



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

[office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

### January 2017 Newsletter

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## Worship

### Sunday, January 1, 10:25am

Our annual service sharing readings and poems falls on New Year's Day this year. Bring a reading to share, or just bring listening ears. Ken will provide a light breakfast (yes, including that famous home-made granola) at 9:30, followed by our service at 10:30. All in the Fellowship Hall.

### Sunday, January 8, 10:25am

"I'll Meet You There" is the title of Ken's sermon, the title taken from well-known lines of the thirteenth century Sufi poet Rumi. What does Sufism, by many considered to be the mystical side of Islam, have to offer us - and the world - now, spiritually and otherwise? The sermon will serve in part as an introduction to Ken's class, "Mystical Dimensions of Islam", which begins on Wednesday, January 11. (See details of the class elsewhere in the newsletter.)



### Sunday, January 15, 10:25am

On this date of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Ken will speak on the "Moral Arc of the Universe" - an idea Dr. King returned to often, derived from the words of the 19th century Unitarian preacher and abolitionist Theodore Parker. It is a beautiful image... but what might it really mean?

Fellowship Hour will be a "Birthday Day" - with cake at twelve tables, one for each month of the year. See our Membership Coordinator's article below for further details.

### Sunday, January 22, 10:25am

Two days after the inauguration of our new president, Ken's sermon will be "Keeping On". Whatever our politics, however we voted, and however we feel about the new administration, how do we, each of us and as a community, decide where to put our energies, from personal to political?

There will be a sermon conversation in the Parish House parlor at noon.

### Sunday, January 29, 10:25am

Ken will be exchanging pulpits with Rev. Stephanie Shute Kelsch, the minister at Second Parish in Hingham - an annual exchange at about this time of year. So, Stephanie, a descendant of the first minister of Second Parish, will be preaching here; and Ken, a descendant of our first minister, will be preaching at Second Parish.

Stephanie's sermon will be "Do You Hear What I Hear?". She writes: "We each hear things differently, interpreting what others say in light of not just their tone and purpose but also our own experience and priorities. What's the point of trying to understand how others will respond to a message? How could we even accomplish such a thing?"

### 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***

We have lived through uncertain, troubled, and challenging times before. Indeed, a case can be made that just about every time has dimensions of uncertainty, trouble, and challenge. Of course this is not to say that we needn't be concerned. Not at all. It is, however, to affirm that we human beings have evolved to have the resilience and moral capacity to rise to these or any times.

So as Christmas and Hanukkah and Kwanzaa give way to the turning of the year, we reflect this year as we do every year on how best to live our lives - personally in relation to one to another, as citizens, and as part of the community of life we call Earth. In this spirit here is a passage I often share at the annual service of shared readings in our Fellowship Hall at about the time of the New Year. These are the words of His Holiness the Dalai Lama:

May I become at all times, both now and forever  
A protector for those without protection,  
A guide for those who have lost their way,  
A ship for those with oceans to cross,  
A bridge for those with rivers to cross,  
A sanctuary for those in danger,  
A lamp for those without light,  
A place of refuge for those who lack shelter,  
And a servant to all in need.

Of course no single one of us can do or be all these things for all people. That's not the point. I read these words as aspirational, reminding me of the spirit with which I would like to live more fully, if inevitably imperfectly, as we enter the journey of a new year. In this spirit, then, I invite you to share this continuing journey.

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**

As the song goes, "Baby, it's cold outside!"--and it sure is! Summer feels like a dream and by now we've seen our first snow fall (maybe even two!). Even with the cold weather we are still seeing lots of newcomers; no doubt you've noticed new faces during service and Fellowship Hour!

We will have another Community Dinner on January 28th. If you'd like to host or attend, please let me know. There will also be sign up sheets near the coffee in the Parish Hall during Fellowship Hour. On January 15th we will celebrate "Birthday Day" again. This fun, multi-generational event is designed to get you talking to people you may not have met yet. And, of course, there's cake! I will be asking for twelve volunteers to bake a 9 X 13 sized cake so that we have one for every month of the year. Last year's Birthday Day was a success and I know this year's will be, too!

As always please say hello to any new faces you see. You could be the warm and welcoming presence that gets someone to come back the following week!

