



UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00
or call for appointment

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr

USH - Enews DOUBLE ISSUE November 18 and 25, 2015

Worshipping Together Since 1830 - Sunday Service 10:30 AM



Photo: imgarcade.com

Sunday, November 22: "Our Song To Sing" - Pulpit Guest, Matt Meyer

Matt Meyer will lead us in an energetic exploration of rhythm, music, and justice. What does the experience of music tell us about how we live out our faith in the world? What does it tell us about the community we build together? Welcome to a morning of rhythm and song, quiet reflection, and an experience of the holy in music.

Matt Meyer is a musician and community organizer who has lead hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana and Central America. Matt is a founding resident of the Lucy Stone Cooperative in Roxbury and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.



November 29, 2015 Service: - Rev. Heather Rion Starr—"Finding Gratitude" - The world around us can seem so crazed. Our whole lives can seem like they are rushing by so fast. In the whirlwind of what is, how can we find gratitude, over-and-over again, as our grounding place? All are invited to bring a harvest item—an apple, a potato, an onion, whatever you have to contribute—to place on an altar before the service. During this

multigenerational service all will be invited to choose an item from the altar and share, in a word or phrase, something you are particularly grateful for this season.

E-News Contributors Please Take Note: The NEW deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon. Thank you for helping us get the E-news out in a timely fashion!

Special Note: Hi Everyone! Please check the online calendar to make sure the Room and Time you wish to reserve is still available before you make a request. This will help in planning your event. Thank you! Linda Clark, Office Administrator

The new USH Directory is now available! Members and Friends of USH: If you wish to have hard copy of the directory, you may order one at the Programs Table on Sunday. The cost is \$5. We will have some hard copies at the table, and will take pre-paid orders for directories to be picked up the following Sunday. We would greatly appreciate it if you paid with a \$5 bill as we will not have enough change for \$20s. Thank You!

Please join us for Margaret Sax's memorial service on Saturday, November 28th in the Chapel. Please contact Rev. Cathy if you would like to bring food or help with the reception.
revcathy@ushartford.com / 541-390-7553



Margaret F. Sax died peacefully on November 7, 2015, at the age of 91. Beloved wife of Edward Sax and mother of Laura Figlewski and her husband Fred of MD; Stephen Sax and his wife Colleen of WA; Vicky Sax and her husband Andy Pastore of MA. Loving grandmother to Alex, Madeline, Ian, Eloise and Ella. Born in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Margaret came to the US through a Fulbright program with MIT library, Boston, and later moved with her family to West Hartford, CT. She worked at Trinity College's Watkinson Library for 19 years. She and her husband lived at the Seabury Community, Bloomfield. She was an active member of the Unitarian Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford, and a memorial service will be held here to honor her on Saturday, November 28, 2015, 11AM.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Margaret Sax to the Trustees of Trinity College, Hartford, CT, to acquire books for the Watkinson Library.

Published in The Hartford Courant from Nov. 14, 2015

For those needing transportation from Seabury, there will be a Seabury bus coming for Margaret's service.

2015 Transgender Day of Remembrance - Friday, November 20th at 7:00 PM

TDoR is both a solemn and hopeful observation - a time to acknowledge and honor the victims of violence against transgender people in the United States and globally; and a time to recommit ourselves to working for a society that truly values acceptance, inclusion, justice, and love. Hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford, 155 Wyllys St., Hartford, CT (in the parish house of the Church of the Good Shepherd). A time of fellowship will follow.



Photos by Harriet Gardner

Sunday, November 22nd Recap by Kayla Costenoble - This is not the same USH community I joined in 1976. Our ministers now preach sermons about never-before-mentioned subjects such as transgender persons, as Rev. Cathy did on November 15, 2015. And for this I say, praise be.

Rayla's Time for All Ages story was for the kids overflowing the Chancel steps, the soup-making youth sitting on the floor nearby, and for us in the pews. It described three young persons who were doing things they really did not want to do and acting in ways they really did not want to act because their outsides did not match their insides and they were struggling to let the world see who they truly were.

