

# Meetinghouse MESSENGER

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hartford, CT  
Permit No. 2068

The Unitarian Society of Hartford  
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105  
Tel: (860) 233-9897 / Fax: (860) 233-1333  
Web Site: [www.USHartford.com](http://www.USHartford.com)  
Church e-mail: [firstunitarian@ushartford.com](mailto:firstunitarian@ushartford.com)  
Newsletter e-mail: [messengernews@ushartford.com](mailto:messengernews@ushartford.com)

Rev. Arline Conan Sutherland,  
Acting Senior Minister  
[ASutherland@ushartford.com](mailto:ASutherland@ushartford.com)

Ken Silberman-Bunn  
Director of Religious Education  
[ksilbermanbunn@ushartford.com](mailto:ksilbermanbunn@ushartford.com)



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



June 2006

Sunday Worship Services will occur at 10 AM through the summer; children's programming and nursery coverage will be provided.

**4 June 2006 - Service is Our Law** - Join us as we welcome our new organist, Vaughn and as Arline reflects on a section of the Affirmation we recite each Sunday. "Love is the spirit of this church and service is it's law..." We will set aside time to honor some of those who have served this congregation over the years and find ways to tell some of their stories.

**11 June 2006 - Youth Sunday** - Every year our High School Youth Group, or USHYG, plan and lead a service for us that never fails to inspire and remind us of how much of what we do in church is done in service to our youth and children. Don't miss this one!

**18 June 2006 - Sing Out! A Celebration of the Spirit!** - The Rev. Arline Conan Sutherland - This is the Sunday when we hold our cherished Flower Communion ceremony, celebrate our year together, and picnic hearty! Please join us as we say Godspeed to Arline.

**25 June 2006 - GA Sunday** - Doug Wilson

## President's Column

As I sit to write my final column as the President of USH, I find myself feeling a wide array of emotions ranging from sadness, to relief, to hopefulness. Experiencing contradictory emotions is not easy for me and, in fact, it can be downright difficult.

Yet I choose to remain seated and experience the emotions. As I look at my computer screen I cry...I breathe deeply...I remember...I smile... I experience regret...I forgive myself and others...I feel proud...I feel thanksgiving. After some time, a welcomed glimmer of serenity begins to shine through. I get a sense of what I must do to make meaning out of this inner menagerie. I need to thank all of you.

Thank you USH members and friends for teaching me tolerance and patience. Thank you for teaching me to believe in my leadership, my voice and myself. Thank you for pushing me, testing me and changing me. Thank you for teaching me how to listen better and how to build more compassion into my communication. Thank you for allowing me to know you more closely and for sharing your many gifts. Thank you for being a living example of genuine community and commitment.

USH is a special place. We have a rich history and a vibrant future. I pass on the Presidency baton to Charles Huntington with complete confidence in his leadership and the unique skills and gifts that he will bring to his role. Welcome, Charles, and thank you.

Namaste - Rebecca Judd

## Summer Children's Programming

Starting June 25<sup>th</sup> Leona Mae Page will be leading the children in a program being determined at this writing. Alex Kraus will be in the nursery over the summer. There will not be a high school youth program offered over the summer.

## REflections

I would like to start off by thanking all of you that helped me in my first year. This includes, but is not limited to: teachers, volunteers, RE Sub-Council, the Rev. Arline Sutherland, staff and congregation especially including children. Things have changed a lot since I started last July, not necessarily good or bad, just different.

Three months in on the job and we, the RE Sub-Council and I, were asked to come up with a plan for two services - and we did. **AND** we implemented that plan in March. **AND** it is still going through changes. These changes were and are not done in a vacuum or by one person. They were and are done by a committed group of people that want the best and are willing to make our religious education program the best. These committed people make sure that our children and youth are being guided to understand what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, as well as being exposed to other religions and ideas.

Thank you for a good church year and what will surely be a successful one next year. - Ken Silberman-Bunn, DRE

## Personalized Communications – Why not?

This year has seen a considerable change in communication modes as the USH-Enews, our weekly email-web publication, was

upgraded while almost 100 of our number agreed to drop off the mailing list for the Meetinghouse Messenger and rely on the web postings of the Messenger and related email messages. This produced significant savings for printing and postage.

Surely with modern technology we can deliver USH-related news in several ways using various delivery modes and content appropriate to the desires of various subsets of the congregation.

To do this successfully, we need to know the kinds of communications you desire **speaking only for yourself** and giving us your name so we can consider delivering precisely the kind of information you desire. Please carefully complete the survey enclosed with this newsletter and return it as directed.

