

# Meetinghouse MESSENGER

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"There are many paths approaching the truth that unites us"

## April 2006

 Sunday Worship Services 9 AM & 11 AM: Religious Education for Children (9 AM) & Youth (10:30 AM)

- April 2** – “Giving & Receiving: Stewardship Sunday” ... *Worship Leader: Rev. Arline Conan Sutherland*  
This is the Sunday when we renew our support for this congregation and explore what it means in our lives. Please join us as Arline reflects on giving and receiving. At the 11:00 AM service we will dedicate a child: Sydney, daughter of Jessica and M who recently joined the congregation.
- April 9** – “Radical Hospitality: Disabilities Sunday” ... *Worship Leader: Rev. Arline Conan Sutherland*  
This week, as we celebrate the great freedom festival of Passover, seems an opportune time to explore what freedom means: who enjoys its fruits, and who doesn't. Who do we welcome in and whom do we exclude?
- April 16**– “An Easter's Song of Gladness: Intergenerational Services” at 9 AM & 11:00 AM  
Banners will be processed. Songs of spring and hope eternal will be sung. Join us as Arline reflects on the miracle that we who are firm in our convictions that there is no resurrection celebrate the rebirth of wonder.
- April 23** – “Not To Be Missed!” ... *Worship Leader: The candidate for the position of Senior Minister!*  
The candidate for the position of Senior Minister at the Unitarian Society of Hartford will preach at both services. Details will be forthcoming.
- April 30** – “Our New Minister” ... *At the Congregational Meeting Following the Second Service a Vote will be Taken.*  
Once again our candidate will preach at both services. At the Congregational Meeting following the second service, a vote will be taken. Please check the latest information!

*Our Constitution and Bylaws, Strategic Plan, and much, much more may be found on our website at [www.USHartford.com](http://www.USHartford.com) Let our office know if you would like to receive the weekly E-Letter online.*

STAFF: • Rev. Arline Sutherland, Acting Senior Minister • Ken Silberman-Bunn, Director of Religious Education • Denise Acekefi, Youth Advisor  
• Brian Mullen, Business Manager • Rosie Rindfleisch, Administrative Asst. • Mattie Banzhaf, Music Director. • Peter Magistri, Sexton • Maks Klimas, Security

# **President's Message:    *The Power of Warmth***

As we enter into another season of springtime I find myself contemplating the concept of warmth. *Warmth* has so many connotations. It can *ignite* as in fire or desire. It can *sustain* in the form of energy or love. Warmth is *comfort* experienced as covering or compassion.

We understand the power of warmth in the physical world. Our lives are dependent upon oil, gasoline, fire and the sun. But what does it mean to be a warm person or a warm congregation? How do we use our energy to help others? Where do we find the renewed energy to keep loving and to keep forgiving? How are our passions expressed in our lives and in the choices that we make?

My children are two of my greatest teachers when it comes to the power of warmth. They have taught me much about the depth of my own ability to love, to protect and to provide. They have also humbled me by the awesomeness of their warmth expressed both in their unconditional love and in their own convictions.

When my daughter Ginger, at the age of 9, demanded to know why she knew only two black people who had "good" jobs, how unfair this was, and what were we going to do about it... I knew her power. When my son Jacob just recently lay with me in bed as I was sick and stroked my back for hours, I experienced the power of his love.

As a congregation, we too can show our warmth. We can stand up for what is right; we can be there for each other and for the larger community. We are each other's teachers. The sun will be on our backs to help us.

**Rebecca Judd**

# Day One of Services Two Goes Smoothly

Those of us at the second service on Sunday March 5, 2006 were welcomed by Reverend Arline Sutherland to the “first-ever 11 am worship service.” We suspect that those attending the first service at 9 am on Sunday, March 5, 2006 received a similar message. There were 44 at the first meeting (including 12 children) and 123 at the second. Arline reminded us that we have been gathering for 160 years and have seen many changes during this period.

Community testimonials by two long-time USH members—Betty Arnold at 9 and Ed Richardson at 11—recalled some of these changes in ministers, in where we meet and in issues we’ve faced.

Ed admitted he was not “sanguine” about this most recent change to two services, “but if we don’t try, we’ll never know.” He recalled the controversy and stress connected with the move from the Pearl Street Church in Hartford to our present Meeting House.

In her “Quo Vadis?” sermon, Arline told attendees that the impetus for the change to two services “comes from the whole congregation and is an incredible opportunity to reach out.” She said ours is a regional congregation, not a village church, and that gathering together allows us to be with others who share the same values and to know that we are not alone.

“What holds us together is not just the minister and the building,” she said. What holds us together is that we listen to each other, respect differences of opinions, find answers to what really matters in our lives and “find a respite for our aching hearts.”

“We need to grow our root system so it can support the next generation,” Arline affirmed.

During each of the services, new members were welcomed into the Unitarian Society of Hartford, signed their names in the membership book, were given flowers and joined the rest of the

Congregation, now as official members, in saying the Unison Affirmation. New members included: Ed and Wendy Avery, John Barlow, Kathie Ferguson, Jean Friar, Amy Kilburn, Beth Harris, Jessica Miranda, Deb Nardi and Julie Smith.

**Kayla Costenoble**

## Feedback Welcomed

The Two Services Task Force would like your thoughts about two services. At the end of this month the task force will provide a brief survey in the Order of Worship insert for members to complete.