Many of us at Sunday's service learned a lot. We learned that the term "transgender" (often called "trans") is used to describe a person's gender identity that doesn't necessarily match their assigned sex at birth. We learned that personal pronouns can be a problem for transgender persons. Two of the most commonly used are ze (or zie) and hir for singular gender-neutral pronouns.



We were awed by the honest, personal and well-presented testimonies by two in our midst. Prior to the sermon, youth group member Orion Howard, a 15 year-old high school sophomore passionate about social justice, spoke about his journey. He began experiencing changes in his gender, began dressing as a male, and realized he had never really felt like a girl. Orion uses the word "agender" to describe himself, a word meaning not wanting to associate with any gender (and yes, it's in the dictionary). "No one can find my gender but me; every trans person is unique," hir said. Orion feels hir is coming to grips with every aspect of life. (Note: Orion also served as one of the four candle-givers during the Candles of

Memory and Hope part of the service.)

Rev. Cathy said that for almost four years now, she and Rev. Heather have been asked, regarding Robin, “Is that a boy or a girl?” Their answer, “A girl, for now.” And their question is, “Why does it matter so much what sex or gender my child is?” Robin is also often described by others as being “cute or beautiful” rather than what her parents would describe as “strong and independent.” As Rev. Cathy remarked, “But whoa, is she strong and independent!”

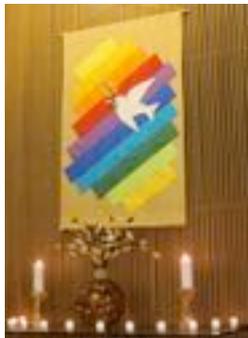
“I am breaking gender rules every day,” Rev. Cathy said. She said she does not dress or act as a lady, does not like being called a lady, buys most of her clothes from the men’s section of stores, identifies as “gender queer” and does not fit easily into any category..



But clothing can, indeed, become a problem, as it did when Rev. Cathy was asked to become a “bridesmaid” at her brother’s wedding; she became “horribly anxious” as “they” tried to find an appropriate outfit for her. Finally, she wore a vest of the same material as the bridesmaids’ dresses, black pants and a white shirt. Unfortunately, this did not make anyone happy.

Many are “too something” to fit the ideal of the mythical norm,” Rev. Cathy said. We have to understand gender as a spectrum including the “beautiful, unique whole self.” Discriminatory values can be attached to the words masculinity and femininity, such as having to check “M” or “F” in gender boxes on forms.

But the issue goes much deeper. Rev. Cathy told us the true tale of Leslie Feinburg, who came to a hospital with a very high fever, but the doctor refused treatment because she was a transgender person. Transgender persons are six times more likely to experience discrimination and physical violence than those who are not transgender. Rev. Cathy then read a too-long list of names of those whose lives had been brutally ended because they had broken gender rules. Most were under 25 years old; all were gender outlaws. Rev. Cathy concluded, “Let us open our hearts to gender diversity. Let our genders be a bit more fluid and not limited by the mythical norm of what it means to be a man or a woman.”



Wonderful words in prose and poetry almost always enrich our Sunday services. Rev. Cathy read “Telling” by Laura Hersey, the wheel-chair bound (with MS) late writer, poet, speaker and disability rights activist.

A sample: What you risk telling your story: You will bore them. Your voice will break, your ink will spill and stain your coat. No one will understand, their eyes become fences.

You will park yourself forever on the outside, your differentness once and for all revealed, dangerous,

the names you give to yourself will become epithets.

In “Love First,” a reflection written in 2006, UU Minister Rebecca Parker wrote, “Love demands justice; it can’t simply be an emergency strategy when everything has gone wrong...Maybe in the end love will save us all, but it has a lot better chance at the beginning...Let us make love the first—not the last—resort.”

