

Old Ship Church
Unitarian Universalist
Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning
2014 – 2015



The religious way is the deep way, the way that sees what physical eyes alone fail to see, the intangibles of the heart of every phenomenon. The religious way is the way that touches universal relationships; that goes high, wide and deep, that expands the feelings of kinship.

-Sophia Lyon Fahs

Welcome to our Religious Education Program!



At Old Ship we work to provide a warm and supportive community of Unitarian Universalist faith in which children, youth and adults can grow spiritually, intellectually and ethically.

We understand ourselves to be a community of learners, all of us on a lifelong path of personal discovery, of religious and spiritual growth, of human “becoming.”

Our teachers, mentors and advisors are primarily volunteers, lovingly invited into this most important work. In addition to the subject matter of each course, our program seeks to inspire wonder and wondering, empathy and compassion, truth-searching and decision making.

We hope that we will all experience what it means to belong to a local community of caring, as well as what it means to be a part of a world community.

Old Ship Mission Statement

Grateful for the wisdom of our liberal religious traditions and as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of congregations:

- We nurture and challenge one another to become our best selves.
- We inspire one another to act courageously consistent with our UU principles.
- We welcome all seekers in the spirit of love.
- We work together for peace and justice, and to cherish the earth.

Our Old Ship Covenant

As a congregation committed to Unitarian Universalist principles, we join with one another in the spirit of respect, reverence, humility, and love:

To seek truth freely,

To nurture spiritual growth and ethical commitment,

To care for one another,

And, seeking justice, peace, and ecological sustainability, to serve life.

Old Ship Religious Education Mission Statement

Our program creates a meaningful community that values individuals and awakens their sense of wonder, reverence, and self-awareness through fellowship, worship, education, and service.

In fulfillment of this mission, the R.E. program:

- Welcomes and accepts all children and Youth, and values the gifts they bring and the people they are.
- Builds community by celebrating life's journey, milestones and intergenerational connections.
- Nurtures spiritual growth and development by fostering the free and responsible search for (life) meaning and individual truth.
- Awakens, through ritual, word, song, art and movement, the mystery of living, the reverence for and awe of life.
- Fosters our children's U.U. identity by teaching them about our principles and sources, heritage, and traditions.
- Promotes commitment to justice and ecological sustainability in the world through education, service and social action.



Programs

“Each child must plumb vastness and infinity. Let each call it what she will – fire, water, death, God, worlds, stars. Somehow he must share the curiosity and the awe before he has too many static answers. More than factual answers she needs communication of her inherent wonder, fear, curiosity.” – Sophia Lyon Fahs



Nursery Care – Infants to 3 years 10:15–11:45

Nursery care is provided by Old Ship Church and overseen by our Religious Education department.

Our aim is to provide a comfortable, secure and loving environment for our youngest children, with simple toys, picture books, and familiar, consistent, paid caregivers.

Got young kids or babies? On the fifth Sunday of the month we hold a Children’s Chapel for families of all sorts and folks of all ages.



Call the office or check out the Old Ship website for dates and details.

Spirit Play – Preschool to 7 years

10:15–11:40ish (or end of Meetinghouse worship)

A Unitarian Universalist adaptation of Jerome Berryman's *Godly Play* using the Montessori Method for structure, developed by Nita Penfold, D.Min., Rev. Ralph Roberts, and Beverly Leute Bruce.

Spirit Play sees the purpose of religious education as helping children to live into their own answers to big questions... Where did we come from? What are we doing here? What is our purpose? What are our gifts? Why are we lonely and sad sometimes? Why do we die?

As in Montessori, the key elements are the classroom environment and the teachers. These elements free the children to work at their own pace on their own issues.

- 1) The **Door Keeper** helps the children get ready to enter the classroom as parents drop them off.
- 2) The **Storyteller** leads the circle in the story of the day, followed by wondering.
- 3) Children (helped by the Door Keeper) choose an art response to the story of the day, or choose to use previous-weeks' story materials.
- 4) Children clean-up, followed by a feast (snack) with the Storyteller.
- 5) Leave-taking is a formal process of saying good-bye to the Storyteller when parents arrive and children are ready.