The Worship Sub Council is also looking for ideas about worship. Contact Carol Davidson, Sub Council Chair, with worship ideas at 233-8012 or by email at [cjkdavid@snet.net](mailto:cjkdavid@snet.net).

For overall comments on two services, call any member of the USH staff with thoughts and suggestions or contact co-chairs Martha Page, 233-3234, [MarthaCarolPage@aol.com](mailto:MarthaCarolPage@aol.com) or Marye Gail Harrison, 243-4716, [maryegailh@comcast.net](mailto:maryegailh@comcast.net).

## More From Church Bulletins

“Don’t let worry kill you off—let the Church help.”

“The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.”

“Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.”

## *April's Musical Offerings*

April 2. Lots of special musicians this first Sunday of April. Sixth-grader Ginger Furey will be singing a solo at both services. We welcome guest organist Suzanne Hertel to our organ bench for three Sundays in April. At 11 the choir will sing a rousing spiritual, "I Hear a Voice Singing."

April 9. The Meeting House Quartet returns with a beautiful anthem by Palestrina, "Super Flumina Babylonis." Our newest choir member, Rachel Johnson, is a music education major at Hartt. Rachel will preview one of her voice jury selections, "O Rest in the Lord" from Mendelssohn's "Elijah." Both these musical selections will be sung at both services.

April 16. For Easter Sunday we have a varied musical fare. At 11, the children's choir will sing "La Creacion," which has easily become a favorite, and the adult choir renders Vaughan William's setting of "Old 100th." At both services, baritone Tony Nasto will thunder out Handel's "The Trumpet Shall Sound" from "Messiah."

April 23. John Jesensky weaves his piano magic at 9 and 11. The choir, at 11, sings a favorite by Adolphus Hailstork, "I'll trust in the Lord and do the best I can."

April 30. To encourage the vote for the new minister, we've chosen music from Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus." The baritone solo "Rejoice" is followed by a well-known choral masterpiece, "Hallelujah, Amen."

**Mattie Banzhaf**

## **Women's Alliance Sets Annual Meeting April 23**

Members of the USH Women's Alliance will hold their annual meeting on Sunday April 23 in the Meeting House library following a cold pot luck luncheon.

Among the items to be discussed are the future of the Alliance, its relationship to the USH, and proposed by-law changes.

April 23 is also the beginning of candidating week; it may be possible to host the chosen candidate for a short time at the annual meeting.

Members will be mailed details and a reservation form.

## ***Annual Sedar To Take Place at USH April 8***

This year's Unitarian Passover Sedar is scheduled for Saturday April 8 at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet has been posted downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

The costs for this annual event are for \$4 for adults (over 18) and \$2 for children, plus a food donation. If you have questions, please contact Ira Greenbaum at 870-4409 or [igreenbaum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:igreenbaum@sbcglobal.net).

## **Mozart was Marvelous**

Music Sunday on March 12 at the Meeting House had something for everyone—the fantastic combined Fern Street and USH choirs offering Mozart's "Missa Brevis, K, 259" and other works, organ and piano solos and a delightful chamber orchestra to accompany the Mozart.

The program was presented at both services at the Meeting House and at two services on March 19 at the Fern Street Universalist Church.

# ***A Look at Candidating Week at the USH***

The week of April 23-30 promises to be an exciting week. This is the week when the candidate recommended by the Search Committee to be our new Settled Minister will come and spend time with our congregation.

The terms “candidate” and “candidating” have long been used in UU circles. Candidating is the process by which the congregation meets the candidate and, as far as possible in the time available, becomes acquainted with his/her personality and professional capabilities. At the end of the candidating period, the congregation, at a formal meeting, votes to ratify or reject the committee’s choice.

The week will begin with the candidate preaching both services on Sunday, April 23. Throughout that week, there will be opportunities for small groups, staff and individuals to meet with the candidate.

## **Among Ourselves**

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Evie Hermann, who ended her life on February 20. Although Evie had been a member here for only a few months, her vibrant spirit touched many of us.

We are stunned and saddened by the death of Robert Bailey, who died suddenly of a heart attack while the family was vacationing in Mexico. Our hearts go out to his wife Donna, and their children, Meaghan and Sarah. The Reverend Arline Sutherland officiated at a Memorial Service at the Meeting House on Sunday, March 19.

Congratulations and best wishes to Andrew Millard and his fiancée, Allison Berkowitz, who will be married August 12. After the wedding they will be moving to Denver, CO where Andrew will be attending the Iliff School of Theology.

The week will conclude with the candidate again preaching both services on Sunday, April 30. This will be followed by a Congregational Meeting to vote on the decision of calling the candidate to be our Senior Minister. All members are eligible to vote at that meeting.

A group of Board members is organizing the week, and is looking for three to four other individuals to help. If you are interested, or have any questions, contact Society President Rebecca Judd at 679-0470 or [juddrebecca@yahoo.com](mailto:juddrebecca@yahoo.com).

## **April 29 Deadline for USH Women’s Alliance Education Grants**

Applications are due by Saturday April 29 for the USH Women’s Alliance education grants. Applicants should be pursuing study at a post-high school level, with priority given to those with no other sources of loans or scholarship aid. Grants are small—usually \$100 to \$300—and may be used for expenses such as tuition, books, child care and transportation.

Affiliation with the USH is not required, but will be considered. Applications are in the pocket on the grant poster on the Alliance bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Please call 693-4269 and leave a message.

