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

USH -Enews February 24, 2016
 Worshipping Together Since 1830
 Sunday Service 10:30 AM
 Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image: www.auburn-rose.com

Sunday Service 10:30 AM - February 28, 2016 - "Live the Questions" -
Pulpit Guest The Reverend Dr. Debra W. Haffner - How does our faith help us explore the "big" questions and live into our own answers? The Reverend Dr. Debra Haffner will be our guest minister February 28th. Rev. Dr. Debra W. Haffner is the co-founder and President of the Religious Institute (<http://www.religiousinstitute.org/>) and the endorsed community minister at The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT. She can be reached at debra@uuwestport.org

February 21, 2016 Sunday Service Recap by Kayla Costenoble



Photos: Harriet Gardner

Resources of Hope - Introducing us to a book she highly recommends—Sandy Tolan’s “Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land”—Rev. Heather said music gives us the power to be assertive, to connect, to protest, to penetrate isolation, and to create musical bridges. Music circumvents the mind and goes directly to the emotions and the body. It is close to a universal language.

“I have to believe our individual efforts in our short lives do matter,” she said during the February 21, 2016, service. But then she asked, “Can we do more than just watch?” A quote from Edward Said, the late Palestinian theoretician, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University and public intellectual, graced the front cover of the OAS. He wrote, “The role of the intellectual is to challenge power by providing alternative models. And, as important, resources of hope.” Rev. Heather said “We must let our leaders know we are watching, will not avert our gaze and will put our energy to positive action.”

In his book, Author Tolan tells the unlikely but true story of Ramzi Hussein Aburedwan, a child from a Palestinian refugee camp, who confronts an occupying army, gets an education, masters a musical instrument, and inspires scores of others to work with him to make his dream real. The dream—to transform the lives of thousands of children through music. Musicians from all over the world came to work with Ramzi at his new school al Kamandjati.

One story from the book: In the spring of 2008, in Hebron, Ramzi and a busload of music students were stopped at one of the 630 checkpoints between Palestine and Israel. Two young sisters were among the passengers. Seeing her violin case, the soldiers ordered the ten-year old to get off the bus, open the case, and

then play for them. Her youth and her beautiful playing of a song familiar to them put them out of danger; they were allowed to continue. Rev. Heather then played on her own violin part of the haunting Palestinian hymn the young girl had played. She said Tolan's book brought her back to her violin after many years and she has begun taking lessons again.

Before our minute of shared silence, Rev. Heather said it seemed to her, "The greatest spiritual challenge is to focus" and she urged us to be still, focus on a word, and give all our attention to one thing.

And then, there was Zaffa (Arabic for "wedding processional"), an ensemble of four young men, all graduate students at the University of Hartford (We are so fortunate to be so close to that campus, literally and figuratively) whose soulful, jazzy, Arabian sound proved to be an irresistible musical combination. They provided (very) Special Music during the service, played along during "Spirit of Life" and during the Departing Blessing for our kids, and accompanied Closing Hymn 159, "This is my song."

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
 a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
 This is my home, the country where my heart is;
 here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
 but other hearts in other lands are beating
 with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

And then our Choir stood at the foot of the Chancel to sing the last part of Felix Mendelssohn's "Hear My Prayer/O'For the Wings of a Dove." This is derived from Psalm 55 from the Book of Psalms and is a lament because the author is surrounded by enemies and one of his closest friends has betrayed him. It has such a beautiful soprano solo:

O' for the wings, for the wings of a dove,
 Far away, far away, I would rove...
 In the wilderness build me a nest
 And remain there forever at rest.

And then there was Katharine Ann Anderson's Testimonial bringing us up-to-date on the USH's work to become recognized by the UUA as an AIM (Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry) congregation. There are 17 members in this group. The UUA has approved their work. We will be receiving a Needs Assessment to discover how inclusive we are, and there will be a Task Force meeting next Sunday.

Personal note: Musically speaking, I had an incredible weekend. There was, of course, Sunday at the Meeting House. There was also Saturday at the University of Hartford's sold out concert by the fantastic "Bang on a Can All-Stars," well-described in the program as taking electronic music "into uncharted

territories.” A description by one of the composers fits so well with our Sunday service: “Music should be a protest for human values, a prophecy for change. In an apocalyptic world, it gives the possibility, however remote, of affirmation.”



RE News You Can Use! - This week, Sunday, February 28th, the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45Am for infants and toddlers. There will be a Time For All Ages followed by age appropriate classes.

There is still time to volunteer to assist in RE this year. Please contact the DRE for more information.

Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed a fun filled evening of food, fun and games. We all had a great time and hope to see more of you at our next event.

