



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

### April 2017 Newsletter

[Want to print out the newsletter? Click here.](#)

## Worship

### Sunday, April 2, 10:25am

"Resilience" is Ken's sermon title for this week. How is it that we human beings so often manage to keep going when we think we can't? How can we strengthen our personal resilience, physically and/or spiritually? How can we strengthen our shared resilience?

At noon in the Parish House parlor the Social Justice Council will host a conversation concerning the future direction of our Old Ship service and activism. Bring your question, your ideas, and your energy. All are invited.

### Sunday, April 9, 10:25am

Ken will be joined by Jim Scott, Unitarian Universalist composer, song-leader, guitarist extraordinaire, and environmental activist who when co-chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth helped to create our UU "Green Sanctuary" program.

Some of you will remember Jim and his music from earlier appearances at Old Ship. His theme this year will be "Turning Toward the Sun - Spring and Transformation: All is rekindled in the turn toward the sun, longer days, another spring and another transformation." Jim's songs and poetry reaffirm our place in the amazing, continuing web of life, more important than ever in the midst the crisis of the life spirit of the earth.

### Sunday, April 16, 10:25am - Easter

Ken's sermon for Easter this year will be "The Gift of Easter." Ken writes: "It seems to me that something in the human spirit yearns for something like Easter, and this 'something' transcends categories of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Unitarian Universalist, in fact transcends believers and non-believers. We will celebrate gifts given and received that respond to this yearning."

There will be a cooperative egg hunt for the younger set. Sensible shoes and warm clothing are the attire for this outside event. More details on this non-competitive egg hunt can be found by [clicking here.](#)

### Sunday, April 23, 10:25am

"The Poetry of Earth" is the theme for this year's Earth Day worship service.

Earth Day always falls during National Poetry Month, yet usually not much is made of this. Well, this year we will make something of it! In the midst of the crisis of climate change and the proposed roll-back of all sorts of federal environmental regulations, might the role of poetry be all the more important? Yes, we need good science, but don't we also need good poetry to offer both solace and inspiration?

This service will also serve as an introduction to this year's spring poetry class led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown (see details elsewhere in the newsletter).

### Sunday, April 30

"We Are Marching" will be Ken's sermon, coming the day after the Climate March on Washington and many other related marches and rallies across the country and around the world. What good

does a march do? What is the power of one foot in front of the other or one turn of the wheel after another... with others?

### **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.*

*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.*

### **Musing**

from the minister's desk

April this year includes the celebration of Passover, Easter, and Earth Day - in that order. Each festival has its own integrity and meaning, but there are also threads of similarity. Though Passover honors the story of the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to freedom in the promised land of Israel, and Easter marks for Christians the resurrection of Christ, both festivals also have more ancient roots in various pagan spring festivals. As for Earth Day, though theoretically any day could have been chosen for the first Earth Day forty-seven years ago, spring certainly seemed the right time to celebrate the Earth

The alignment this year is suggestive in itself, and not only because of the chronological progression from the most ancient, the Jewish festival of Passover, to the next in line Easter, and finally Earth Day. The progression is also suggestive as each festival in a way enlarges the circle of concern: Passover celebrates the liberation of one people, a relatively small portion of the human family; Easter is a festival for Christians, a larger portion of humanity; and Earth Day is for everyone - and not just the human everyone.

There are indeed implicit universal messages for everyone within the Jewish and Christian holidays of Passover and Easter, but Earth Day is quite explicit in its universal inclusion of all life on the planet. It's not that Earth Day is "better" than the others. Passover and Easter serve a deep need for Jews and Christians, as well as for others who tease out the universal meanings. But Earth day explicitly includes those of every background, religion, nation, including all creatures great and small.

April of course begins with April Fools Day - but I'm not fooling when I invite us to explore and be inspired by each of the holidays and holy days of the month.

Peace and blessings,  
—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*

### **Notes from your Membership Coordinator**

Spring has returned.  
The Earth is like a child  
that knows poems.  
-Rainer Maria Rilke

With each blossoming flower, with each green leaf and warm, sunny, day, I feel renewed. Spring has a way of doing that to us, doesn't it? It reminds me that each day is an opportunity to live. It reminds me that after months of cold and darkness it will warm and the sun will stay out longer and longer. It reminds me that I have hibernated enough and I have work to do.

The work I do at Old Ship renews me: last month Ken did a Blessing of the Animals. It was a very, very cold day but sunny and beautiful. Dogs and one cat surrounded Ken and their owners to be blessed for the upcoming year. Two months ago we celebrated another Birthday Day and watching everyone eat cake and laugh and sit with people they may not have met before made my heart happy. What's next? A gathering for newcomers and new members. Another Community Dinner. And, of course, great conversations at Fellowship Hour.