We are resolved to protect individual freedom of belief. This freedom must include the child as well as the parent. The freedom for which we stand is not freedom of belief as we please,... not freedom to evade responsibility, ...but freedom to be honest in speech and action, freedom to respect one's own integrity of thought and feeling, freedom to question, to investigate, to try, to understand life and the universe in which life abounds, freedom to search anywhere and everywhere to find the meaning of Being, freedom to experiment with new ways of living that seem better than the old.

-Sophia Lyon Fahs, A New Ministry to Children



ELEMENTARY GRADES

Begin in Meetinghouse with Family. Conclude at 11:40(ish)

Elementary children begin with their families in the Meetinghouse (10:25/start of worship) and will be escorted by members of the RE Program to the Parish House as a group after the “Story for All Ages”.

Students meet up with their families in Fellowship Hall. (11:35ish/end of meetinghouse worship/start of Social Hour)

The Religious Growth and Learning Committees work together to establish subject matter, topic areas, and timeframes. Over a three year period, children will have the opportunity to explore **Unitarian Universalist Principles, History and Identity... Our Jewish and Christian Heritage... Science & Nature, Wonder & Awe... and World Religions.**

This year, our areas of study are **Unitarian Universalist Principles** and **World Religions**. During the first half of the year, all the Sunday classes will learn about **Unitarian Universalist Principles...**

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**

During the second half of the year, they will focus on **World Religions**.

Grades 2 & 3 - September-December UU Super Heroes: A Values-Based Curriculum for UU Children –

Theme & Description By learning about the lives of Unitarians, Universalists and Unitarian Universalists who have acted with courage and wisdom to live their lives fully, children are encouraged to do the same. Includes lots of active learning activities, stories, games, crafts and music.

Grades 2 & 3 - January-April Experiences With the

Web of Life -Theme & Description: Children explore the ways that specific living things relate to the rest of life -- what the earthworm eats, what eats it, what it contributes to the soil, how that helps plants and helps us who grow food in that soil. Concepts come to life through direct experience. Throughout the curriculum, our spiritual connection with all living things is brought out. A closing ritual at the end of each session helps the children internalize their learning, sometimes with a story that summarizes the day's experience.

Grades 4 & 5 - September-December Travel in Time

Theme and Description Uses the imaginative device of time travel to help participants explore their religious identity. Participants learn about the origins of Unitarian Universalism in North America and the lives of individuals, past and present, who exemplify our faith.



Grades 4 & 5 - January-April Celebrating Our Origins In
The Universe - Theme and Description 15-16 sessions, can be expanded; uses hymns and readings from hymnal. Beginnings, gravity, sky watch, development of life, connecting with living things. Includes books: *The Tree of Life* (Ellen Jackson) and *How We Happened* (Gaye Gronlund, Adrian Melott)

Grades 6&7 - Neighboring Faiths

September - June



Life becomes religious whenever we make it so: when some new light is seen, when some deeper appreciation is felt, when some larger outlook is gained, when some nobler purpose is formed, when some task is well done.

—Sophia Lyon Fahs

Neighboring Faiths: Exploring Religion with Junior High Youth by Christine Reed and Patricia Hoerdoerfer. 34 sessions.

Inspired by the UU classic curriculum, *Church Across the Street*, this year-long curriculum helps Youth learn about their own Faith and other faith traditions through interactive experiences such as field trips and interviews. These encounters with other religions are given meaning through periods of reflection and discussion about Unitarian Universalist and personal beliefs and values. (UUA, 1997)

Grades 8 & 9 – Coming of Age September – April

This special program is designed to mark the transition from childhood to youth. What is a Youth? A Youth is someone who is not yet an adult, but is not a child either. A Youth is someone in high school or late middle school. By participating in Coming of Age, we hope that the Youth will:

- Assume responsibility for their physical, mental, and spiritual being;
- Gain a sense of self-confidence and realize that their feelings are valid and that their opinions matter;
- Expand their vision of the world by allowing them to encounter differing views, cultures, and life experiences;
- Reflect on and articulate their personal value system;
- Understand they have an important role in their church community, and that with their participation it can be a sanctuary for us all.

