



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

### October 2014 Newsletter

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### A Month of Sundays...

#### **Sunday, October 5**

Ken's sermon will be "A Faith for These Times - or Any Time". In what ways can the faith we call Unitarian Universalism soothe our spirits in hard times, nourish our souls any time, and help us along the way of life whatever life brings?

At 11:45 in the parlor of the Parish House, all are invited to a "New UU" forum. Though this forum is specially designed for newcomers to Unitarian Universalism and/or Old Ship, it can also serve as a refresher for long time members... and an opportunity for old-timers to meet newcomers. All are welcome!

See details below for our first Candlelight Concert of the season, at 4:00 featuring the Fenway Brass.

#### **Sunday, October 12**

"We're All Cousins" will be Ken's sermon.

On Columbus Day weekend and in an era of stark divisions in our nation and in the world, it seems worth reminding ourselves just how closely related we all are. This sermon is adapted from a talk Ken presented to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society this past summer on Clark Island, one of the Pilgrims' early landing sites.

#### **Sunday, October 19**

Ken Read-Brown will be exchanging pulpits with Rev. Pam Barz, minister at First Parish Scituate. Pam's sermon will be: "Our Vampires, Our Faith". What do the undead have to say to the living? A sermon for the Halloween season.

Pamela Barz is in her second year as the minister of the First Parish UU Church of Scituate. Before coming to Scituate, she served as the UU Chaplain at Wellesley College and in settled and interim ministry in Massachusetts and Maine. She was raised in the Unitarian Church in Montclair, New Jersey, and currently lives in Scituate with her husband and their twin sons.

In place of Fellowship Hour snacks this Sunday, we are each invited to bring something to donate to the Hingham Food Pantry (see a list of items most needed in the Social Justice Council section of this newsletter).

#### **Sunday, October 26**

Leaning forward, even just a little, can allow gravity to help you run more freely and easily. Is there a force that helps us along if we lean into *life*? "Leaning into Life" will be Ken's sermon.

October's outreach offering will be given to the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. And at noon the Social Justice Council will host a forum on the linked issues of homelessness and hunger.

At 1:00 singers of all kinds are invited to join Ken at Harbor House Nursing Home to sing to the residents up and down the halls, as we did on two occasions last year. Songbooks will be provided, and we will provide the spirit!

### **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 Breakfast and Knitting" meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 8:30 for... breakfast and knitting.

*Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Bodhisattva Study Group or Women's Knitting or a committee meeting 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.*

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

### **Musing**

*(adapted from my recent "Earth and Spirit" column in the Hingham Journal)*

So... a Quaker, Hindu, Lutheran, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, and Unitarian Universalist were walking down 58th Street in New York City...

No joke. Rather, these were just a few of the faiths represented in the "Multifaith Contingent" of the People's Climate March on Sunday, September 21. Thousands of us from our different religious traditions filled 58th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues as we waited our turn to begin walking. I was there, and I felt that I was there representing all of you.

And the "Multifaith Contingent" was just one of the many and varied groups lining up to parade through the heart of Manhattan to encourage the leaders of the world at the United Nations Climate Summit to make the kinds of national and global policy changes necessary to meet the challenge of the climate change crisis. Yes, Sierra Club and other well-known environmental groups were there (the "usual suspects" - including 350MA, the group with whom several other Old Shippers marched); but also represented were all those faith traditions, as well as labor unions, scientists, indigenous groups, and a potpourri of social justice and civil rights groups. Why such a diversity among the marchers? Because climate change affects everyone,



and is affecting first and worst the poorest on the planet who are most vulnerable to the storms, droughts, heat waves, and rising seas brought about by global warming and climate change.

Participants also ranged from the very young, who will be living into the end of this century, to the very old (including a group calling itself the Raging Grannies...), who won't see the end of the century, but who want those young people to have a healthy, clean energy future.

(Among my favorite signs along the way: "Less oil, more sun" and "Love more, consume less".)

Will such a march make a difference? Who knows. But, at three or four hundred thousand strong, this demonstration was among the largest of any kind in American history, ranking with the major civil rights and peace marches of the sixties and seventies. Those demonstrations arguably made a huge difference. Let's hope this one does too.

This said, the future well-being of human life and all life on our home planet will not depend on a single march or even on the commitments of world leaders gathering at the United Nations. The future will hinge as well on actions we take at every level of our lives: from personal changes in energy use, to local initiatives, to state and national policies, to changes in business and investment practices. We all have a role to play in helping to create a world friendlier to life, a better way of life on this earth we share.

Bill McKibben, the founder of 350.org and one of the organizers of the march, put it this way writing in The New Yorker magazine after the march: "... this movement is like a battery. When lobbyists head out to congressional offices to argue for sensible legislation, when shareholders ask companies to change, they draw on the juice that comes from people in the streets."