And then there were the words on the cover of our Order of Service, written by Chaz Bono, only child of Sonny and Cher, LGBT advocate, writer, musician and transgender man: “There’s a gender in your brain and a gender in your body. For 99 percent of people, these things are in alignment. For transgender people, they’re mismatched. That’s all it is. It’s not complicated, it’s not a neurosis. It’s a mix-up. It’s a birth defect, like a cleft palate.”

Sunday’s service was just two days after the horror of the attacks and deaths in France. Rev. Cathy put into words all we were feeling, as she said, “We light this chalice as a beacon of hope after this weekend’s experience. Our hearts ache today for all the violence in the world.” - **Kayla Costenoble**

Resources from last Sunday

For those interested in learning more about gender identity and transgender issues, here are some resources for your exploration. It's ok if you have questions and insecurities about how to be respectful to folks of different genders -- together, let's keep talking and learning and practicing respect as best we can. - Rev. Cathy
Transgender Day of Remembrance: <http://tdor.info/>

Beyond the Gender Binary: Yee Won Chong at TEDxRainier: <http://bit.ly/1S3Lf8x>

Showing Up For Racial Justice Queer and Trans Resources:
http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/queer_and_lgbtq

Trans Respect/Etiquette/Support 101 by Micah Bazant: <http://bit.ly/1NUnQFO>

24 Actions You NEED to Take to Help Transgender Women of Color Survive by Lexi Adsit: <http://bit.ly/1kzai8A> www.thetransgenderproject.com



RE News You Can Use! This week, Sunday, November 22nd, we will have a Time For All Ages followed by age appropriate classes. The nursery is available for infants and toddlers ages birth to three from 10:15-11:45AM.

The following week, November 29th, will be a multigenerational service. All children and youth will remain in the service. Please come and worship with us. That week, the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45AM.

Attention readers! We are looking to try a book discussion with our middle school and high school students. The Book is All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. The book is about “two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and,

ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.” Please contact the DRE if your child or youth would be interested in this book discussion. Right now we are looking to get a head count. **Thank you.**

Service Project - Each of our RE classes is working on a service project or deciding on a project. One project we have started as a group was making paper bead jewelry to hand out and collect donations. The donations will go to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as part of Guest at Your Table. The next few weeks I am looking for some children and youth to work with me on finishing up the items we started making. I am also looking for a few adults to assist us. We will meet in the classroom off of the Fellowship Hall for the next few weeks after service. Please contact the DRE if you are interested and so I can get a head count. Thank you. **Rayla D. Mattson-Director of Religious Education Unitarian Society of Hartford** 860-233-9897 ext 104 860-839-5001 – cell I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. If you need to reach me outside of those times, please feel free to text or call my cell.



A Special Note from Rev. Heather: It has been a sobering time lately in our national and international news. I imagine many of you have been feeling the same way. In particular I am appalled by the "twenty-five Republican governors [who have] vowed to block the entry of Syrian refugees into their states, arguing that the safety of Americans was at stake after the Paris attacks" (New York Times November 16, 2015). I want to urge any of you who can possibly join us to attend this Saturday evening's concert at the Meeting House to benefit Syrian refugees. Now more than ever, we need music to heal, ground, and rejuvenate us, and we need to come together in support of positive, compassionate ways to care for one another as human beings. Please join us this Saturday evening; invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, caregivers, families and acquaintances. Let us gather together to savor music and community. Let us send a clear message to our larger community that we will not let fear override our shared humanity and our belief in our interconnectedness and interdependence.

**Benefit Concert in support of the Refugee Settlement Crisis Project
November 21, 7:30 pm at the Meeting House.**



Religious leaders in Hartford County, CT are gearing up to make it easier for refugees to get settled in the area. We know that the new arrivals will need funds for housing, warm winter clothing, and food for the first few months.

