



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

May 2019 Newsletter

**June newsletter deadline:
Monday, May 27**

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

Worship

Sunday, May 5, 10:25am

Our "Coming of Age" youth will be recognized and honored in a service that will include each youth sharing their personal credo statements - always a moving and inspiring occasion. We hope all will attend; you will be lifted up by the messages they offer.



Sunday, May 12, 10:25am

"Music Sunday," a Mother's Day tradition at Old Ship, will feature our choir singing Mozart's "Solemn Vespers." The piece is anything but "solemn". Come and hear this wonderfully uplifting music, featuring our soloists and a piano trio arrangement of the original score. The service will also include a message from Ken Read-Brown: "The Truth That Can Save Us."

Sunday, May 19, 10:25am

This will be our annual Religious Growth and Learning Sunday held in the Fellowship Hall of the Parish House, during which we will honor our Old Ship high school graduates and celebrate life-long educating of minds and hearts.

The First Parish Annual Meeting will follow immediately at 11:15. In addition to hearing reports from various committees and staff, we will be voting on the budget for the next fiscal year (beginning July 1) and on matters relating to the Parish House project.

Sunday, May 26, 10:25am

On this Memorial Day Sunday, Ken's sermon will be "Sometimes" - reflections inspired in part by a poem by the same name by Sheenagh Pugh. Are we condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past: war, plunder of the natural world, oppression, racism? Or can we learn from the past to make a better future? And in honor of Pete Seeger's 100th birthday, we'll be sharing and singing some of his songs of peace and justice.

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

Sixteen springs ago we visited our daughter in Paris, who was there for her semester abroad. We attended Easter services at Notre Dame Cathedral. I remember nothing that was spoken (and in any case my French isn't very good), but I have indelible pictures in my mind's-eye of the cathedral itself - the soaring space, the beams, the rose windows, the statuary, the towers and spire. To think of Notre Dame burning is almost unfathomable, to actually see video of the burning cathedral was almost physically painful.

Yes, it is "only" a building, but like other iconic structures around the world it carries the resonance of history, culture, hopes, prayers, dreams, and of course awe-inspiring beauty.

Remarkably, as we now know and as a result of the courage and expertise of the fire-fighters, Notre Dame will be able to be restored. And in the end this may serve as one of the all-too-few examples of the world coming together in common cause across usually divisive political and religious boundaries, suggesting to us how the world could be more of the time: And not only to restore a cultural icon, but to create a world of more peace, more justice, more equality, more environmental stability.

We, the members of First Parish in Hingham, are of course trustees of another iconic religious structure. Old Ship is not as well-known as Notre Dame, but it is a cultural and historical treasure nevertheless. Fortunately, in this current generation we are blessed by volunteer leaders (I can't begin to name them all for fear of leaving some out) who have taken this charge of trusteeship with utmost care and concern. This spring and summer, because of these remarkable Old Ship members and the experts they have hired, restoration of our steeple will be taking place.

May our soon-to-be restored steeple, reaching to the sky, remind us of our highest aspirations, remind us that we are called in whatever ways we each can to help one another, to care for the earth, and to speak for peace and justice - to seek that unity across boundaries that our nation and this world of ours so desperately needs.

* * *

As you know, I'll be returning to active ministry among you as of May 1. My sabbatical time has been interesting and restorative in a variety of ways, and I am deeply grateful for having had this opportunity. It will be very good to see you all soon!

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

Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,

We're back from our service and learning trip to Vermont and there's so much I want you to know about it. I can give you a list of the agencies Sarah set us up to work with, and I can show you photos of the work we did for those agencies, but those agencies and those photos are on our Facebook page and on our Instagram, so I'll simply encourage you to take a look... and hit "like" or "love".

Instead, I'm going to tell you about something of which there are no photos...

Our nightly worships... there are no photos of those...

For the week, we were divided into three "touch groups", and those small groups took turns planning the evening worships.



The night I joined the trip in Vermont, I modeled the elements of worship that we would be using, and the tools that were in the worship box that we'd brought, and I gave them this simple recipe.

- 1 - A chalice lighting with a reading.
- 2 - Some breathing or meditation to bring us into the room and into our bodies.
- 3 - An exercise/experience to make each individual think or feel on the same topic.
- 4 - A relevant piece of music.
- 5 - A closing reading.

What they did with it was beyond anything I could have predicted.

Monday we worked with OUTRIGHT VERMONT and we learned so much about pronouns and language and how quickly terms change; we knew we had to cultivate "adaptability", and each of us spoke of a way we hoped to become more adaptable.