Kindly,  
Erin Alix  
Membership Coordinator  
membership@oldshipchurch.org

### Director of Religious Education

Did you know that this is the THIRD year the Sunday school has been making bagged lunches for Father Bill's? Some people don't know, as evidenced by an e-mail I got from Lisa Nakamoto, teacher for the Grades 4&5 group:

*"They asked what we were doing and when I told them, they were both so happy to hear that the kids make the lunches every month. M\_\_\_ pointed out that her husband used to volunteer for making the meals at Father Bill's so she liked that the church adults helped at Father Bill's and that the kids here helped as well.*

*Both of them [ M\_\_\_ and another woman] thought it was delightful to see the kids doing this, and mentioned that it was wonderful stuff that most people in the congregation probably have no idea happens..."*



2 years ago



Once a month, one of our classroom groups uses their Sunday School session to make forty sandwiches and to assemble forty bagged lunches. Sometimes the sandwiches are peanut butter and jelly; sometimes they are cheese and mustard. And we have conversations like this: "Why peanut butter and jelly?" - Because the lunches are for tomorrow/Monday and PB&J will taste good tomorrow and not go bad if people have to carry them around for hours, without a refrigerator.

"Why not always peanut butter and jelly then?" - Because some of our Old Ship kids have nut allergies. On the months that their groups make lunches, we use cheese and mustard for sandwiches.

"Why mustard? Nobody likes mustard with cheese." - Some people DO like mustard with cheese. AND mustard will not go bad if people have to carry them around without a refrigerator.



This year.



Being useful, learning compassion,  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religion Education  
beverlytmail@gmail.com

### Youth Group Update

As the new year approaches, our Youth Group is gearing up for its fourth service trip! We're heading to Immokalee, FL where we will partner with organizations working to improve migrant farmers working conditions and compensation. We'll also further our knowledge about food sustainability and ecological justice. Please watch your mail in early January for a letter directly from the Youth Group with more information. We also have some fun community wide fundraisers planned in the coming months!

Sarah Hurley  
Youth Group Advisor

### Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Join the Choir!  
The Old Ship Choir always welcomes new members. Whether you have been in a choir before or would like to give singing a try, please consider joining us for practices on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. and on Sunday mornings for services (rehearsal at 9:15 a.m.). E-mail Chris Hossfeld at [musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org) if you have any questions.



### Coffeehouse in January presents Paul Rishell and Annie Raines

The January Coffeehouse Off the Square will feature a return of this W.C. Handy Award-winning Delta Blues Duo, which combines Paul's earthy singing, sweet but pungent guitar style and deep knowledge of the genre with Annie's spirited soaring vocals and fierce harmonica work. The results are "So good it hurts" according to the renowned Pine Top Perkins. Anne and Paul just keep growing, and together they continue to thrill audiences far and wide. Not to be missed! As usual all proceeds go to the human rights programs of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Admission is \$15 at the door (no advance tickets). In our Fellowship hall, 8:00, Saturday, January 21.

Here is a video clip:





## Among Us

### News from Joan Ramsay

With the help of her daughter Claire, Joan has written a Christmas letter to friends, including all of us here at Old Ship, in which she writes of her continuing recovery from her terrible escalator fall at the Cleveland airport, on her way to visit Claire last summer. She continues to stay at a rehab facility, participating in three hours of physical, occupational, and speech therapy each day. Joan's various wounds are healing, and she has begun to eat soft food. Claire spends hours with Joan every day, and her grandchildren frequently visit as well. Joan's plan is to eventually get back to her home at Linden Ponds here in Hingham. Finally, she writes of her appreciation for all the cards and well wishes she has received. If anyone wishes to send a card or note, the address is still c/o Claire Ramsay: Joan Ramsay, 200 Granger Road, Unit 37, Medina, OH 44256.

### 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.

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

**Mystical Dimensions of Islam** - five sessions, Wed. Jan. 11- Feb. 8, 1:00 and 7:00  
led by Ken Read-Brown

We will be continuing the exploration of Islam begun last year, this time focusing on the "mystical dimensions" of the Islam tradition, which largely means the tradition known as Sufism. The class will include exploration of the work of Rumi, Hafiz, Ibn Arabi, and others. For more information and to sign up contact Ken, [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.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, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

## **Social Justice Council**

### **Hingham Food Pantry**

Thanks to all who have been contributing food donations during Coffee/Fellowship Hour. Here is the schedule for the next six months: 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21 and 6/11.