A group of young musicians in central CT, including many from the Hartt School of Music of the University of Hartford and the University of Connecticut graduate music program in Storrs, are giving a concert on November 21 to raise those funds. Among them are students from Serbia and Turkey, lands strongly affected by the refugee migration from the war-torn Mideast.

If you cannot attend the concert, you can support this cause by going to www.Faithify.org and searching under Service or Interfaith or Justice for the concert title.

This interfaith group will support their efforts by live-streaming video of that event with the Faithify.org support for world-wide donations. The UU Hartford channel for the live streamed concert will be:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTDisuRsFh3VHfnRwrErO3w>

Suggested donation: \$15.00



Join the CommUUnity Table! Happy Thanksgiving to each and all. We've been invited to join Fern Street Universalist UU's for a Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day at 1:00pm. If you don't have other plans for Thanksgiving Day, please consider joining our Revs—Cathy, Heather, and our kiddo, Robin, over at Fern Street as we get to know our nearest UU neighbors and friends a little bit better—and enjoy a shared celebration of gratitude and food. Please let RevHeather know if you'll be coming by Friday, November 20, so that we can give Fern Street organizers a head count.

The Fern Street Universalist Church is located at 433 Fern Street in a residential neighborhood just north of West Hartford Center. The congregation is easily accessible from I-84. Parking is available in the rear of the building and on the nearby residential streets.

This is a free and friendly shared meal. We've been asked to contribute non-meal entrees—they'll supply the turkey and sides. What's your favorite Tofurky or vegetarian entrée? Please let RevHeather know what you can bring.

With gratitude for this larger interdependent web of which we are all a part, and looking forward to enjoying a meal with you! –RevHeather, revheather@ushartford.com, 541-390-6052



2015 Fall Programs for Adults and Families

USH Calendar of Events: www.ushartford.com/events/

We look forward to seeing you Sunday at the Programs Table. There will not be a Programs Table on Sunday, November 29. December offerings to sign up for are: The USH Drum Circle, Friday Pizza and Movie, and the Saturday Morning Salon.

Information and handouts about these programs and others offered at USH such as the Book Club, Tai Chi, and the Performing Arts will be available at the Programs Table.

You may call Janice Newton (860.677.1121) or email her at [janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com), for more information about the programs.

Programs:

Drum Circle at USH:

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

Join Tom Gervais, Margaret Leicach and the 13 others who came to our first circle on November 10th and advocated for it to be on-going. No experience necessary, no fee. Tom has been a drummer for many years and facilitates this all-ages activity. Bring your own drums and percussion instruments or use those that will be available.



Friday Pizza and Movie: December 11 featuring “ The Full Monty”.

Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves You: Saturday, December 12, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon.

Tai Chi: 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. Contact Diana Heymann (860-461-0908).

Emei Qigong: Wednesdays, Tutorial: 4:45 PM, Internal Cultivation/Practice: 5:00 PM. Contact Diana Heymann (860-461-0908).

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

Authentic Connection & Communication:

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



**The USH Book Club Meets in David's Den
On Thursdays From 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Please talk to Richard Groothuis if you have any questions.

860-678-1030; rgroopofus@comcast.net

Meetings are generally held between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month in David’s Den at the Church.

USH BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 5:30 PM

All Cry Chaos, a debut thriller by the immensely gifted Leonard Rosen, is a masterful and gripping tale that literally reaches for the heavens. The action begins when mathematician James Fenster is assassinated on the eve of a long-scheduled speech at a World Trade Organization meeting. The hit is as elegant as it is bizarre. Fenster's Amsterdam hotel room is incinerated, yet the rest of the building remains intact. The

murder trail leads veteran Interpol agent Henri Poincare on a high-stakes, world-crossing quest for answers.

About the Author

Leonard Rosen is a best-selling and widely respected non-fiction author among educational publishers (including Pearson, Allyn & Bacon, Little Brown, and Nelson Doubleday). He has written Radio Essays broadcast by NPR's Morning Edition, Only A Game, and All Things Considered, as well as op-eds published by the Boston Globe. He has taught writing at Bentley University and Harvard University. He lives in Brookline, Massachusetts.