This Spring is an opportunity for you to strengthen your Old Ship community. Take the time to look at the new faces, like new flowers, and appreciate all they have to offer.

Kindly,  
Erin  
Membership Coordinator

### **Director of Religious Education**

Earlier this year, I wrote:

This year, based on the interest and initiative of the Youth themselves, they will be travelling to Immokalee, FL on the April school vacation week. Through the UU College of Social Justice, they will be working with, and learning from, the Immokalee farm workers.

And: They do these trips because the urge to be "of use" is strong and real...

But: That does not preclude having fun along the way...

This past Saturday, we did our first ever, (and now, first annual) Banding Together. The previous Sunday, Ken had announced it as "Old Ship Woodstock"; saying, "Everyone will say they were there... etc etc" and people chuckled... I may have even rolled my eyes...





Ken was right. If you weren't there, you missed something really great! Don't miss it again next year...

Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religion Education  
[Bev's email](#)

P. S. We need volunteers willing to fill up Easter eggs. Interested? [Email Beverly](#). Thanks!

## Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

### A Piano at Old Ship Church

Starting in April, I will be loaning my piano to Old Ship Church for a period of six months. It will be in the Meeting House, up front where the electric piano is now. (Yes, I measured and it will fit with room to spare!) The piano is a Steinway A, built in 1917. It has a sonorous, rich sound characteristic of early 20th-century Steinways.

The piano belonged to my aunt, Jeanne Toombs, who was a piano teacher for over thirty years. Hundreds of children have learned to play on this piano! I inherited it when she passed away in 2008. My aunt would have been very excited to know that the members of the Old Ship community will be able to enjoy her beautiful instrument, if only for a few months.

The exact date of arrival is yet to be determined-the piano movers want to wait until the weather warms up. There will be special music to celebrate its arrival and we will make good use of it while it is here. I will announce the delivery date in the weekly newsletter. My piano is very dear to me and I can't wait to share it with all of you!

Peace,  
Chris Hossfeld  
[musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org)



## **Among Us**

### **Joys and Concerns**

Old Ship member Ross Smith died on Sunday, March 19, at Rose Court at Linden Ponds after a long illness. We send our deep sympathy to Ross's wife, Mia, and to all their family. Though not active at Old Ship in recent years, Ross many years ago served as chair of Old Ship's Parish Committee (the pre-cursor of the Board of Trustees), sang in the choir, and was active in other ways as well, bringing his sharp intellect and spirit to whatever he did. A memorial service for Ross has been scheduled for Saturday, July 22, to be held at Old Ship.

Old Ship member Yvette Kaplan died on the morning of March 21 at South Shore Hospital. She was 78. Her son Saul was at her side, and we send our deep sympathy to him. Yvette struggled courageously with pancreatic cancer for the past few years, continuing to travel as long as she was able and remaining in active contact with old friends. Born in Hungary, she experienced German occupation as a child, then escaped with her sister during the early years of communist rule. A member of Old Ship for many years, we will long remember her quiet, yet strong nature. A service in celebration of her life will be held at Old Ship, likely early in July.

We send our deep sympathy to Pia Young and her family. Pia's mother died on March 5, after a brief illness. She was 92 years old, and had lived a full and beautiful life. A service in celebration of her life was held at First Parish of Stow & Acton, with Ken Read-Brown officiating.

We send healing good wishes to Hal Thomas, as he recovers and rehabs from hip surgery early in March.

We continue to send healing wishes to Joan Ramsay, as she continues her long recovery from her fall when visiting her daughter Claire in the Cleveland area. Notes may continue to be sent to Joan, c/o her daughter: Claire Ramsay, 200 Granger Road, Unit 37, Medina, OH, 44256.

**Sunday Flower Donor Needed for April 23**

We have an upcoming date available to be a Sunday Flowers donor: April 23. You may provide your own floral arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for you for a \$50 charge (covers the cost of the flowers and supplies). Please contact Sharon Prehn (781-925-0101 or [prehn@verizon.net](mailto:prehn@verizon.net)) to become a donor.  
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!