Tuesday with VERMONT YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS the group worked hard and long, in cold and difficult conditions; that night we asked: "Name someone in your life who demonstrates grit."

Wednesday at the offices of MILK WITH DIGNITY/ MIGRANT JUSTICE we made signs and art for protests and demonstrations; making us want to explore the feeling of, "A time in your life when you needed someone to speak up for you... and they did."

On Thursday, we traveled in separate groups, and by the time we all came back together we needed "tranquility", and we did guided relaxation and remembered a time on the trip when we felt most tranquil.

The agencies we met with and worked with were very well-organized and they worked us every minute they could. There was at LEAST as much serving on this trip as there was learning.

But the part that I was the most surprised by, and moved by, was that our Youth are darned good at planning deep and meaningful worship. Darned good.

Proud of our Youth...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Music Sunday is coming up in a few weeks! We are singing Mozart's "Solemn Vespers" this year. Our choir has been working hard on this piece for months-you have already heard a preview on Easter Sunday. Our soloists sound beautiful on Mozart's wonderful vocal lines. We will be using an arrangement I made of the orchestral score for piano trio (violin, cello, piano).

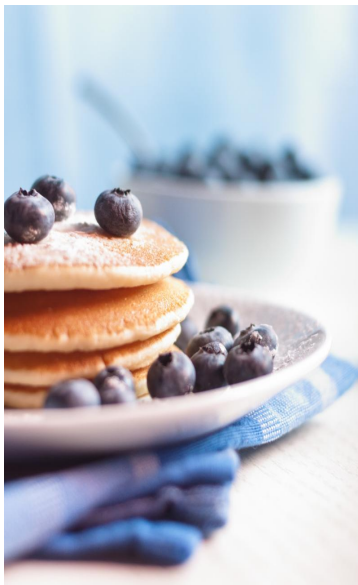
The texts for the music are the traditional psalms for a Catholic Vespers service. Mozart breathes new life to them, creating whole scenes with the music. The vocal writing is very operatic-especially for the soloists, who become characters in the scene. The ordinariness of the text becomes extraordinary in the hands of Mozart. This is one of his most beloved works. It includes some of his most beautiful choral writing, only surpassed by the exquisite Requiem.



I hope you will be able to come!
Chris

Christopher Hossfeld
Director of Music
musicedirector@oldshipchurch.org

May Breakfast and Plant Sale is Saturday, May 4.



Saturday, May 4, is the date to remember. 7:30-12:00 are the times to remember. (Breakfast will be served until 11:00. Plant sale continues until 12:00) Please come to Old Ship that morning for our amazing breakfast and plant sale. The breakfast will include coffee cake, fresh fruit, sausages, eggs and pancakes while a wide variety of plants (lily of the valley, lilacs, lupine, and forsythia) will be for sale. Our crafts table will feature the items that a number of Old Ship women have been working on for some time.

Volunteer information: This special event is only made possible because of the help of dozens of volunteers. Many, many thanks to all of you!

The first shift is from 7:15-9:30 while the second shift is from 9:15-11:30. We hope that the second shift people will help with the clean-up, which starts at 11:00.

Please look below to make certain that your name is listed for the correct shift. If you see any changes that we need to make, please let Ivy Butterworth know. (ivy_butter@yahoo.com).

We still need a few wait staff people (both shifts) and clean-up crew folks who can help starting at 11:00.

Friday, May 3: Setting up the dining room or plant table

Gail Slater, Charlotte Champagne, Dianne Walcott, Ivy Butterworth, Carol Valentine

Saturday, May 4:

First shift (7:15-9:30) ticket sellers

Second shift (9:15-11:30) ticket sellers

Jean Imlach, Davalene Cooper

Mary Thomas, Connie Gorfinkle

IF YOU ARE WORKING IN THE KITCHEN, PLEASE BRING A HAT THAT YOU CAN WEAR. THIS IS A HEALTH REGULATION THAT WE NEED TO FOLLOW.