(From Amazon.com)

Submitted by Richard Groothuis

Upcoming Books:

Feb 4: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End- Atul Gawade

Mar 3: The Last Death of Jack Harbin- Terry Shames

Apr 7: The Shell Collectors: Stories- Anthony Doerr

May 5: The Little Friend- Donna Tartt

June 2: Spring Chicken: Stay Young Forever (or Die Trying) - Bill Gifford

Unitarian Society of Hartford Performing Arts Series

2015-2016

All events are on Saturday at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted.

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 - At the intersection of Routes 44 & 189

HARTT STUDENTS PERFORM

*Amahl
and the Night Visitors*



Join us for this beloved seasonal musical about faith and miracles, suitable for families and children of all ages.

Friday, December 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Unitarian Society of Hartford

50 Bloomfield Avenue

FREE

Goodwill offering of \$15 per family suggested

www.USHartford.com

Upcoming Special Events and Other News



January 2, 2016

John & Katie Jensensky in Concert– Talented USH favorites Katie and John come back to perform for us and kick off the new year.

March 5, 2016 – **Concert Pro Femina**

Inspired by the 15th year of the Hartford Women Composers Festival, this concert brings a dazzling array of classical music written by women, featuring chamber groups, solo voices, and choral works.



Sunday, March 20, 2016 – **Classical and Broadway Vocal Concert** immediately after the service 12:30 P.M. Come hear some great vocal music... including some performed by our choral scholars and featuring our new accompanist.

April 2 or 16, 2016 - **Jacques Lamarre Play Reading Premiere**

Don't miss another exciting new play premiere penned by USH friend and supporter Jacques Lamarre.



Only \$90 for six events at the standard ticket price! Premium ticket price \$180.

Sales benefit the USH General Fund.

Tickets also sold at door. USH children under 18 free, always!

Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council

Are you interested in working for social justice? - Let's have food, chat, get to know each other, and share what we are passionate about. Let's talk social justice and its many branches. Please think about your dreams for social justice at USH. Also, think what would you need to make those dreams a reality. Think big since sky it the limit! The meeting will be at Vanessa's home (24 Brattle St. West Hartford) on November 29 after the service. Please contact her directly if you are planning to attend at vanessa.gonzalez.rivera@gmail.com or by phone at 816-651-2978

USH Meditation and Dharma Gathering
Starting Wednesday, November 18th
The Dharma presentation is from
Pema Chodron's audio presentation,
"Unconditional Confidence".

Pema Chodron coaches us to develop our own wisdom for cultivating "tender-hearted bravery". This presentation runs most Wednesdays from 5:45 pm- 7:00 pm, in the USH Meditation Sanctuary (Emerson). No need to sign up, just come join us!



Rev. Cathy seeks musicians for a special Contemplative Candlelight Service,

Wednesday, December 16, 6:30pm In the darkest days of the year and in the hustle bustle of December, join Rev. Cathy for a special mid-week service of chanting, silence, and beauty. Rev Cathy is seeking instrumentalists to join in the music making. There will be one brief rehearsal (likely Sunday December 12th after worship), and there's a part for everyone. So if you play an instrument - whether tambourine, oboe, or guitar, please let Rev. Cathy know if you'd like to join in! Revcathy@ushartford.com / 541-390-7553

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Help - A number of us at the Unitarian Society have been exploring what the congregation might do to help the large numbers of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and a number of African countries in resettling here.



We have contacted refugee resettlement agencies in New Haven and Hartford who have experience and support resources. We are identifying other congregations in the Hartford area with whom we might partner.