That's us!

Peace and blessings,  
--Ken

**oldshipkrb@gmail.com**

Please note my new email address. It looks the same as the old one... until you get to the server, which is now Gmail. Thanks! I look forward to hearing from you at any time about whatever is on your mind and in your heart.

Peace and blessings,  
--Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com

*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 on email: my practice is to be on line at least during a period of each afternoon.*

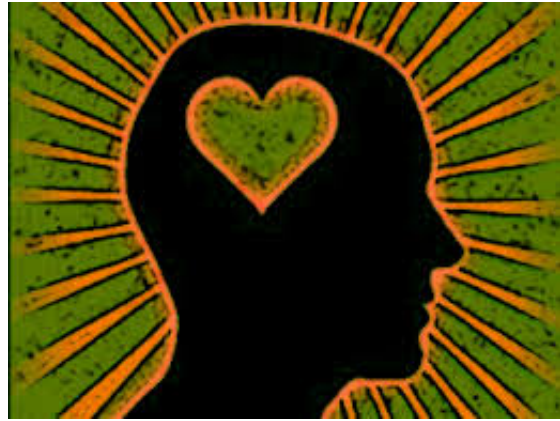
--Ken

## Educating Hearts and Minds

### OLD SHIP LIFE LEARNING PROGRAMS

### Life Learning This Year

This year's "Life Learning" programs include classes on the Aeneid, the Sermon on the Mount, the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, Genealogy, Spring Poetry... and more... including a variety of ongoing groups and gatherings to which everyone is invited. A full schedule for 2014-2015 programs is posted on our web site, [oldshipchurch.org](http://oldshipchurch.org)



**October's offerings** (in addition to the ongoing groups) include:

**New UU** - Sunday, Oct. 5, Noon, led by various Old Ship leaders and staff  
Especially for newcomers to Old Ship and Unitarian Universalism, we also invite any friends and members of our community who are looking for a UU refresher and/or who wish to share their own perspectives and experiences with newcomers. Plenty of time for questions (and refreshments will be served!)

**A Chosen Faith** - five sessions, 7:30- 8:30, Wed., October 22 - November 19,  
led by Ken Read-Brown and Diane Elliott

We will explore our own spiritual journeys at the same time as we explore in depth some of the roots and branches of Unitarian Universalism. Our primary resource the book, *A Chosen Faith*, by UU ministers John Buehrens and Forrest Church. Not just for newcomers! Rather for any of us who wish to deepen our spiritual lives in the context of Unitarian Universalism.

For more information and to sign up contact:

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

Diane ([dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com)).

**So You Want to Meditate** - the first of three seasonal sessions this year will be on Saturday, October 18, from 10:00-noon  
(the next sessions will be January 17 and May 16)

led by Ken Read-Brown

Whether you are a long time meditator or wish to begin, each of these three gatherings will offer some basic instruction in mindfulness meditation and in Eknath Easwaran's passage meditation. There will be time for questions and conversation, and time to meditate. Contact Ken for more information ([oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com)).

**Berni's Favorite Music History Events** - The first scheduled session (originally in October) of three throughout the year has been postponed. Watch future newsletters for an updated schedule.

### Coming up in November:

**Leadership as a Spiritual Practice Workshop** - facilitated by Old Shipper Davalene Cooper on Saturday, November 15, from 9-12 noon in the parlor.

To quote Dorothy Bass, "leadership as a spiritual practice refers to those shared activities that address fundamental human needs and that, woven together, form a way of life."

This workshop will assist each of us in assessing our leadership styles and ideas about what it means to be a leader. We will then focus on how leadership can be a form of spiritual practice - and a means for service in many aspects of our lives. This workshop is open to everyone - especially those who might think they are not leaders, or not able to be leaders, or for those leaders who would like to bring a spiritual dimension to their leadership role and work. If you have questions, please contact Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) or 781-749-0790.

## Among Us

### *Celebrations and Sympathies*

#### **Summer Meetinghouse Visitors**

They rode in on bicycles, having come down by ferry from Boston. Thirty bell ringers dropped in from England on an 11-day frenzy of bell-ringing in the U.S. and Canada. Two couples on motorcycles roared up from Connecticut, and a man walking to the bus saw the "OPEN" flag and walked up the hill.

And why?