January 22 will be the next date for the food collection. Reminder that cash is also acceptable. THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

The annual **holiday party for South Shore Friends of the Homeless** was a great success. The congregation donated over \$900. The money collected went to covering the cost of the food, and the remainder went directly to Friends of the Homeless as a donation.

We had plenty of volunteers and were able to pull it off without use of the oven and stove in the kitchen thanks to many individuals preparing dishes at home and delivering them to Old Ship.



### **SAVE the DATE**

Saturday, February 4th

will be the annual Social Justice community dinner. John Lantham from Father Bill's will be the featured speaker.

### **Martin Luther King Day event sponsored by Hingham Hull Religious Leaders**

Mark your calendar for a Martin Luther King, Jr., event at 3:00 on Dr. King's birthday, Sunday, January 15. Folksinger and former Connecticut State Troubadour and social activist Kristen Graves ([www.kristengraves.com](http://www.kristengraves.com)) will be leading the program, which will also feature songs led by Hingham Hull Religious Leaders - including our own Ken Read-Brown (maybe with some other Old Ship folks too...). The event will be held at Hingham House of Prayer (Lutheran), 916 Main Street, at 3:00.

## **Merrie Market a Record-Breaking Success!**

A huge sleigh-full of thanks to all of the elves who worked their magic and spent their pennies to make Merrie Market 2016 a resounding success! So many folks contribute- from donating, making, baking, cooking items, to helping with publicity, set-up, organizing, selling, and clean-up. It is a huge community event and our biggest fundraiser. We raised over \$17,000 from the most beautiful wreaths in town, the soul-warming Jingle Café, and tables decked with Treasures and jewelry, unique hand-made crafts, the latest in a line of Old Ship ornaments, scrumptious baked goods, sumptuous gift baskets, enticing silent auction offerings, enchanting toys, books for all readers, delightful items crafted by the youth, and raffles of the gingerbread house, Ken's visage and more. Financial results to date.

Table	Starting \$ in Box	Collected	Credit Card	Net (Before Expenses)
Authors	\$ -	\$0	\$0	\$0
Baked Goods	\$ 40	\$564	\$0	\$524
Crafts	\$ 40	\$1,425	\$178	\$2,207
Gift Baskets	\$ 50	\$675	\$465	\$1,170
Jingle Café	\$ 50	\$727	\$10	\$687
Media Mart / Books	\$ 50	\$603	\$0	\$553
Raffle / Gingerbread Houses	\$ 40	\$203	\$0	\$163
Silent Auction	\$ -	\$545	\$975	\$3,285
Toys	\$ 50	\$683	\$6	\$639
Treasures	\$ 140	\$3,928	\$352	\$4,437
Wreaths	\$ 60	\$2,489	\$360	\$3,334
Youth	\$ -	\$0	\$0	\$632
			\$2,346	\$16,998
Adjustments Included				
Add Youth				632.00
Fan check / Treasures Cash				(300.00)
Wreaths Pre Sold				500.00
Silent Auction Owed				1,765.00
<b>Sunday Dec 4 Added</b>				
Crafts				\$325.00
Gift Baskets				\$80.00
Treasures				\$261.75
Wreaths				\$45.00
<b>Sunday Dec 4 Total</b>				<b>\$711.75</b>
<b>Updates Dec 15</b>				
Crafts on Sunday Dec 11				\$319.00
Reported 12/15 for Treasures				
Leftovers to Savers				\$54.90
Desk / Ebay (Marge Vining)				\$90.00
Add'l Marge Vining (J Leonard)				\$190.00
Treasures since Dec 4				\$334.90

A special thanks to those chairing the events: Fan Leonard and Diane Elliott on Treasures, Pat Bianco with wreaths, Ivy and Rick Butterworth with books, Bev Tricco, Dana Tricco, and Susannah Thomas with toys, Mary Sofis and Sharon Prehn with baskets, Diane Willson with crafts, Joan Wilson for baked goods and gingerbread house, Maureen Butler and Nina Price with Silent Auction, Florence Noonan with publicity, Sarah Hurley and the Youth with Youth crafts, Janet Asnes and Alicia Harkness with Jingle Café, Mike Dwyer, John Sneath, and Bryan Hurley with finances. We are also well supported by our Old Ship staff: Ken, Bev, Julianna, Erin, Mark, and Chris especially. A special thanks to our event leader, Diane Elliott, who works, with others all year long to make this event so fun and such a success. Our offerings provide unique and affordable presents to many in our community. It is a grand, seasonal tradition!

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