To resettle a family a number of support items are required (e.g.): rent for 4-6 months, furnishing the apartment with donated goods, help in obtaining employment, help to learn English, settling children in schools, getting health care, driving to appointments, acclimating to the area, government paperwork, etc. How much of this we might undertake as a congregation alone or with others, or as individuals is to be determined. We are now seeking to enlist other interested church members in this exploration. **Please contact Mike Winterfield, Richard Groothuis, or Vanessa Gonzales Rivera, if you are interested in aiding in this effort.**



Music Staff Transition Team

Under the Stairs

Meet with fellow USH members, friends and representatives from the Music Transition Committee to share your experience of music

at USH. Tell us about music that moved you deeply, fed you spiritually, challenged you in some way, made you feel part of the larger whole, lifted you up. We hope that everyone, in this way, will contribute to a comprehensive, inclusive, congregational vision for music at USH. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you, "under the stairs," Next Meeting, Sunday, November 22nd. **Edith Savage** Photo: article.wn.com

★ **USH ReGifting Sale** ★

Drop-off Dates: Nov 15, 22, 29 Box in the Lobby
Sale Dates: Dec. 6 and 13, 2015



Find a new home for all your unwanted items (New, or like new, preferably smaller than a breadbox. ★ Do your holiday shopping. ★ Delight someone else who may love your item. ★ Gently Used Items ★ Help the environment / conserve resources. ★ Make money for USH

★ Look for new environmentally friendly products you can give as gifts this year.

★ **Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Sub-council**



Help bring solar power to USH!



&



Background

In keeping with the Unitarian Society of Hartford's commitment to be a Green Sanctuary and to our 7th principle, an ad hoc group, the Solar Stewardship Work Group, is researching the technical and financial possibility of purchasing a solar system for USH. This information sheet will review our understanding and vision as of November 2015. We invite you to join us!

Technical Considerations

We have been advised that it is feasible to have a free-standing, ground-based solar system located between the Memorial Garden and the wooded area. Hartford zoning rules permit a ground-based system as long as it is not in front of the building and its area is less than 50% of the footprint of the building. Our system would meet these conditions. The Building and Grounds Committee has passed a motion supporting such an installation. In addition, Rayla has confirmed the location will not impinge on the children's outdoor play area.

Financial Considerations

All members and friends of USH will have an opportunity to contribute to this project; we will need many people to help fund it! The project to install a system large enough to provide an amount of electricity equivalent to that which USH uses in a year will cost approximately \$160,000 to \$195,000 (including associated fees); therefore, we will need some people to make substantial contributions.

Many solar installations are eligible for a 30% federal tax credit that is not available to a non-profit such as the USH. Therefore, we are exploring the formation of an LLC in order to get the maximum possible benefits to USH at the minimum cost to the individuals making large contributions to the project. The LLC would initially own the equipment and the power it generates. The solar power generated would be donated to USH at no or minimal cost. In approximately five years, the LLC and the equipment would be donated to USH.

The individual members of an LLC can apply the solar-installation tax credit to their personal tax returns. In addition, the LLC may be able to sell Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to the electric utility as well as take depreciation on the system.

Even with these advantages, the members of the LLC will be making a considerable contribution to USH. We anticipate that the financial incentive—enabling a larger contribution at less expense—will encourage individuals to contribute to this project in addition to their contributions to the annual stewardship drive.

Members in an LLC must be “accredited investors.” Increasing the number of members increases accountant fees, disclosure documents, etc., so it is desirable to keep the group small. An Accredited Investor is one with an income of at least \$200,000 per year over the most recent two years OR assets of over \$1 million, excluding a home.

Issues Addressed

1. The ethics of the LLC taking tax credits when USH is a non-profit has been addressed by Reverends Cathy and Heather in consultation with their colleagues who have done this at other UU congregations.
2. The Endowment Committee has concluded that any possible loss of contributions would be offset by the possible reduction in operating expenses to which the endowment continues to contribute.
3. The Board of Directors approved a proposal from the Solar Stewardship Workgroup at its November meeting, signaling approval of the concept and its willingness to enter into an agreement with an LLC when it is formed.

