



UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 Tel: (860) 233-9897

Email: firstunitarian@ushartford.com

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr

USH-Enews Week of June 28, 2015



Worshipping Together Since 1830 - Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Sunday Service 10:30 AM - July 5 – 2015 “Universal Salvation in the light of South Carolina” with Rev. Rebecca Bryan

Universal salvation was the foundation for our Universalist forbearers and thus lay the groundwork for our first principle. Rebecca will explore how our Universalist roots lay the groundwork for our first principle; the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Understanding the history, what does it take to live this principle in our 21st century lives. **Specifically how do we as UU's respond to situations like the recent shooting in South Carolina?**



WHAT A WEEK!

In a very short few days, we all witnessed:

- * Acts of extraordinary grace and forgiveness from the families of those murdered in Charleston's "Mother Emanuel" Church;
- * Support in never-anticipated quarters for removing the Confederate battle flag from public places;
- * Affirmation of federal subsidies for insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act, making health benefits more available for millions;
- * And, to cap everything off, the landmark Supreme Court decision for marriage equality throughout the United States!

Our publication rarely lifts material directly from court decisions, but we thought this excerpt from Justice Kennedy's opinion was worth sharing:

"No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right."

While these momentous events generated national headlines, UUs created their own momentum at General Assembly in Oregon, and USH quietly experienced

its annual turnover of board members, budgets, and committees. This year, that turnover included the eNews. You read David Newton's historical summary last week, and this week the seed of a new team — currently Linda, Clark, Tina Davies, and “Emma” — begins to find its path to keep you updated concerning USH events. We will be feeling our way for quite a while — and appreciate both constructive feedback and patient understanding as we discover what works and what doesn't. Contributors who have previously provided eNews material are expressly invited to continue sending in articles, notices, and photos, to ushenews@ushartford.com. And, if you have news or interesting tidbits about goings-on in your subcouncil or group, do send it along. - **Article Submitted by: Tina Davies**



Oregon Otters-Photo by Patrice Fitzgerald

Our Friends Need Your Help



The children from The Village for Families and Children are already preparing for the school year in the fall even as summer has just begun.

As we did the past two years, we hope to help them start the year with self-confidence and pride. Having a uniform and all the needed supplies for school can make the difference from feeling like an outsider and “one of the gang.”



The Village for Families and Children is having its annual Backpack and Uniform fund raiser which serves more than 800 children in Greater Hartford. Please mail your checks to Brian Mullen at the Meeting House with "Village Uniform Program" in the memo line. You can also

use the envelopes at church for cash or checks, indicating your name and "Village Uniform Program" on the outside of the envelope or on the memo line of your check.

Donations are due by Wednesday August 12th. Please help our young friends begin the new school year with the knowledge of our continued support and care.

For any questions please contact Joanne Orlando, Liaison to The Village for Families and Children email: jrporlando(@)cox.net or call 860-657-3711-

Article Submitted by: Joanne Orlando

5 Ways You Can Show up for Racial Justice

(by not going to Cleveland)



"We all have a role in this movement. There's no better work a white person committed to justice can do than confront anti-black racism in their communities, workplaces, and within themselves. Just like it's vitally important that Black people organize our people, conscious white folks need to organize their communities."

-- Waltrina Middleton - Cleveland Action, a member of the Host Committee for the Movement for Black Lives Gathering

The Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland this July is going to be an important space for Black people to self-organize, heal, and build leadership.

Supporting the gathering means recognizing that it is intended to be a Black movement building space.

White people have been asked to support this gathering and respect the importance of creating intentional, powerful, and abundant Black space.

We invite you to join SURJ by not going to Cleveland, and instead, organizing white people in our own neighborhoods and communities in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives.

In this amazing moment there is a clear and critical role for white people who want

to be involved: challenge racism in our own actions and thoughts, and bring other white people in to do this work together- to join this broad and deep movement.

We are living in a historic moment. A new Black Liberation movement has been rising in this country and uniting under the banner of "Black Lives Matter." Spurred by police and vigilante murders of Black people and racist responses to protest over the treatment of these deaths, this movement is led by a new generation of Black organizers, artists, activists, and media producers who are inspiring people of all races to dream of a world that realizes liberation for all people.