The group will have a two day retreat in October, throughout the year they will watch movies and discuss their spiritual aspects, design a service project, talk about the “big questions” in life, write faith statements, play games, get to know each other, and laugh a *lot*. All of this will culminate in a final celebration and community recognition in the spring.



Jr. High Youth are included in several Youth Group activities throughout the church year, including, but not limited to: the Youth Group Fall Retreat... the Ballou-Channing District Jr, High Youth Con... and the Old Ship July 3rd Sleepover and Night-hike.



*If there are questions about programming for your children in Grades 7-12, please **do** talk to the DRE or anyone on the CREC or the Youth Committee. Contact information is on the back cover of this brochure.*

Grades 8-12 - Sunday Morning Youth Works

September - June

Each Sunday will be an opportunity and activity in and of itself. Youth can come once in a while, or all the time. It works well either way.

On Sunday mornings, the Youth will:

- Play discussion-starting and community-building games...
- Collaborate on projects of their own choosing or design, to help other people (near & far) and to make a difference in the world. Prior or ongoing projects include managing KIVA micro-loans, fundraising for Haiti, and for Camp Wowayanke in Rosebud, South Dakota... and a New Orleans rebuild work trip in February of 2011.
- From time to time we'll watch a film together and discuss interesting, challenging ideas: such as managing ethical dilemmas, UU principles, current events.

A Sunday calendar of activities will be posted and distributed monthly.



Youth Group – Grades 7-12

September – June

Our Youth meet regularly on evenings and weekends throughout the year. At times the Junior High (grades 7 & 8) and Senior High (grades 9-12) Youth Groups will meet separately... and at other times, events will be combined grades (7-12).

We look to the Youth to determine the focus, content and activities for the year. With everyone's involvement, we are able to plan meetings, events, and projects that are exciting and inclusive - sometimes even life-changing. In past years, activities have included:

- Movie and pizza night at the Parish Hall...
- Fourth of July “night-hike and parade-place-holding” sleepover...
- Warm Hearts-Hot Potatoes coffee-hour fundraisers...
- Ask our youth about making micro-loans around the world, working together in New Orleans, and creating the first ever, Young Artists Festival right here at Old Ship...

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – All Ages

The religious education program is designed to encourage our young people to develop a sense of social responsibility and to take action to influence change.

Our young people help with projects sponsored by the larger Old Ship community; aiming to improve “Access To Education” with programs helping The Mather School, UU Urban Ministry, Roxbury Presbyterian Church’s Social Impact Center, Brockton BCC Afterschool Program and Wellspring Multi-Service Center.

Other volunteer opportunities include: making bagged lunches for Father Bill’s, Growing Vegetables for Father Bill’s (at Holly Hill Farm), Interfaith Food Pantry, and Wellspring Multi-Service Center.

The children and youth also *initiate* projects and activities that improve our world and the health and well-being of its inhabitants.



For almost four years The Old Ship Youth Group has been administering dozens of microloans through Kiva. Kiva is an online lending platform that allows individuals in the developed world to loan to small business people in the developing world. Other recent projects have included: an annual bike drive for Bikes Not Bombs, a Tie-Dye Fundraiser to raise funds for Camp Wowyanke in Rosebud, South Dakota, and a rebuild trip to post-Katrina New Orleans.



Teaching is a cooperative effort. Experience is not necessary and newness to Unitarian Universalism or to our church should not hinder you. If you bring a nurturing spirit and a deep sense of caring to the classroom, you will find that you gain as much as the students from the teaching experience.

Are you concerned that you don't have the time to commit or don't feel like you'll know *how* to teach? We've got you covered! We conduct teacher trainings at various times throughout the year, one on one support is always available. Each team will have a member of the RE committee assigned to it. These "Tsars" will be hands-on, and available as an additional level of support for their team.

As always, our Director of Religious Education, and the Children's Religious Education Committee provide curriculum, administrative support, guidance in classroom management, and supplemental classroom materials and resources.