Next Steps

Stu Spence, David Newton, and Jeff Howard have selected an installer. They are working with the company representative to determine what the final layout will be. Also, they will determine what details will need to be included in an agreement between the provider and the LLC. Richard Groothuis, David Newton, and Jim Venneman are working with lawyers and accountants to research the formation of an LLC—and the associated tax, RECs, and depreciation implications—and to develop agreements between the LLC, USH, and the solar installer.

How Can YOU Be Involved?

If you have legal, accounting, solar-design or other expertise that could be useful as we pursue this opportunity, please contact David Newton immediately.

If you are interested in participating in the LLC, please contact Jean Groothuis.

If you are interested in a general solicitation towards the solar project (which would be in addition to your stewardship pledge), please write a check to USH with “solar project” in the memo line. If possible, please make this charitable contribution by the end of the calendar year so the project can move forward for installation in the spring. If you have general concerns, please contact Virginia de Lima.

USH can save money and protect the environment! **Work group: Virginia de Lima, Jeff Howard, Jean and Richard Groothuis, David and Janice Newton, Stu Spence, and Jim Venneman.**



Our Favorite Holiday Event!

Saturday, December 5, 2015

The Unitarian Society of Hartford's

38th Annual FESTIVAL OF THE SEASON

Crafts and Caroling • Handmade Gifts and Holiday Treats

A Visit from our own Secret Santa

Delicious Potluck (bring main or side dishes to share)

And, new this year...

Solstice Stories, Mask Making, a Bonfire and a

Parade!

Crafts and Stories 3:30 – 5:20 • Seasonal Message 5:30 – 6:00

Potluck 6:00 – 7:30

Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue

\$10/person, \$20/family suggested contribution No one turned away

www.USHartford.com

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE!!!!

This year we are requesting you do NOT bring desserts. WE WILL SUPPLY DESSERTS.

Those who will be attending the 6 PM Potluck at the Festival of the Season are asked to bring potluck food (casseroles, salads, veggie, etc) in dishes marked with your name on dish and on the serving utensil. They should be ready to serve, as we have insufficient oven space to heat or cook carry-in food items.

Please include a list of the ingredients in your potluck contribution to help those among us with food allergies. We will be taking sign-ups at the next two Sunday Fellowship Hours. Come to the Programs Table or look for someone wandering around Fellowship Hall with a clipboard! Please sign up to help us with the planning.

And, please take your serving dish and utensil when you leave for home after the potluck!

We will have bags for you to transport your dish home. Contact me if you have any questions. Thank you! Janice Newton



CALLING ALL USH TABLECLOTHS - If you have any USH white tablecloths at home, please return them washed and ready to use. They should be put ON HANGERS in the wooden cabinet in the storage room off Fellowship Hall (door directly behind where the Programs Table is on Sundays). We will need every tablecloth for the Festival of the Season on Saturday December 5. And, plan to join us for a fun day and delicious potluck. Thank you. **Janice Newton**

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION DEC. 15 - All are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall at noon on Tuesday, December 15 for a pot luck luncheon, coordinated by the Women's Alliance. Traditionally the Alliance and the Lunch Bunch join forces for this special event and welcome all guests. Sign up at the program table telling us how many will come and what you plan to bring. Cost is \$1 per person payable at the lunch. Our tradition is to bring holiday gifts for Interval House or The Open Hearth. Gift Cards are always a good choice or you can go on line and check the wish list for these organizations.

Alternatively, you can support Meeting House members and friends with checks made out to the USH, Ministers' Discretionary Fund.

We will read our traditional "A Visit from St. Nicholas to a Liberated Household" and ask you to bring a short reading to share, if you wish.

If you can help set and decorate tables at 10:30, or help with clean up after lunch, please contact Louise Schmoll at 860-242-2953.