First shift (7:15-9:30)--kitchen

Diane Elliott -counter

Robert Jaramillo -counter

Dana Kintigh -pancakes

Michael Mercurio -pancakes

Liz Flint -eggs

Rick Butterworth -dishwasher

Peter Lochtefeld -dishwasher

Abby Diamond -pots and pans

Second shift (9:15-11:30)-kitchen

Vanessa Burtner -counter

Kate Philbin -counter

Dennis Hogan -pancakes

Brian McPhillips -pancakes

Susannah Thomas -eggs

Rick Butterworth -dishwasher

Chris Sullivan -dishwasher

Nancy Gunshanan -pots and pans

Julie Hong and Maureen Crimmins
-supplies

Jill McElroy -supplies

First shift (7:15-9:30)-wait staff

Jayden Lee

Charlotte Champagne

Paul Stone

Pat Bianco

Anne McGuire

Matt Carson

Cierra West

Angel West

Dick Murphy

Second shift (9:15-11:30)-wait staff

Lisa Sawyer

Belinda Arams

Mary Murphy

David Murphy

Jayden Lee

Beth Lilly

Laura Harbottle

Dick Murphy

Dianne Walcott

First shift (7:15-9:30)-plant table cashiers Second shift (9:15-11:30)-plant table cashiers

Auri Fitz-Marquez

Corey Fitz-Marquez

Barbara Ganem

Monica Conyngham

Plant Table workers

Brenda Black, Janice McPhillips, Elizabeth Torrey (second shift), Kitty Ward (second shift)

Clean-up crew (coming in at 11:00)

Chris Sullivan, Dianne Walcott, Marilyn and Mike Scheffler, Ivy and Rick Butterworth

Board of Trustees

Reflections on our Budget from the Board President

Our annual pledge campaign is coming to an end and I've been spending a lot of time looking at our current budget, the pledges coming in for next year and the state of the sale of the Parish House. Budgets are interesting documents. On one hand, they are a straight forward tally of debits and credits. On the other hand they are a concrete statement of what we value. As we approach the end of our annual pledge campaign and prepare for our annual meeting, I have been reflecting a lot on both of these within the light of our Seven Principles.

I don't have an overall favorite principle although I will admit to quoting #1 a lot (the inherent worth and dignity of every person) because of its all-encompassing nature and, frankly, just really good words to live by. I'd like to focus on our 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. As Unitarian Universalists we have chosen to be here. We have chosen to come together as a community with a shared mission and vision - which we voted for. Each of us has made our own decision to be part of this congregation. It wasn't chosen for us. That in itself is something to celebrate. We have agreed to be responsible to each other in community with one another. Part of that responsibility is fiscal.

We don't like to talk about money. It is considered not very spiritual. I would argue otherwise. I believe that discussing our fiscal responsibilities is key to our spiritual growth. Being good stewards of our assets is fundamental to who we are as a congregation. And, as with every family, we need to know where we stand financially.

For the past five years we have not met our budgeted goals. For the past two years we have voted and passed a deficit budget. In fiscal year 2018 we ended at -\$13,615. For FY2019, it is looking like it will be around -\$25,000. We have not been maintaining our building and we have not contributed to the UUA, thus not supporting our own infrastructure or the association which supports and serves our religious movement. Our bylaws allow us to draw up to 4% of the value of our endowment for our operating budget, and we have done this the past few years and still have fallen short. Why are we not achieving a balanced budget? It is simple. We are spending more than we take in. Each year our income does not keep up with our expenses. The majority of our income comes from pledges. For this coming year we striving for \$270,000 in pledges. As of the April 18th, we have only received \$206,000 in pledges. Our expenses are not extraordinary. Our staff are paid according to the UUA guidelines but, in my opinion, are worth so much more. Our utilities are managed to the best of our ability. We do bare maintenance on our buildings and grounds, which is not a good long term plan. In short, currently there is not a lot of wiggle room.