AND there's a plan in the works to make training *videos* this year and put them online, so folks can get answers to their questions at any time of the day or night. (*Do speak up if you'd like to be part of that project.*)

Teenage Teachers & Assistants



Often teenagers gain as much from guiding others as they would from enrolling in the religious education program itself.

Youth who teach Sunday school are encouraged to maintain involvement with other youth activities as well; continuing experiences with their peer group enhances their religious growth and integrates them into the wider community.

Teens who want to assist in a class are invited to participate in the Teacher Team planning sessions.

Programming for Adults and Sr. High Youth

The schedule details are still in formation; watch the newsletter for additions, changes, updates... **Gatherings are in the Parish House parlor**



unless otherwise noted.

AUTUMN

The Aeneid Re-Visited

Led by Ken Read-Brown.

Five sessions, Wed., Sep. 10 – Oct. 8, 7:00 p.m. A second session will be offered at 1:00 p.m. if interest warrants. We continue our exploration of the western tradition of epic poetry with Virgil's *Aeneid*. Not as often read as the *Iliad* or *Odyssey*, which we read together over the past two years, the *Aeneid*'s story of the founding of Rome has lessons for and poses questions for our own age of imperial ambitions. We recommend the translation by Robert Fagles.

New UU

Led by various Old Ship leaders and staff.

Sunday Oct. 5, Noon -1:30. 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.

A Chosen Faith

Led by Ken Read-Brown and Diane Elliott

Five sessions, Wed., Oct. 22 – Nov. 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m. We will explore in depth some of the roots and branches of Unitarian Universalism using as 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 understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

The Sermon on the Mount for Today

Led by Ken Read-Brown.

Three sessions, Wed., Dec. 3 – 17, 7:30 p.m. These gatherings for conversation based on Jesus' well-known words from the Gospel of Matthew will follow the weekly 6:30 vespers services that are a December tradition at Old Ship. Are Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount more relevant today than ever?

WINTER/SPRING

The Meditations of Aurelius

Led by Ken Read-Brown.

Five sessions, Wed., Jan. 7– Feb. 4, 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Are you a philosophical Stoic without knowing it? You may realize that you are and have been for a long time after you read the *Meditations* of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius (along with a few of the *Discourses* of Epictetus). The *Meditations* have offered inspiration and solace for generations of readers. Together we'll discover why.

Genealogy

Led by Ralph Brown

Five sessions, Wed., Feb.18 – March 18, 7:00 p.m. Genealogy allows each of us to see ourselves as part of something larger than us – our multigenerational family. Genealogy is the study of all the families connected to me who contribute to who I am. As such, it is part of the Unitarian Universalist free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Genealogy enables me to study the people who constitute my family, and the events in their lives.

Spring Poetry

Led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown.

Five sessions, Wed., Apr. 1 – 29, 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Our annual spring poetry, to be held during National Poetry month, will explore the work of two Unitarian Universalist poets, E.E. Cummings and May Sarton.

The Universe Story as Spiritual Epic

Led by Ken Read-Brown.

Three sessions, Wed., May 13- 27, 7:00p.m. What meaning does the scientific story of the universe give to our lives? How does it relate to our spiritual lives? (Or does it?) These are just a few of the questions we'll be exploring together.

2014 SEASONAL GROUPS and GATHERINGS 2015

Crossing Time Poetry Circles – at the turning of each season; see newsletter for dates

We begin our 17th year! Come join the ongoing poetry renaissance in America – Northeast Branch, Old Ship affiliate! Bring and read or speak a favorite poem – an opportunity to share and perhaps deepen our appreciation of poetry, and reinforce our connection with natural cycles of life. All welcome! *Only be willing to search for poetry, / and there will be poetry. / My soul, a tiny speck, is my tutor. – Yuan Hei*

So You Want to Meditate - fall, winter, spring: Saturdays, 10-noon, October 18, January 17, 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.

Berni's Favorite Music History Events –

Dates to be determined. led by Old Ship's music director, Berni Nadeau
Development of Musical Notation: From defacing the page to a formalized system for dictating sounds: how musical notation came to be.

The Baroque Era: How many players are there in a Baroque Trio Sonata? Learn why the answer is "4".

