

## The Gathering

*Diane Elliott, Carol Valentine*

Wednesday afternoons, 1:00 p.m.



We gather to sew, craft, knit and enjoy each others' company. Our goal is to make items to sell at Merrie Market and May Breakfast, and we have lots of fun and good conversation as we work together. New members and new project ideas are always welcome.

For information, contact Diane or Carol.

## Sacred Texts Meditation Group

*Rich Elliott*

Second and fourth Thursday afternoons, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.



Each session will have a reading, a 15-minute meditation, and exploration of one chapter from the Tao Te Ching, including its meaning to each of us, as well as related writings, poetry or art. Newcomers are welcome. Gatherings will be Zoom only. For information and the Zoom link, contact Rich.

## How to contact leaders and committee members

Ralph Brown	781-248-0860	ralph.e.brown@gmail.com
Eric Cornetta	781-740-0628	EECornetta@aol.com
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Dennis Hogan	781-783-8008	dennish10@verizon.net
Rev. Carie Johnsen	781-749-1679	RevCarie@oldshipchurch.org
Claire Petrie	617-642-2438	cdpetrie@aol.com
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# Life Learning at Old Ship

## 2024 - 2025



*In harmony with Unitarian Universalist principles and sources of inspiration, learning opportunities at Old Ship serve our community by encouraging spiritual growth and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

Gatherings, which are open to members and friends of the Old Ship community, will be in person, in the Meeting House, in the parlor at 14 Main Street, or on Zoom. Some will be hybrid — in-person with a Zoom option. Watch the newsletter and website for additions, changes and updates. Contact information for course leaders appears on the last page of this brochure.

## AUTUMN

### Teach-Ins on the Middle East

*Jeff Klein*

Five Sundays, Sept. 29-Oct. 27, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Meeting House



The Unitarian Universalist Association, at this year's General Assembly, passed the [Action of Immediate Witness](#), calling for respectful teach-ins on the Middle East. This series is our response. Speakers include Jeff Klein, who taught "US in the Middle East" at UMass-Boston; Steve Low, founder of a Lincoln, Mass.-based group promoting equal rights for equal people;

and local social justice advocates of different backgrounds. For spiritual processing, this event is for Old Ship members and friends only. RSVP required (even if you can only attend some sessions); to RSVP, click [here](#) or use this QR code.



### Love At The Center

*Rev. Carie Johnsen, Rich Elliott*

Second Sundays, starting Nov. 10, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Meeting House



In supportive community, we will embark on a personal journey of living the newly adopted Unitarian Universalist shared values. This class will: engage in monthly reflection and examination of one of the

six UU values; bear witness to the divergent experiences and expressions of shared values; notice, name, and lean into discomfort, fears, and tensions inherent in living UU values; and finally, make monthly personal commitments to spiritual growth. Participants are encouraged to attend all (or most) Sundays. To learn more about the shared values, click [here](#) or use this QR code. For information, contact Rev. Johnsen.



**Religious Right, Secular Left***Dennis Hogan*

Six Wednesdays, Jan. 8 – 29, Feb. 5 – 12, 7:00 p.m., Hybrid



The terms “religious right” and “secular left” are used routinely in the media, politics, and elsewhere to describe our societal divide. In this course, we will explore these polarities: their origins, philosophy, rationale, and implications. We’ll look at the history, politics, and issues (from religious freedom to school funding, integration, abortion rights, government regulation, etc.). We’ll also look at the mythology around both concepts and how realistic it is to consider these groupings as cohesive entities. We’ll explore their impact on the current and future political conversation and how/whether they can co-exist. Readings will be from various journal articles and selections from books. For information and to sign up, contact Dennis.

**Rediscover the Meeting House***Nina Wellford*

One Sunday, January 26, 2025, 12:30 p.m., Meeting House, in-person



Let’s go deeper behind the well-known facts about the Old Ship Meeting House. In this session, we’ll examine *who* worshiped here, *how* and *why* they changed the building, and *how* they influenced the development of our country. Led by members of the Friends of the Meeting House, this tour delves into the social and religious history of the Meeting House.

**Spiritual Eldering** *Rich Elliott, Claire Petrie*

Six Wednesdays, April 2 - May 7, 7:00 p.m., Zoom



As our lifespans continue to expand, we can expect more losses and pain, although we can also embrace the blessings these additional years bring. We plan in this gathering to share the group’s collective wisdom as we navigate life’s later chapters. Eldering can be cultivated when it is supported by loving awareness, conscious intention, self discovery and appreciation for the wholeness of life. For information and to sign up, contact Rich or Claire.

**Crossing Time Poetry Circles***Elizabeth Torrey**At the turnings of fall, winter and spring:*

Sept. 22, Dec. 20, March 20, 7:00 p.m., in-person, Zoom



We begin our 27th year! Come join the ongoing poetry renaissance in America. Bring a favorite poem to read — it’s an opportunity to share and perhaps deepen our appreciation of poetry, and reinforce our connection with the 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. Sept. 22 at 14 Main Street after coffee hour, Dec. 20 in the Meeting House, March 20 at 14 Main Street. For information and a Zoom link, contact Elizabeth.

**The Way of the Bodhisattva***Lisa Sawyer*

Every Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., Zoom



Twenty minutes of sitting meditation followed by discussion of a Buddhist or related text, facilitated by members of the group. For questions and Zoom link, email Lisa Sawyer.

**Men’s Breakfast***Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott*

Fourth Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m., Parlor, Zoom



An ongoing opportunity for men to get together in a safe, nurturing environment to speak freely and listen deeply as a form of spiritual practice. We also seek to have fun together and rekindle our playful souls. For information and the Zoom link, contact Ralph or Rich.

**Anti-Racism Book Group***Davalene Cooper*

Third Sunday evenings, starting Sept. 15, 7:00 p.m., Zoom



Volunteers lead monthly discussions. People can come when they wish or when they are most interested in the book being discussed. The first book is *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson. For information and a Zoom link, contact Davalene.

**Ceilidh (“kay-lee”)***Eric Cornetta*

First Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.



Sharing of songs, stories, poems, and an old-fashioned good time. Bring an instrument or just bring yourself to listen and maybe sing along. Everyone is welcome. Come anytime between 7 and 9:30. Gatherings will be in the 14 Main Street Parlor, in person and via Zoom. For information and a Zoom link, contact Eric.