Also, our 6th graders spent a fun evening this past Friday with other UU 6th graders from Manchester. They had a ball and we look forward to hosting them here soon. **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.



Church Business News

Annual Report 2016 Reminder - Attention Contributors - It's time to begin collecting submissions for the 2015-2016 Annual Report which will be distributed at the Annual Meeting set for Sunday, May 15th, 2016. *The deadline for submissions will be Friday, April 15, 2016. This will enable us to have the reports available the Sunday before the meeting. Please email content to ushindaclark@gmail.com with 'Annual Meeting' in the Subject. Please send as a word document or put the content of the report in the body of the email. Thank you! - **Linda Clark**

The Board will be meeting at 7:00 on Tuesday, March 1. - Items on the agenda are:

Progress of the archives committee

Music staffing for the future

2016-2017 budget--setting the stage for a larger discussion at the April meeting

Continuation of discussion on the "Myth of the 200 Barrier." (a book that focuses on challenges for different sized churches) - **Submitted by Virginia deLima**

The Stewardship Theme This Year: Keep on Movin' Forward! - The past two years USH has seen exuberant energy and growth. Now is the time to explore the nurturing of this welcome momentum and begin to dream. Join representatives of the stewardship team and the Board under the stairs at 11:45PM on Sunday February 28 and March 6 to share ideas of what a successful stewardship drive could bring to our community. The session is a time to think large and imagine the congregation of our future. It's not all about paying the water bill and plowing snow. We can be the congregation of light and sound and action blasting into the larger community as we caress our own.

Submitted by Laurie Kelliher

NOW SEE THIS! LIGHTS.... WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON MOVING FORWARD ...BRINGING USH INTO THE 21st CENTURY

A Stewardship Message - The worship associate welcomes all to the sanctuary ... anyone who is new, or visiting for the second or third time... please stand up, state your name and where you are from. "Hello, I'm Agnes, and I'm from Bloomfield; this is my first time here." "Welcome." "Welcome." "Hello." More warm responses follow. A couple stands up. "I'm Gary. He glances over. "And I'm Rebecca. We're from Windsor." More return greetings from USH members follow. A woman in the second to last row, stands up, ready to speak. "Are there any others who would rather not stand, but just give a wave?" asks the worship associate. The woman, standing tall, waves her hands to and fro, trying to capture attention. Alas, the lighting is miserably low and her furtive attempts at attention go unnoticed. "O.K. Please silence your cell phones..." Once again, a visitor silenced, due to poor lighting. The lighting in our Sanctuary is lacking. Not

only do we miss the occasional new welcome, our lack of lighting leaves some struggling to see the service (AIM folk) and others depending more on their other senses to make up for what is not clear to them visibly. The choir sounds enchanting... wouldn't it be nice to see the beauty behind the voices? "We need to keep on moving forward..." bringing USH into the 21st century... for our newcomers, our visitors with visual challenges... indeed, for all of us. Your giving toward better lighting will result in our receiving a system that highlights the performance of our quality musicians, better welcomes our newcomers and helps all of us to "SEE" the quality service we are presented with each Sunday. -

Submitted by Gloria Mengual

Election to Replace Retiring Board Members From Your USH Nominating Committee:

Four Board members will be completing their terms on June 30th and the congregation will be voting on people to replace them during the Annual Meeting on May 15th.

- * John Brancato will be complete his one-year term as President-Elect and become Board President.
- * Louise Schmoll will complete her service as Treasurer.
- * John Clapp will be stepping down as Chair of the Council on Administration.
- * Tina Davies will be stepping down as Chair of the Council on Community Within.

The Nominating Committee is seeking members who would like to serve on the Board in those four positions.

All Board members participate in monthly Board meetings.

The President-Elect will serve in that position for one year. They act in the absence of the President and work in close cooperation with the President by carrying out other duties that would be of assistance. The experience gained during the year helps them to prepare for the following year when they become President for one year. So it's a two year commitment.

The Treasurer will serve for two years managing our church's financial affairs. They are the Chair of the Finance Committee which develops broad financial policy for the church. They work closely with the Chair of the Endowment Committee and with the Business Manager to manage incoming and outgoing church funds and come in to the Meeting House once a week to approve and sign checks. Working with the Finance Committee, the Business Manager and the Board, they also coordinate the development of the annual church budget.

The Treasurer and President -Elect are Board Officers and meet with the Ministers and the President and Secretary during the week prior to the monthly Board meeting to plan the agenda and discuss other board and church issues.

Council Chairs serve for two years supporting and coordinating the work of the sub-councils and committees they're responsible for.

The Council on Administration includes Finance, Stewardship, Archives, Art, Building & Grounds and Human Resources. This position provides many opportunities to participate in the dynamic re-creation of USH.