We will have the summer to figure out how best to meet the needs of each and every one – at least we will try.

## Music for June

**June 4** - Our new Organist starts in June.

Vaughn Mauren will be finishing up his music degree at Trinity College next year, and already he's quite an accomplished organist.

He's spent the past semester in Paris (poor fellow) studying masterpieces of French organ literature on some of the world's great church organs. On this first day with us Vaughn and the Choir will offer music by Louis Vierne, including his darkly dramatic Kyrie.

**June 11** - The women of the Choir had a day off in May; they'll make up for it with a treble anthem by Domingo Santa Cruz who is the most important composer from Chile.

**June 18** - Stay "tuned" as the Choir joins in Celebration Sunday.

**June 25** - The Choir begins summer vacation and we move into summer music mode. If anyone would be interested in joining with

Vaughn to put together a musical offering on a summer Sunday, please see Mattie soon.

## Small Group Ministry: Were You There?

If you have been with us for Small Group Ministry this spring, you know what went on. If not, let us tell you what has been happening.

Seven groups of approximately 10 people each have been gathering together at the Meeting House and at the homes of members in Avon, Bloomfield, Glastonbury, and Simsbury. Each of the eight sessions began with folks "checking in" to share what their lives have been like since the last meeting and to focus on "letting go" in order to be fully present. Candles were lit, and brief introductory passages may have been read as part of the SGM ritual. Participants brought in readings related to the session's topic or unrelated but special to the person who volunteered to bring them.

The readings for the sessions focused on the following topics: Doubt, Elders, Living Mindfully, Maturity, Pleasure, Secret Dreams, "If I had my life to live over again," and either Action or Unhappiness. Each facilitator invited experiential sharing by bringing up a series of questions on the topics. Questions covered childhood and adolescent experiences, as well as happenings of adulthood. For each topic at least one question mentioned spirituality, religion, the Meeting House or the Unitarian Society of Hartford community. In most groups, only the facilitator knew the questions ahead of time. In a few, members requested their own copies of the questions in advance.

We hope this brief description and the list of topics makes you wish you had been there if you weren't.

Summer Small Group Ministry will offer one group in July and one in August. Each will meet four consecutive Wednesdays, a perfect way to try out experiential sharing and

attentive listening. Fred Louis will facilitate in July (starting July 5), Margaret Leicach in August (starting August 9). Both groups will meet at the Meeting House, in air-conditioned space. If you are new to our community, we hope you will take advantage of this way to get to know a few people well. If you are a long-time member or friend, we hope you will come to let people get to know you. Please call the church office to register. - Bev Spence

**THE COAST GUARD MASTERS  
OF SWING ARE COMING  
TO THE UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 7 P.M.**

Admission is F R E E, but you need to have your tickets in advance.

To get tickets to see the 8 great musicians who make up the COAST GUARD MASTERS OF SWING BAND, either:

- PICK UP YOUR TICKETS AT THE COFFEE HOURS BETWEEN SERVICES ON SUNDAY - OR
- CALL BRIAN OR ROSIE AT 233-9897 AND WE WILL MAIL YOU TICKETS

You can receive a maximum of 4 tickets in your order.

To support the Unitarian Performing Arts Sub-council in putting on performances such as the MASTERS OF SWING, please consider taking an ad in the program or being a supporter with your name on our Supporter's List.

ALSO, we continue to need persons to help as:

- Drivers (1 needed for one round trip New London - Hartford)
- Parking directors
- Ushers
- Set-up crew
- Hospitality for the band

Call Edith Savage @232-5603 to volunteer.

⇒

Come and dance in the aisles. - Be there or be square. - It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing. - Edith Savage

## **Women's Alliance**

The Alliance Cabinet will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 8 in the Library. All members are invited and we are especially interested in hearing from anyone who would like to serve on the committee that will explore a new format for the Alliance. A long discussion at our recent annual meeting brought out several ideas and a committee is being formed to review our past and plan for the future. Contact Joan Kemble, convener for the June meeting, or Louise Schmolli, if you wish to serve on this ad hoc committee.

Also, please note, the picnic scheduled for June 22 has been cancelled.

## **Partner Church News**

**June 4 the special collection will benefit our Partner Church in Lupeny.** Read the letter below and be generous with your support. We surely understand the problems of roof repairs!

**Lee Boeke Burke**, from the Fox Valley UU Fellowship in Wisconsin traveled to Lupeny in April. She delivered photos, greetings and a monetary gift from our Society to our Partner Church there. Zoltan Koppandi is the minister. The Fox Valley Fellowship is Partnered with the Deva congregation, also served by Zoltan. She sent the following letter. This letter and a dozen photos are posted in the lower lobby. Also posted is a letter about a visit with Matilda Kiss and her children along with new photos of them.