Well, a New Orleans hitchhiker came because the Hingham man who had given him a ride had said he must. Architecture drew a restoration carpenter, a barn builder, and a man from Rehoboth who lives in a 1790 house. A sense of history brought descendants of Peter Hobart (Australia), John Leavitt (Utah), and Benjamin Lincoln. The son of a former minister, Paul Treat, stopped in, and also the son of former parishioners Vin and Betty Dunning. A bride and bridegroom married here 30 years ago brought their children, and a bride-to-be brought her mother. A class in treasures of local history came, as they do every summer, and also a photographer, taking pictures to accompany an article in the Mayflower Quarterly.

Besides Massachusetts visitors, twenty states were represented (including Hawaii) and eight countries: France, Canada, England, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Ireland, and Peru. Although heat or rain kept visitors away occasionally, the summer's total was 330. The very competent tour guides were Connie Gorfinkle, Charlotte Champagne, Jane Malme, Nina Wellford Price, Ursula Stone, Elizabeth Cossette, Carol Schuler, Ginny Perelson and Frank Cheney, Yvette Kaplan, Allan Greenberg, Ivy and Rick Butterworth, and Joyce Schreier. ...Fan Leonard

**Looking for a place to buy sustainable gifts and products?** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has a new shopping site at [www.thegoodbuy.com](http://www.thegoodbuy.com). It is also accessible through [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org). There are all kinds of interesting and useful products there, such as sweatshop free apparel, an eco bento box, and lunch bags. And each purchase funds the UUSC and its programs. Currently, the UUSC's major campaigns involve choosing compassionate consumption, the human right to water, and sustainable recovery in Haiti. Want more information? Check out the website at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) or contact Old Ship's Local Representative for the UUSC, Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) or 781-749-0790.

*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.*



## Nurturing Council News

Last spring, the Nurturing Community Council asked YOU how you would like to see the tasks of creating a warm welcome be shared among us...and you answered!!

So, with the goal of ensuring everyone feels comfortable with the shared task of nurturing one another, we are trying a few new things this fall...



***What's the Same:*** *Ushering and Greeting functions are largely the same; Fellowship Hour will, as usual, occur as a gathering together for friendship and discussion in the Parish House Fellowship Hall immediately after worship services.*

***What's a little Different:*** *By signing up to host Fellowship Hour, you don't need to bring/bake/buy food, just help with set up, serving coffee and clean-up!! Various weeks we WILL have food, provided by either pre-assigned committees, or a pot-luck, which will be 'advertised' in the weekly church email and the prior week's order of service. There may not be food each week, but there will be coffee whenever someone has signed up to host...and ALWAYS warm smiles!!*

### FAQ:

Q: Doesn't the staff or a committee make the Sunday Caring Task magic happen?

A: LOTS of things are provided by our wonderful staff or committees, but not things like ushering, greeting, and hosting fellowship hour...that's' up to US

Remember, as it is our shared task, we ask that if you are a member (or think of this place as your spiritual home) that you perform a Sunday Caring Task three times per year.

Q: I am SO nervous to host Fellowship Hour, (or Usher or Greet); do I HAVE to do that task?

A: If you really don't savor a particular task, please be assured you can choose to do one thing three times if you like. We're not counting, but we're counting on you!!

Q: Will there be food?

A: Most Sundays there will be food. A schedule has been set up and, depending on the day, certain dates will be assigned to Old Ship committees to provide snacks; others will be a potluck of shared food, and once a month will be designated for collecting food pantry items for the Hingham Food Pantry. Look for more details about potluck in next week's Old Ship email.

Q: How will I know which days I am to bring food for fellowship Hour or for the food pantry?

A: The Order of Service and each week's Old Ship email will contain info for the coming week.

Q: How do I know what to do to usher? Serve coffee? Greet? (and how do I Sign up?)

A: It's easy! All instructions are here (if you're reading this in print, it's at [oldshipchurch.org](http://oldshipchurch.org) under Nurturing>>Sunday Caring Tasks. Also, a link is provided to SignUpGenius to sign up and, and check to see when you have signed up already! (or come see us at the Welcome Table!)

Q: What else can I do to help? This seems like it's a lot of work for you wonderful

people!

A: Why, thank you! If you'd like a small role in helping our committee without jumping in whole hog, how about being an usher coordinator for half the year? Or the whole year? You DON'T need to be here each Sunday, just monitoring the schedule in advance!

## Religious Education Notes

I've been busily preparing for the start-up of Sunday school... Trying to make things as organized and easy for the volunteer teachers as possible... This past week I was concentrating on the Spirit Play classroom and materials.



For those of you who aren't familiar with Spirit Play, here is the official description:

"A Unitarian Universalist religious education method and ministry based on Montessori philosophy and Jerome Berryman's Godly Play. Currently being used in Unitarian Universalist and other liberal churches across the continent, it incorporates multiple styles of learning, hands-on materials, and an atmosphere of the classroom as a sacred space."