Ralph Brown, [ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) (781-925-9197)  
Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com) (781-749-2248)  
Elaine Gomez, [eh-gomez@comcast.net](mailto:eh-gomez@comcast.net) (781-740-1663)  
Alicia Harkness, [PAJL7@verizon.net](mailto:PAJL7@verizon.net) (781-749-7825)  
Fan Leonard, [toomuchfun33@hotmail.com](mailto:toomuchfun33@hotmail.com) (781-749-2852)  
Joan Wilson, [joanielw@verizon.net](mailto:joanielw@verizon.net) (781-740-8840)  
Beverly Tricco, [oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org) (781-749-1679)  
Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkreb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkreb@gmail.com) (781-749-1679)

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

## **May Breakfast and Plant Sale is Saturday, May 6.**

**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 was 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 and beyond 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 [Jbbmcphillips@gmail.com](mailto:Jbbmcphillips@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 over \$2700. 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 or Diane Elliott to become involved. Thank you so much for getting involved and helping out

### **May Breakfast Schedule for 2017**

MAY 5: Friday Set-up...morning and afternoon

MAY 6: 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:

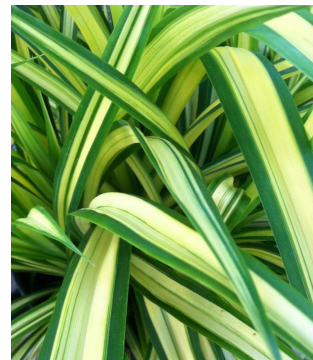
Janice McPhillips, [jbbmcphillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcphillips@gmail.com), 781-740-8782

\*Kitchen: Alicia Harkness, [pail7@verizon.net](mailto:pail7@verizon.net), 781-749-7825,

Janet Asnes, [asnes@comcast.net](mailto:asnes@comcast.net), 781-878-9886

### **Calling all gardeners and plant lovers!**

It's time to start thinking about the May Breakfast Plant Sale which is on Saturday May 6th! Please consider digging up and dividing any plants from your yard that you are willing to donate to the plant sale. We need donations of interesting plants to make this plant sale fun and successful! If you can, please divide your plants and put them into pots soon so they will recover from transplant shock and be in good shape for the plant sale. Don't forget to label the plant with the name and any special information about growing conditions (sun, shade, wet, dry, etc.) You can drop donations off by the side door of the Parish House any time during the week prior to the plant sale. There will be a collection of empty pots by the Parish House office. If you need additional pots or need any help digging your perennials, please contact Janice McPhillips at [jbbmcphillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcphillips@gmail.com) or 781-740-8782.



There are many ways you can help in addition to donating plants - we need helpers to set up the plant sale on Friday May 5th, we need help selling plants on the day of the plant sale, we need help digging up plants from the Memorial Garden behind the Meeting House and we from some other gardens around town. We also need help bagging up some composted horse manure to sell at the plant sale. If any of those activities sound like things you can help with, please get in touch with Janice.

**Old Ship Fellowship Hall renter, South Shore Launch Program, continues after one year**

The South Shore Support Services has been renting Fellowship Hall for one year as of April 2017. This program provides job training and life skills to young adults with intellectual disabilities over 22 years old. This relationship is great in that it aligns well with Old Ship's values and mission and also provides significant rental income to Old Ship's bottom line. As we move into our second year, please be mindful to not walk through Fellowship Hall Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. It is disruptive to their clients. Thank you.

**Candlelight Concerts presents Strange Interlude on Sunday, April 30 at 4pm**

The last performance in this year's Candlelight Concert series will be presented by Strange Interlude, a cello and harp duo, on Sunday, April 30th at 4:00.

"Pardon me while I have a strange interlude..." is a line made famous by Groucho Marx in a 1930 comedy film. Based in the Boston area, Strange Interlude was founded by harpist Lily Press and cellist Simon Linn-Gerstein, who have been performing together since 2007. As both a duo and larger ensemble, Press and Linn-Gerstein design intimate salon-style concerts with programs that are carefully curated to include seldom-performed works, pieces by contemporary composers as well as transcriptions and arrangements for their unique instrumentation. This concert will be presented free of charge; your contribution is welcome. Please join us for this special event.

**Green Sanctuary News**

**Solar Hingham Program Brings Solar to Hingham Rooftops**

Local volunteers team up to launch new program designed to make solar easy and more affordable. Learn more at a meeting on April 5 in Hingham High School, room 103, 7 - 8:30 pm. For more information contact: Janice McPhillips, Local Solar Hingham volunteer [solarhingham@gmail.com](mailto:solarhingham@gmail.com) or 781-908-0696.

**Introducing Our 2017-2018 Student Intern Minister**

Later this spring we will all have an opportunity to meet David Egan, who will serve from this September through next June as our student intern minister. Because of financial constraints, it has been many years since we have had an intern, so we are grateful to the Old Ship Deacons for making this one year part-time internship possible for David and for us.