The good news is there are plenty of ways for white people to support the Movement for Black Lives. Here are a few ideas:

- 1- Give money to support this historic gathering of the Movement for Black Lives. Ask your friends to give money. Host a local fundraiser.
- 2- Organize a local group of white people. Join Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) this Wednesday, July 1st at 9pm et/ 6pm pt for a call to learn how to organize a local SURJ chapter. Register here.
- 3- Speak out publicly against racism. Write a letter to the editor. See some tips and a sample letter here.
- 4- Learn. Learn more about the history of Black organizing and the history of white people organizing against racism. Check out these resources here, here, here and here.

5- Engage your community in action for racial justice. Challenge racism in your own community, at church, school, and most importantly, by changing policies. Make systemic action against racism a part of your daily life. One way to start this is to go door-knocking with Black Lives Matter yard signs. Join the SURJ Door-knocking Project.- **Article Submitted by: Diana Heymann**



The USH Kitchen – In order to be able to use the kitchen at USH we need to have a current Hartford Board of Health certificate. When the health inspector shows up, usually unannounced, certain areas are checked:

All counters must be free of dishes, food,

cooking utensils and other “stuff.”

All counters need to be wiped cleaned.

No dishtowels are to be in the kitchen.

The sinks should be free of all dishes.

No dishes should be in the dish drainer.

Sink basket strainers need to be free of debris.

No sponges should be visible.

Trash containers need to be emptied and covered.

All cabinet doors and drawers need to be closed.

The floor should be clean.

Securely close the three doors to the kitchen.

When the kitchen is used it should be left in good order. It should not be left to be cleaned up at a later time when Crystal is there. This is important for two reasons. When someone comes in to use the kitchen, they should not have to spend time cleaning up after the previous users. And, we do not know when the inspector will be coming and we do not want to lose our certification. Last Sunday there was a great deal of cleaning, putting things away, etc. that had to be done before the usual Sunday Sexton duties could occur. We would certainly NOT have received our “kitchen certification” on Sunday! The kitchen belongs to all of us, please help! Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. **Janice Newton**

Hi, Movie Fans, Last warning! Dinner & Movie Nominations for Next Season
~ You can nominate five (5) titles by Saturday, July 4. Then, the ballot of nominations will be compiled and sent for voting; further info on voting then.



You can nominate by any one of these methods:

~email your five titles with your name to pickmovies@ushartford.com

~leave a voice message of your five titles and your name on the answering machine at 860-693-4269

~postal mail your five titles and your name to Dinner & Movie, USH, 50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford CT 06105

Questions? Call 860-693-4269.

Programs for Adults and Families

We wish everyone a pleasant summer and will look forward to seeing you at the Programs Table in September. In the meantime, think about a program you mightlike to offer in the fall.

Please see Soliciting 2015 Fall Programs for Adults and Families for more information about offering a program.*

You may call Janice Newton (860.677.1121) or email her at Janicecnewton@gmail.com, for more information about the programs or to register for the August SGM.

Programs:

USH Ballroom Dance Lessons: Thursdays, 10 weeks starting June 18, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, \$75.00.

Small Group Ministry: Tuesday evenings August 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7- 9 PM.

TaiChi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Beginners welcome.

Emei Qigong: Tuesdays, Beginning Learners: 6:15 PM, Cultivation: 6:30 PM,

Deeper Learning and Understanding: 7:15 PM.

Emei Qigong: Wednesdays, Tutorial: 4:45 PM, Internal Cultivation/Practice: 5:00 PM, (also Saturday & Sunday at 12:00 PM).

Meditation and Dharma Gathering: Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 PM.

Authentic Connection & Communication:

An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 PM.