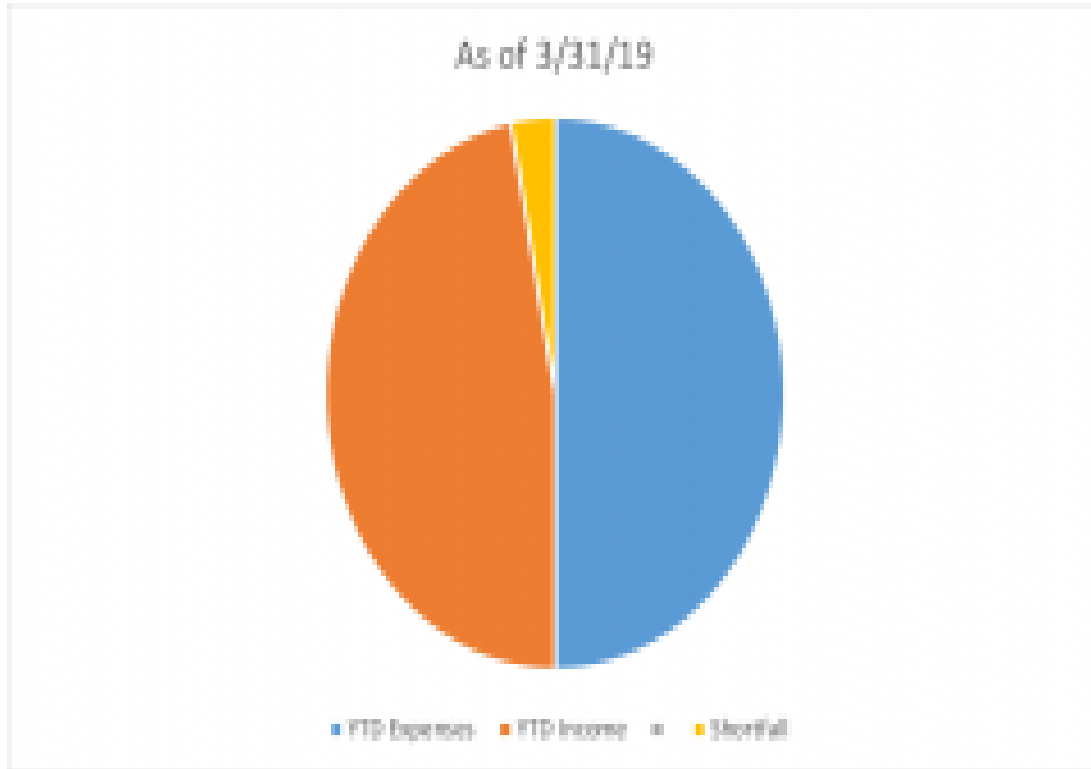
We want to present a balanced budget for FY2020 at annual meeting on May 19th. We are currently \$60,000 short of pledges to achieve that. The budget we will present will be based on the total amount of pledges we receive by May 1st. As a congregation, we will need to vote on the final budget. We will declare what our priorities are as a community. If you have not pledged yet, please do so. When I reviewed my pledge from last year I realized that I had maintained the same level for three years and concluded that I could support a 5% increase in my pledge to Old Ship. If you have already pledged, and are financially able to do so, please consider increasing it. Help us give you the information you need to be informed about of congregational life.

As I write this, we do not have an offer on the sale of the Parish House. You, as members of the congregation, voted three years ago to put the Parish House on the market with the intention of building a more efficient building adjacent to the Meeting House. It seems unlikely that we will be able to achieve that goal. As a board, we voted to discontinue the sale of the Parish House if we did not receive a viable offer before the end of this church year. We need to now plan how we make the Parish House into useable, affordable and comfortable space. That will mean a capitol campaign.

I realize that this brief summary sounds grim. It may be. But, in many ways it is also a call to action. We ARE a vibrant, evolving spiritual Unitarian Universalist congregation working together to make the larger community a better place to live. We actively nurture and challenge one another to become our best selves. Together, we are strong. I know that we can continue to reach our goals. Over the next 4 weeks, as we approach our annual meeting, we will share with you the up to date financial information on our current budget and next year's pledges. Please

take the time to familiar yourselves with this information. Although we practice our democratic principles in every layer of our congregational life, annual meeting is the most public display of it. It is also one of my favorite days of our year together. It is where we declare who we want to be and how we plan to get there. I am happy to be on this spiritual path with all of you.

Janet Asnes,
President, Board of Trustees



Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Spring Poetry - Native American Poets five sessions, Wed., May 1- 29, 1:00 and 7:00 led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown. Our annual spring poetry class, held this year just after National Poetry month, will be exploring the work and life of Native American poets, with particular focus on the poet Joy Harjo. For more info and to sign up, contact Elizabeth (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com) or Ken (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, Women's Breakfast, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.



Nurturing Community

Joys and Sorrows

We extend deep sympathy to Eric Cornetta and his family. Eric's father, "Sandy" Herman George Eldering, died peacefully on Cape Cod, earlier in April. He was almost 89. A fine scientist, he was also a mountain climber, cyclist, and sailor, beloved by all. As Eric has written "Our Fearless Leader" will be deeply missed by friends & family alike.

We extend healing wishes and prayers to 4-year-old Maddie Benak, who is recovering from emergency abdominal surgery at Children's Hospital; and of course we hold Maddie's parents, Heather and Steve, in our hearts as well.