Hi All, I hope you are enjoying a beautiful spring! Here in Wisconsin the bulbs flowers are peaking and the flowers in the orchard are in bud. I have been merrily placing seeds for spinach, lettuce, radishes, swiss chard, beets, parsley and peas in the ground since I returned from Transylvania. Over there I ate a

lot of delicious mild radishes, green onions and pickles. And, of course, way too much great bread, soups, sausages, eggs, incredible Easter pastries, potatoes, meatballs, etc.! The usual generosity of our Transylvanian friends!

My visit to Lupeny took place on the 3rd day of Easter. At that point I was traveling with my Networker friend, Barb, and our translator, Erszi, a high school student from Torokoszentgyorgy. The day before we had been in Deva for the Easter celebration there and arrived in Lupeny during the cold and raininess of that evening. The worship service on the 3rd day of Easter was relatively short. At the end, Guszti joined his Dad in front of the congregation and recited a little poem about sprinkling the flowers so that they would not wilt! This poem is traditional for the second day of Easter when young boys/men visit the homes of female friends, recite little poems like the one shared by Guszti, ask permission to sprinkle, then sprinkle/spray perfume on the females (flowers). In return they are given lovely decorated red dyed eggs. Clearly Guszti really enjoyed this tradition and the congregation was charmed by his recital!

After the service we all spent some time under a beautiful sunny sky outside of the church drinking tea and eating cookies and crackers. Ildi, Barb, Erszi and I all got a belated sprinkling! At that time I shared your greetings with the congregation and also your monetary gifts and photos. They were all very happy and grateful!

After "the coffee hour", the Women's Alliance whisked Zoli away to give him his belated birthday present. They took him shopping for a new desk chair for his computer. He was thrilled.

Then the Koppandi's, Barb, Erszi and I were treated to a mid-day meal at the home of Irma and Sandor Kovacs. Very nice!

That afternoon, we took a trip up to the attic of the Parsonage. The roof is in very bad

shape... lots of holes and rusted out gutters. While I was in Koloszar a few days earlier, I spoke with Gyero David and he said that the Unitarian Consistory had decided that the Lupeny Parsonage roof problems were so severe that they were relatively prioritized in the budgetary process for the whole Unitarian Church. Headquarters contributed about \$4,000-\$5,000 (dollars? Euros?) to help out. The project will take more, though! I will send the photos. We also got a tour of the whole Parsonage and the dream changes that are evolving there. I always enjoy meeting the Lupeny congregation. They are so big hearted and sing as if their souls are on fire!

For the Koppandi family, Zoli, Ildi and Guszti: Warm, authentic and sincere as always. Also very exhausted. Ildi's job as art teacher for the new Hungarian school in Deva is very gratifying for her, but barely pays for her transportation (4 hours of round trip bus rides 3 or 4 days a week.) They have been spending a lot of time in Deva lately due to the house project, and that has its frustrations, too. Ministering to four churches, being constantly on the road in a dangerous, falling apart car and being often separated as a family is also taking it's toll. They have very stressful lives. And they are wonderful people.

That's it for now, Spring wishes of hope and renewal for you all, - Lee

\*\*\*

## **Circle Dinners Planned**

One of the Hospitality Committee's plans for 2006-07 is Circle Dinners - about eight people around the table at a different host home each time, with a different mix of guests who'll be assigned dishes to bring. Registration in September, at \$5.00 per person, will put you on the list of participants (randomly mixed), who will attend dinners on the first Saturday evenings of October, November, December and January. A repeat sign-up in January will list another four dinners the first Saturday evenings of February, March, April and May. Wonderful

opportunities for good food, great conversation - with old friends and new!

## **Forks up From the Hospitality Sub-Council**

We are happy to announce that our Supper and Games Nights seem to have provided eating and playing pleasure to a goodly number of adults and children during the past few months and so we plan to have four more of them in the next church year. They will take place in the evening on the third Friday of the months of October, November, January and March. We will probably have a Southern food theme to our initial event in October in honor of our new minister, Reverend Barbara Jamestone. Y'all come.

## **Summer Service Offerings**

The summer Sunday service schedule offers a wonderful opportunity to hear a wide diversity of sermons. Each represents a high degree of preparation. In many cases we hear from our own members who have an opportunity to speak from the heart.

What you will hear is the very every individual can offer and the experience is not to be missed.