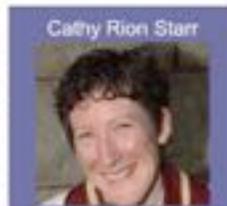


Buddha's Corner At the heart of all Buddhist wisdom lies one astonishing truth: that a way out of suffering and into a more deeply fulfilling life is not a myth, but a reality available to you through the power of skillful inquiry. With *Buddhism for Beginners*, celebrated teacher and author Jack Kornfield invites us to experience the gifts of this vast spiritual tradition. Created specifically to address the questions of first-time students, this full length retreat guides participants through Buddhism's cornerstone teachings, the principles of meditation practice, wisdom stories, traditional parables, and inspiring true accounts distilled from Buddhism's far-reaching legacy. Join us any Wednesday night at 5:45 PM, or whenever you can arrive, for a combination of sitting, walking meditations, listening to the teaching, and ending promptly at 7:00 PM following a brief, silent, reflective meditation.



Larry Lunden to lead series of easy walks this summer. They should be fun and social. They are scheduled for July 11, 19, and 25. See this web site for the details: <http://www.meetup.com/Hartford-Area-Hiking/> USH folks are invited to come along.

Some USH Images
from Festivities
at GA 2015



Brian Harvey put together this collage from the General Assembly meeting last weekend. It looks like everyone had a great time! Thanks Brian!



UU Society of Amherst MA fundraiser on Emily Dickinson coming up!

Explore Emily Dickinson's Passions as Writer, Gardener and Cook

Photo - Emily Dickinson's Garden (photo from UU Society of Amherst Website)

July 17-19, 2015 Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst 121 North Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002

Friday, July 17 7:30 p.m. - "Would You Like Summer?" Farm-to-Table with the Dickinsons. Enjoy dessert and a presentation by Marta McDowell, author of *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*, on the fruits and vegetables the Dickinsons grew, and the heirloom produce you can grow in your own kitchen garden. \$20 general; \$15 seniors, \$10 students Preregistration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

Saturday, July 18 10:45 a.m. "- Taste of Ours!" Bake Dickinson family recipes with Aife Murray, author of *Maid as Muse: how servants changed Emily Dickinson's life and language*. As you work, you will learn about some of the challenges of the poet's 19th century kitchen, the role played by household chores in Dickinson's literary process, and how baking served as one of her literary inspirations. \$25 Preregistration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

3:30 p.m. "Have you made an herbarium yet?" Marta McDowell will lead you in a "make-and-take" activity inspired by the poet's herbarium, an extensive album of pressed flowers. Learn the basic techniques for mounting herbarium specimens and create a decorative sheet of pressed flowers. There will also be materials for creating a set of three flower-decorated cards for special correspondence. Bring your favorite flower-related Dickinson poems to include, if you like. Supplies will be provided, but if you have a special pen or other writing implement, please bring it as well. \$25 Preregistration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

4:45 p.m. Poetry Discussion. Bring your favorite poems by Emily Dickinson to share and discuss during a Victorian tea. Facilitator: Aife Murray \$15 Pre-registration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

7:30 p.m. Concert: "Emily's Visitors" Dickinson poems set to music and performed by James Mead, Peter Shea, Anita Cooper, Grant Moss and Kaila Graef. Refreshments. Tickets at the door: \$20 general; \$15 seniors, \$10 students

Sunday, July 19 10:30 a.m. "I am glad there are Books. They are better than Heaven": What did the Dickinsons Really Read? A talk by Jane Wald, Executive Director of the Emily Dickinson Museum. Dickinson refused to become a full member of her family's church and called herself a "pagan," but she knew the Bible backwards and forwards and often spoke of faith and its attributes in poetry. Her poems and letters chronicle a lifelong struggle with issues of faith and doubt, suffering and salvation, nature and deity, mortality and the eternal. An examination of her family's libraries casts light on her theological explorations in the context of 19th century religious movements. Free.

And here goes my first E-News letter, Thanks to all the contributors and the help of David Newton and Tina Davies as USH moves into another transition. I will be refining and tweaking as I go. - **Linda Clark, Office Administrator**

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions will be Wednesdays at 8:30 AM
Email to: ushenews@ushartford.com Please note in the subject line, USH-Enews.

Peace – as we come to the close of the USH-Enews week. Be kind to others – and to yourself.

Nuts and Bolts: The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement of 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. www.ushartford.com