Art In The Ambulatory - It is an honor to have Diane Marinaro as our guest artist for the month of November. The ten paintings are only a small sample of the elegant work of this awesome 98 year old artist. She continues to paint, welcomes students to her studio and teaches a weekly class in Wethersfield. If anyone is interested in buying a painting please call Diane at 860-678-0161

Seeking Chalice Lighters! - Lighting the chalice on Sunday morning as an individual, a couple or a family is a way for you to take a small part in our shared worship service. It's also a way for all of us to see each other more fully and help everyone remember names more easily! Thanks for signing up to engage in this especially Unitarian Universalist ritual that begins our services.



If you haven't lit the chalice before, please plan to arrive by 10:10am so we can show you the routine before the service begins.
<http://www.signugenius.com/go/8050b45a5ae2baa8-chalice>

Black Lives Matter Lawn Signs: If you'd like a lawn or window sign for your home, please come get one at the office! If you take one, please do 3 things: 1) Be sure to put your name on the sign-up sheet so we know you took one. 2) Leave a donation in Rev. Cathy's box with a note to help pay for the sign (\$5-20, pay what you can) 3) Have at least 3 conversations with neighbors or friends about why you put the sign up and why racial justice is important to you.



More Black Lives Matter Signs are available in the Library with a suggested donation of \$20.00. Please stop in during office hours to pick one up: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am-2 pm. Or pick one up on Sunday after the service.



USH COOKBOOKS ~ FINAL CALL! Cookbooks will be sold (\$15 per copy) at coffee hour after service for only TWO MORE SUNDAYS, November 22 and November 29, so if you haven't gotten your copy yet, stop at the cookbook table and place your order! A limited number of cookbooks will be for sale on December 5th at the Art Boutique at Festival of the Seasons.

CASH OR CHECK ~ \$15 Per Copy

Cookbooks will not be sold through the USH office! Please contact Helen David or Sherry Williams, the "Cookbook Ladies", if you have any questions.

IMAGINE A TRUMPET FANFARE as we announce that the Unitarian Society of Hartford officially has a new Composer-in-Residence, who is also a horn (and piano and ukulele) player and singer and has additional musical experience in the area of concert production and management. Her name is: GALA FLAGELLO and she is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Composition degree at the Hartt School. In the past few years, Gala has written many recital commissions for groups as well as individuals. Much of her music is based in rhythmic motives, and, lately, she has been exploring the many possibilities of integrating narrative and her own poetry into her pieces. Gala is currently the Festival Director of two musical endeavors: Women Composers Festival of Hartford, and Connecticut Summerfest. In 2004, Gala received an award from Artists for World Peace to honor her ongoing musical contributions to charitable and local school and community-oriented projects. The pieces Gala composes for the Unitarian Society of Hartford will be played in services at the Meeting House between January and May of 2016. HURRAH! **Edith Savage and Patrice Fitzgerald, On behalf of the Music Committee**

ALLIANCE PROUDLY AWARDS - YEARLY EDUCATIONAL GRANT

The USH chapter of the Women's Alliance is proud to announce that an incoming freshman student was unanimously chosen to receive this year's Educational Fund Grant. Though tiny in relation to current college costs, the awarded funds will be helpful in paying for books, transportation, or incidental expenses. This annual Educational Grant program for female students was inaugurated many years ago by Ellie Revill, a stalwart Alliance member. The Alliance is pleased to be able to offer this support within the USH community. Details of the voting, honoree/s, and award amounts are kept within the Alliance Ed Grant Committee to protect the privacy of applicants. Applications for next year's award will be available next May, with details in the Enews or from an Alliance member.

New Web Up and Functioning:

For the username and password for the Members Only section, please email Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE ONLINE CALENDAR:

For events for the online calendar please include the following information:
(Cut and Paste from the E news will work)

Please Note: New information added at the bottom: "Is Childcare Provided"

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

Is Childcare Provided?: (Note if childcare is provided please confirm with the DRE.)

Email Calendar Events to: calendarchanges@ushartford.com Thank you.

The NEW deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon

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.