the Season for Old Ship Tours

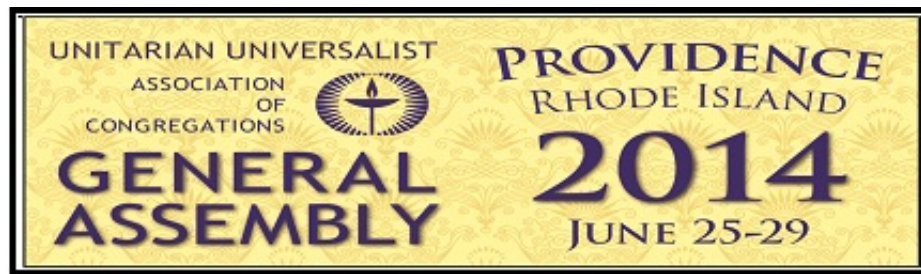
Every year in May and June, Ken Read-Brown gives tours of our historic Old Ship Meeting House to most of the fifth grade classes from Hingham's elementary schools. You are more than welcome to eavesdrop on one of these tours. There are sessions currently scheduled for the mornings of May 19 and 20, and June 3, 4, 5, and 6. Generally there are two tours each morning, the first beginning at 9 or 9:15, and the second sometime after 10:00. You can contact the church office if you like

for further details, or just show up on one of those mornings.

Want to Be an Old Ship GA Delegate?

The annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is, as you probably have heard by now, at the end of June in Providence, Rhode Island - practically our back yard! This annual meeting of UUs from across the country includes a variety of workshops, lectures, and worship services, as well as business meetings. All are welcome to attend - all four days or just part of the time. Complete details are at the UUA web site, www.uua.org.

Each congregation may send several delegates who are able to vote at the business meetings. Several Old Shippers have already expressed interest in serving as delegates; if you have an interest, please let either our president, Elaine Gomez (eh-gomez@comcast.net), or our minister, Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@comcast.net). Our Old Ship Board of Trustees will be designating delegates at its June 5 meeting.



**What is it Like to Sing
“Spirit of Life” with 8000 Other UU’s?
YOU ARE INVITED TO
HOP ON THE BUS WITH US
FROM FIRST PARISH CHURCH DUXBURY!
Join us on Sunday, June 29th for a trip to GA
2014 in Providence, RI . . .**

8:30am Meet at Parking Lot of First Parish Church,
842 Tremont Street, Duxbury.
10:00am Arrive at Providence :
Doors Open for Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.
12-3:00pm Lunch and Visit to UU Exhibit Hall
3:00pm Depart Providence – (Should arrive at Duxbury around 4pm)

To Make Reservations on our bus, please contact Lenore at (781) 934-6532
or email at uuduxbury@verizon.net by June 2nd. Please Note: Anyone
under the age of 18 years old, must be accompanied by an adult.

**It will be several years before GA is so nearby—don’t miss this opportunity
to worship with thousands of UU’s!!**



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