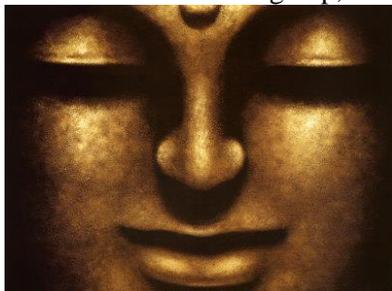
The Organ: It's big. It's loud. It has multitudinous tongues, lips, feet and ears. Step inside the beast.

2014 SEASONAL GROUPS and GATHERINGS 2015

The Way of the Bodhisattva

First and third Sunday mornings, 8:30 (no July/August meetings)

Half an hour of sitting meditation, followed by an hour conversation based on a Buddhist text, ancient or contemporary. In September of 2014 we will be starting the book, *No Time to Lose* by Pema Chodron, which is her commentary on *The Way of the Bodhisattva* by the 8th century sage Shantideva. This will be a particularly good time for newcomers, who will be warmly welcomed to our gatherings – no previous experience with Buddhism needed. For information and to sign up, contact Ken.



Men's Breakfast

Second Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m. Parish House parlor (no July/August meetings)

An ongoing opportunity to gather in a safe, nurturing environment where we can speak freely and listen deeply to each other. We do this as a form of spiritual practice, and to rekindle our playful souls. Contact Ralph Brown or Rich Elliott.

4th Sunday Women's Knitting

Fourth Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m. Parish House parlor (no July/August meetings)

Women knitting and crocheting, and talking, teaching, learning, relaxing, laughing, crying. All ages, all crafts, all levels. Imagine the possibilities. Contact Beverly Tricco or Diane Elliott (or just show up – we always have extra needles and yarn.)

Old Ship Forums

Occasional Sundays 12:00 – 1:00p.m.

Forums on various topics, including books written by Old Ship members and also Life Works Forums, featuring Old Ship members talking about the meanings of their careers and/or volunteer work. If you'd like to present a Life Works Forum or other forum, contact Ken Read-Brown.

Monday Meditation

Every Monday evening, 7:00 – 8:30

All are welcome to this weekly gathering to practice Buddhist meditation in community. Each evening includes sitting and walking meditation, reading, and discussion. For information, contact Eric Cornetta or Kitty Ward.

Living By Heart

First Monday evenings, 7:30; at Elizabeth Torrey's home.

A group that uses the memorization of poetry as a form of meditation and spiritual practice. Poetry, good company and laughter, too! *Current group is full. To inquire about starting a new one, contact Elizabeth.*



Ceilidh (“kay-lee”)

Monthly, first Tuesday evenings, 7:30

Sharing of songs, stories, poems... and an old-fashioned good time. Bring an instrument if you have one or just bring yourself to listen and maybe sing along. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Robbie Walsh.

Morning Meditation

Weekly, Thursday **mornings**, 5:45

Sitting and walking meditation for early risers. Contact Eric Cornetta.

Evensong for Families

Led by Beverly Tricco.

Third Fridays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. eight sessions, Oct. 18-May 16.

Created for families (of all kinds) to take together: to have fun as a family, and promote respectful and loving ways to be together. Each session will include singing, listening, and sharing. For information and to sign up, contact Beverly Tricco.

Chalice Circles – schedule TBA

Several years ago we had a successful “Small Group Ministry” program. Chalice circles, should there be enough interest, will be a re-introduction of these groups – twice a month gatherings with the same group of 8-10 people for facilitated conversation on a variety of topics ranging from the spiritual to the ethical and much else. Watch the newsletter and web site for details.

Have an idea... for an adult class, workshop, or gathering you'd like to see or lead at Old Ship?

Contact the office (781-749-1679; office@oldshipchurch.org) or a member of the Life Learning Committee, and we will help you make it happen!:

*Ralph Brown (781-925-9197),
0543),*

Elizabeth Torrey (781-749-

Rich Elliott (781-749-2248),

Brian Hurley (781-749-0515),

*Claire Petrie (781-472-8420),
1679),*

Ken Read-Brown (781-749-

Beverly Tricco (781-749-1679)



How to contact leaders:

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Beverly Tricco	781-749-1679
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