We send healing wishes out to Ohio for Joan Ramsay who recently broke her clavicle in a fall. Notes can be sent to Joan care of her daughter:

Joan Ramsay, c/o Claire Ramsay, 200 Granger Road, Condo 37, Medina, OH 44256

Food for Fellowship Hour

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

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

Old Ship Cookout - May 25

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 25 at 5:00 p.m. for the Old Ship Memorial Day Cookout for all ages at the Parish House. This is a great way to get to know one another better & all are welcome! We provide hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, beverages and condiments. We ask you to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. A \$5 contribution per adult is encouraged to cover our expenses. Kids are free! No alcoholic beverages will be served. Sign up during fellowship hour or by contacting Sharon Prehn (781-925-0101, prehn@verizon.net).

Cash for Cartridges

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. Drop off your cartridges in the office or in the cabinet right outside the office door. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry, with a rotating membership appointed by our Board of Trustees, meets monthly with our minister, Ken Read-Brown, to reflect on the five ministries of Old Ship and sometimes to discuss particular current concerns or issues with the life of our congregation.

Input, questions, concerns, ideas from Old Ship members and friends is of course always welcome. Feel free to contact Ken or any of the members of the committee: Santjes

Ooomen-Lochtefeld, Nigel Harvey, Eva Marx, Rob Baynes, Cory Fitz-Marquez, and John Sneath.

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 (781-925-9197)
Diane Elliott, dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com (781-749-2248)
Elaine Gomez, eh-gomez@comcast.net (781-740-1663)
Alicia Harkness, PAJL7@verizon.net (781-749-7825)
Fan Leonard, oldship1927@gmail.com (781-749-2852)
Liz Flint, Elizabethflint@hotmail.com
Joan Wilson, joanielw@verizon.net (781-740-8840)
Beverly Tricco, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org (781-749-1679)
Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkreb@gmail.com (781-749-1679)

Social Justice Council

Serving Others through bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry

The SJC invites you to continue to Serve Others by bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry whenever you come to Old Ship in 2019. There is a collection basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime.

Our donations in March totaled 156 lbs for which the Pantry was very grateful!

The Pantry has asked for the following items especially needed to restock their shelves after the Easter big pantry:

Grape or strawberry jelly
Peanut butter
Canned hearty soups
Mac & cheese
Rice or pasta side dishes

Social Justice Plate Collection, Sunday May 19th

May's special plate collection will be donated to the Massachusetts Bail Fund. This non-profit organization pays up to \$500 bail so that low-income people can stay free pending the resolution of their cases. Massachusetts jails are filled with people awaiting trial simply because they cannot afford bail. Bail leads to longer incarcerations times, lost jobs, lost housing, and devastated families. The Social Justice Council encourages everyone at Old Ship to support this important work.

Peace Institute Mother's Day Walk

Old Ship has partnered with several other local houses of worship to create a team to walk and fundraiser for the Louis D Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk on Sunday, May 12.

Started in 1996 so mothers of murdered children could receive support and love from their neighbors, 23 years later, the Mother's Day Walk continues to be a powerful way to honor loved ones who have been murdered and embrace partners in peacemaking. The Institute is a center of healing, teaching, and learning for communities impacted by murder, grief, trauma, and loss. To register to walk that morning or to donate, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxe9xxxq>. contact/OSC team leader: Pam Harty pamharty@comcast.net

Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?

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

Coffeehouse off the Square - Ezekiel's Wheels, Saturday May 18th 8 pm

With a background in classical music, jazz, improvisation, and folk traditions from all over the world, internationally-recognized klezmer ensemble Ezekiel's Wheels brings passion, virtuosity, and contagious energy to an engaging contemporary perspective on traditional Jewish music. It promises to be a memorable evening. L'chaim! To Life!

Note: Proceeds from Coffee House on the Square performances benefit the UU Service Committee

Interested in Social Justice work at Old Ship?

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Please contact Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net or 781 740 2835

Notes from the office:

Annual Report Deadline

The deadline for committees' annual reports to be submitted for the Old Ship Annual Report is Friday, May 3. Any submissions after that date will not be included in the printed report, but will be handed out at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19. Thank you. Please email in word form (no pdfs) to: office@oldshipchurch.org.

Old Ship Directory

There is a directory of Old Ship friends and members. In print, there are copies on the membership table and on the table outside the office. In addition, the directory is available online through the website: oldshipchurch.org. Click on the member tab and the password is 1681Hobart.



First Parish, Old Ship Church, 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043

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