As I was re-typing materials that had been lost in old dead computers and printing up signage for the room, I found myself falling into the soothing rhythm and blessed mind-set that Spirit Play evokes... Me? I think it's the reason we come to church... Or come together at all...

Here is how we begin every Spirit Play class:

I offer you peace.	<arms out front, palms up >
I offer you friendship.	<hands clasped together >
I offer you love.	<hands hugging self >

I see your beauty.	<hands to corner of eyes >
I hear your needs.	<hands to ears>
I feel your feelings.	<hands to heart >

My wisdom comes from a higher source.	<arms raised above head >
I honor that source in you.	<hands extended to other people >
Let us work together.	<hands clasped together >

And here is how we end:

We are going out now  
into the world...

But remember that wherever you go,  
Here, you will find the hands of friends.

Nice, huh?

Finding the "spirit play" in all of us...  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education

## Candlelight Concert series

The Candlelight Concert series opens its season at 4 PM on Sunday, October 5, with a performance by the Fenway Brass. Admission is free; your donation is gratefully accepted at the door.



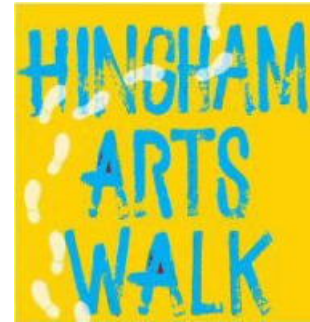
## Membership

Pumpkins and turkey's and pies, oh my! Fall is full of fun activities and surprises and I hope to provide that for all of you.

October 19th is the 9th Annual Hingham Arts Walk and Old Ship will be participating! There will be local artists exhibiting their work while we will give tours and highlight our beautiful, historic buildings. Perhaps there will be a pie or two!

For more information please contact me at [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org).

I hope to see you all there!  
Erin



## Mad Hatter Auction!

**Saturday, October 25, 7pm**

Mark your calendars for October 25th, choose your hat or costume, and head to the Old Ship Parish House where \$5 will get you through the door for an evening of fun and community.

Think about your talents, abilities, and resources, and donate a service or good that someone else would bid for. This is a way to connect with each other. An auction booklet will be sent via email so that you can view the offers and hard copies will be available in the church office. Also you will be able to bid on items even if you are unable to attend the event. Proxy Bidding Form will be available. And we will all have a great time!

Contact Betty Fernandes with your donations (781 749-0095) [bettyfern@comcast.net](mailto:bettyfern@comcast.net) by October 10th.



## Social Justice Council News



Some quick FACTS about Food Insecurity here in Massachusetts: According to Project Bread ([www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org)), hunger is not a fleeting need for 14% of Massachusetts households.

- 700,000 children and adults are affected by food insecurity. This is 40% higher than prior to the last recession, and 80% higher than in the year 2000!
- 16% of children in Massachusetts are food insecure.



The Social Justice Council has asked and the Nurturing Community Council has agreed to join together to encourage members of the congregation to serve others by donating food to the Hingham Food Pantry once a month in place of serving snacks during Fellowship Hour. This will take place on the following Sundays:

- October 19
- November 16
- December 14

These are the items most critically needed at the food pantry:

- Sugar in boxes (easier to carry)
- Cold Cereal - unsweetened
- Oatmeal/boxed or packages, breakfast bars
- Prepared Pastas/Rice/Dry pastas
- Mac & Cheese
- Tuna Fish - packed in water, Mayo
- Progresso Soups / Campbell's - Chunky Soups/Dry - or add water
- Crackers for soup - Saltines/Unsalted
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Ravioli/Spaghetti O's, canned beef stew, canned beans
- Dried Pasta / sauces
- Hamburger Helper
- Jelly / Jam / Peanut Butter
- Popcorn - microwave or fresh
- Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Relish, oils, Mayo

Donation baskets are located in the Parish House and Meeting House entryways.

Learn about where candidates for governor stand on Issues of Homelessness! Go to: [www.sparechangenew.net/candidates](http://www.sparechangenew.net/candidates).

### **Help at Father Bill's**

For over twenty years people from Old Ship have cooked meals for Father Bill's, a homeless shelter in Quincy. To our regret, two outstanding chefs, Lee Biegel and Betty Fernandes, have moved or are moving away and we are left with a great gap, in every sense.

Groups of four or five (hopefully) provide an entrée and salad on the first Monday and the second Tuesday of every month. Each person who volunteers, however, is responsible for cooking only four times a year. If you are interested, please give me a (most welcome!) call at 781-749-2852. Thank you.

Fan Leonard

## 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  
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 Tricco, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org, (781)-749-1679  
Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkreb@gmail.com, (781-749-1679)

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