### **July**

02 Sid Garvais  
09 Maggie Green – Fred Lewis – host  
16 Andrew Millard  
23 Claire Bamberg – Richard Roznoy - host  
30 Nina Elgo

### **August**

06 Marye Gail Harris  
13 Karl Peters  
20 Roger Floyd  
27 Rebecca Judd

⇒

## **September**

3 Labor Day Sunday – Patrice Fitzgerald – choir off  
10 Rev. Jamestone begins – opening, ingathering, water service

## **Rev. Jamestone Listening**

As you learned May 14<sup>th</sup>, Arline is looking forward to the transition with Rev. Barbara Jamestone. Part of the transition will be various individual email communications sent to Rev. Jamestone through the summer from councils, sub-councils and individuals.

Rev. Jamestone will be mostly "listening" and learning during the summer. To accomplish the desire to have good clear communications, you are now asked to do this: In your email address books please record this email address for Rev. Jamestone. This will be the USH-related email address preferred for such communications:

**[revbj@ushartford.com](mailto:revbj@ushartford.com)**

\*\*\*

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 USH-Enews online. David Newton edited this issue

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

# Calendar

<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thu.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and by appointment  Rev. Sutherland’s Hours: Tue. Wed., Thu. 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  Ken Silberman-Bunn’s Hours: Tue., Wed., Thu. 10:00 AM-4:00 PM					1 <u>7PM</u> Endowment (Servetus)	2 <u>7PM</u> Church of Divine Light (Chapel)	3
<b>SUNDAY SERVICES:</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Religious Education:</b> <b>Summer Schedule</b> <b>Coffee Hour:</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>  <b>USH Leadership</b> <b>Board of Directors</b> <i>President:</i> Rebecca Judd <i>President Elect:</i> Charles Huntington <i>Treasurer:</i> William Young <i>Secretary:</i> Diane Cadrain  <b>Council on</b> <b>Spiritual Life</b> <i>Director at Large:</i> Marye Gail Harrison <i>Chairman:</i> Nina Elgo  <b>Council on</b> <b>Community Within</b> <i>Director at Large:</i> Nancy Mandly <i>Chairman:</i> Margaret Leicach  <b>Council on</b> <b>Social Justice</b> <i>Director at Large:</i> Shai Cassell  <b>Council on</b> <b>Administration</b> <i>Director:</i> William Young, Treasurer <i>Chairman:</i> David Newton <i>Society Business Manager:</i> Brian Mullen	4 <u>10AM</u> Worship (Sanctuary) <u>11AM</u> <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> (Sanctuary) Children’s Choir (Chapel) <u>11:30AM</u> Coffee Hour (Fellowship)	5 <u>4:45PM</u> UHA (Parking Lot) <u>6:30PM</u> SIA (Channing) <u>7PM</u> Small Group Ministry (David’s Den)	6 <u>7PM</u> Board of Directors (Library) <u>7PM</u> Religious Education (Servetus) <u>8PM</u> AA (Fellowship)	7 <u>7:30PM</u> Choir (Sanctuary)	8 <u>10AM</u> Women’s Alliance (Library)	9 <u>5:30PM</u> Dinner & A Movie “Crash” <u>7PM</u> Church of Divine Light (Chapel)	10 <u>11:30AM</u> Families Like Ours (Fellowship)
	11 <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b> <u>9AM</u> Building & Grounds (Murray) <u>10AM</u> Worship (Sanctuary) <u>11AM</u> Children’s Choir (Chapel) Coffee Hour (Fellowship)	12 <u>6PM</u> Stewardship (Servetus) <u>6:30PM</u> SIA (Channing) <u>7PM</u> Worship Sub-Council (Library)	13 <u>8PM</u> AA (Fellowship)	14 <u>7:30PM</u> Choir (Sanctuary)	15	16 <u>7PM</u> Church of Divine Light (Chapel)	17
	18 <b>ANNUAL PICNIC</b> <u>9AM</u> Disabilities Sub-Council (Library) <u>10AM</u> Worship (Sanctuary) <u>11AM</u> Children’s Choir (Chapel) Picnic & Reception for Rev. Sutherland (Grounds and/or Fellowship)	19 <u>6PM</u> Wheeler Recital (Chapel) <u>6:30PM</u> SIA (Library)	20 <u>12PM</u> ICEJ Clergy (Library) <u>8PM</u> AA (Fellowship)	21	22	23 <u>7PM</u> Church of Divine Light (Chapel)	24 7PM <b>COAST            GUARD            MASTERS            OF SWING            BAND</b> Sanctuary
	25 <u>10AM</u> Worship (Sanctuary) <u>11AM</u> Coffee Hour (Fellowship)	26 <u>6:30PM</u> SIA (Channing)	27	28	29	30 <u>7PM</u> Church of Divine Light (Chapel)	

## **Ministerial Musings ...Reverend Arline C. Sutherland**

Reflecting on his ministry, a retiring colleague said that he wished he had written more thank-you notes. That struck home, as I invariably feel behind with mine. I procrastinate hoping to find a charming witty way of expressing thanks.