David is currently enrolled at Andover Newton Theological School, planning to complete his studies in the spring of 2018. During the current "church year" David is serving as a student intern at our UU congregation in Canton. Prior to embarking on his journey towards UU ministry, David was an actor and then for thirteen years taught art in public schools in Connecticut, Quincy, and Roxbury.

David is married, and he and his wife Karina have two young children, Maya and Lyla. They live in Quincy.

We are looking forward to having David among us! We are confident he will have much to offer us, as we further his preparation for UU ministry.

—Ken Read-Brown, minister  
—Nina Price, for the Board of Trustees

## **Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs**

**Building Your Own Theology** - four sessions, 7:00, Wed., March 29 - April 19, plus a closing Saturday session on April 22; led by Diane Elliott and Ken Read-Brown

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic UU adult education program, tailored for Old Ship by Diane and Ken, invites participants to develop their own personal credos and to grow in their ability to understand and articulate their own beliefs and values. For more information and to sign up, contact Diane or Ken.

**Spring Poetry: Poetry of the Earth** - four sessions, Wed., April 26 - May 17, 1:00 and 7:00; led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown.

Our annual spring poetry class, held during National Poetry month, will be exploring poetry that strengthens our love of the natural world and that addresses indirectly or directly environmental issues, including climate change. For more info and to sign up, contact Elizabeth or Ken. Spring poetry this year will also include a special evening of poetry, reflection, and conversation with Gordon Postill, Saturday evening, April 29, 7:00.

### **Women's Breakfast**

Women's Breakfast is rapidly becoming an established tradition at Old Ship. We meet on the fourth Sunday in the month, so please join us on Sunday, April 23, at 8:30 in the Parlor. During the gathering, everyone will have a chance to check in for a few minutes, which will be followed by general conversation. What a wonderful way to get to know other Old Ship women in a meaningful way! Coffee and "goodies" will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Janice McPhillips ([ibbmcpillips@gmail.com](mailto:ibbmcpillips@gmail.com)) or Ivy Butterworth ([ivy\\_butter@yahoo.com](mailto:ivy_butter@yahoo.com)).

### **Other ongoing groups and gatherings....**

[Link here](#) to the page on our web site that includes descriptions of all these groups: from opportunities to meditate and study spiritual texts ancient and modern as described above, to the Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

## **Social Justice Council**

**Future Directions for Social Justice at Old Ship will be the focus for the Sunday Forum on Sunday, April 2 at 12 p.m. in the Parish House parlor.**

To build upon what has been accomplished during the last three years with the focus for social justice on homelessness and hunger, the Social Justice Council is inviting and encouraging members of the Old Ship community to attend this discussion of recommendations by the Social Justice Council.

This conversation will be an opportunity to share perspectives about the possible expansion of the theme of Homelessness and Hunger, and to share ideas for new strategies of collaboration and communication among Old Shippers and the community. Bring your thoughts, your questions, and your comments. For those who would like to share in the discussion and cannot attend the Forum, Ginny Perelson can be contacted by email: [gperelson@gmail.com](mailto:gperelson@gmail.com).

### **Hingham Food Pantry**

Thanks to all who participated as volunteers and shoppers during the annual Stop and Shop food drive. This year we collected 1397 lbs. of food for the local food pantry and raised \$357! The next food donation during the time of Fellowship will be Sunday, April 23.

As always, cash is appreciated along with food items. And new venture is being launched at the food pantry: Dog and cat food will also be accepted as a donation for residents who have pets.

**Cupcakes with a Cause on Sunday, March 19 raised \$391! to be donated to School on Wheels .**

**Save the Date: Sunday, June 11 is Justice Sunday.**

The UUA/UUSC theme this year is "Protecting Vulnerable Populations". There will be an opportunity during Fellowship to advocate by writing postcards to legislators. Plus, there will be a family theatre performance of the "Pineapple Project" which is written by Chuck and Jane Malme's daughter Mal.

**Unitarian Universalist Association's New England's Regional Assembly -  
April 21-22, 2017 in Woburn, MA**

Your New England Region UUA is bringing us a unique opportunity to gather with New England Unitarian Universalists for a celebration of spirit. Worship with acclaimed liturgist-singer-music director Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and UU/UCC preacher Rev. Robin Bartlett. Sing with composer-musician-song leader Dr. Ysaye Barnwell. Attend a UUA Presidential Candidates Forum. Meet and greet your New England Region UUA staff, and choose from three workshops being offered. REGISTER: [new-england.eventbrite.com](http://new-england.eventbrite.com) Youth are welcome to participate; special rate for ages 12-19. Free child care available for ages 11 and under.

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