Recently, I received a note from a seven year old. In much erased, laboriously printed letters and highly individualized spelling, it read:

Deer Granny, Thank yu fr the buk. I like it. Luv, Amanda

Need I tell you that this note will be framed and hung? "Thank-you." "I liked it." – "even if you didn't," you can hear her mother prompting. It's perfect.

Being grateful matters. So does saying thank-you. It matters when our hearts are overflowing with happiness. It matters especially when things aren't going so well and there seems little cause for giving thanks. Being grateful may be a requisite for joy.

One of the first things I teach ministerial interns is to have a grace or two up their sleeves, cause you never know when you will be asked to offer a blessing for the meal. When your mind goes blank, I suggest, start by saying, "Thank-you..." It always sets the right tone and it gives you time to think of things for which you are grateful. You don't have to thank anybody, much less God. But you can. You can thank all kinds of people, such as those who grew the food and those who prepared it. You can give thanks for the day, for those gathered at table, for life and the capacity for gratitude.

The act of giving thanks implies acknowledging that we are not altogether in charge and that life is full of mystery. "We lift up our hearts in thanks," writes my colleague, Richard Fewkes, "for the sun and the dawn, which we did not create; for the moon and the evening, which we did not make; for food, which we plant, but cannot grow; for friends and loved ones we have not earned and cannot buy...."

Let us give thanks, let us give thanks for this most amazing springtime in New England; for robins who walk about outside the office window seeking and finding worms; for cloudy days and drizzle and magical mist; for lilacs in bloom, for this community gathered to offer support and to hold both our anguish and our ecstasy.

As we approach our congregational meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> when some of the people who have served us put down their responsibilities, and others take them up, let us find moments to say "Thank-you. We appreciate what you do." On June 18<sup>th</sup> my last Sunday with you, we celebrate Flower Communion, one of the ways UU's have evolved for affirming that we each give and we all receive, let us again say "Thank-you."

Blessings,  
Arline

## Important Communications Survey

Based on what you tell us, we will be reorganizing our publications for September. Now, when we mail the Meetinghouse Messenger with appropriate postage, the cost per delivered item is much greater than the cost of delivering it to you electronically. Steps have already been taken to reduce printing costs by having the Messenger printed in the office rather than professionally. Costs can be reduced even more if fewer copies of the newsletter are mailed or available at the Meeting House. We will be happy to have a paper version of the Messenger available and mail it to you if necessary provided we are assured that delivery of a paper copy is essential. This is also the case with respect to other periodic paper mailings of important events and information. We all recognize that successful **communication with USH members is critical**. We also know the cost of delivering publications through your computer pales in comparison to the cost of delivering paper versions to you. We would therefore prefer to deliver as much as possible electronically, **IF** that is acceptable to you. Our purpose is to deliver the desired information to you efficiently and according to **your preferences**.

Please answer the questions below and be **sure to give us your Name**. We need to know what works best **for you!**

Please print your name:

---

Snail mail address

---

and email address, if you have one: \_\_\_\_\_

(please print this address very carefully so that we may avoid guessing characters and numbers)

1= strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree - Circle the number that best represents your personal opinion. Rate the following statements in **importance to you** ignoring the form of the publication (**how it gets to you**). Just think of content for these questions.

1. What would you like to read on Sunday in the "Meeting House Weekly" <b>that accompanies the Order of Service?</b>	
a) Sunday events	1 2 3 4 5
b) Coming weekly events	1 2 3 4 5
c) Other (please specify as 1c in written comments)	(1c)
2. I read and like the Meeting House Weekly	1 2 3 4 5
a) I would like to continue to receive it each Sunday with the Order of Service	1 2 3 4 5
3. What would you like to read periodically in the "Meetinghouse Messenger"?	1 2 3 4 5
a) Letter from the minister	1 2 3 4 5
b) Leadership activities update	1 2 3 4 5
c) Sub-Councils activities update	1 2 3 4 5
d) Calendar of future events	1 3 5 (3e)
e) Feature articles (please specify in comments 3e, attach a sheet if needed)	(3f)
f) other (please specify in comments 3f)	1 2 3 4 5
	1 2 3 4 5