The Council on Community Within includes Adult & Family Programs, Small Group Ministry, Performing Arts, 20's and 30's Group, Knitting Group, Caring Network, Alliance Ministry to Women, Seabury, Festival of the Season, Communications and Membership. This position is at the center of the efforts to support our current members and those who wish to join us.

According to the Constitution, nominations for the Board of Directors shall be made either by the Nominating Committee or by petition. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominations for all open Board positions, having previously obtained the consent of each nominee. This list shall be given to the Secretary by April 15th and the Secretary shall publish it before April 20th. Any nominations by petition shall be signed by at least five members and have the consent of the nominee(s). Such petitions shall be given to the Secretary, Margaret Leicach, by April 30th for publication before May 5th.

If you have any questions about any of the open positions or about the process of electing new Board members, please talk with any member of the Nominating Committee or any current Board member; President Virginia de Lima, President-Elect John Brancato, Treasurer Louise Schmoll, Secretary Margaret Leicach, Administration Chair John Clapp, Community Within Chair Tina Davies, Social Justice Chair Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera or Spiritual Life Chair Martha Bradley.

Nominating Committee: Bill LaPorte-Bryan, Chair; Ron Friedman; Diana Heymann; Judy Sullivan; Chris Wilt **Submitted by Bill LaPorte-Bryan**



Roy Cook

April 24, 1939 - February 15, 2016

We are sad to share with you with the sudden passing of one of our beloved and most-long-time members, Roy Cook. Roy went into the hospital last Thursday with an infection, and died yesterday afternoon--Monday, February 15.

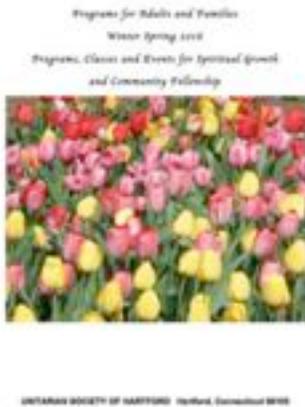
We will hold a Memorial Service to celebrate and remember Roy's life at the Unitarian Meeting House on Saturday, April 2nd at 11am, following one of Roy's favorite holidays, April

Fool's Day. Please be in touch with Rev. Cathy if you have memories and stories to share.

We send our love and condolences to Roy's family: his wife Marion; daughter Jen; son Dave, his wife Suzanne, and their daughter Annabelle; and brother Jim and his wife Connie.

Your kind thoughts and notes of sympathy are most welcome--you can send a note to the Cook Family at 32 North Road, East Granby, CT 06026.

**Thoughtfully,
Unitarian Society of Hartford Leaders, Ministers, and Staff**



2016 Winter/Spring Programs

for Adults and Families
USH Calendar of Events:
www.ushartford.com/events/

Plan to stop by the Programs Table Sunday to sign up for a March program or to find out about other Winter/Spring programs offered at USH. The FridayPizza and Movie night is March 11 and a new offering – The Guru In You – Experiencing the Transcendent Self, facilitated by Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada, will begin Wednesday, March 30. Spaces are still open for the Saturday morning “Transitions” Small Group Ministry, starting April 2.

The new Winter Spring 2016 Programs for Adults and Families catalog is now available online. Go to <http://www.ushartford.com/>. At the top of the page, click on Building Community and then Adult & Family Programs. In the bottom right corner, click on Catalog Winter Spring 2016.

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.

Programs:

Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves Us: Saturday, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 11, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon.

The Guru In You: 5 Wednesdays starting March 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Small Group Ministry: Saturdays, April 2 – May 21, 9:00 – 11:00 AM.

Creative Sharing and Mutual Inspiration Society: Second and Fourth Mondays, 6:15 – 8:00 PM.

Ballroom Dance: Thursdays: Monthly enrollment, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Great Decisions: First and Third Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

Drum Circle: 3rd Tuesdays, March 15, 6:45 – 7:45 PM.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM.

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.



**DINNER & MOVIE, FRIDAY,
MARCH 11
WINTER BLUES CHASER**

"Rollicking fun!"*

"Irreverent and outrageous!"*

"An explosive comedy!"*

On Friday, March 11, enjoy the droll fantasy/drama "The 100 Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared", the next film in the USH Dinner and Movie series.

"Adapted from the runaway international best-seller, . . . a charming, globe-trotting riff on world history and the highest-grossing Swedish film of all time."* Watch the trailer here <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=owWrjyIC37k>. This movie runs for almost 2 hours and is rated R (for some language and violence); captions will be shown. On Friday, March 11, we will meet for popcorn and socializing at 5:30 PM, with pizza and salad dinner at 6, movie at 7, with an optional discussion afterwards.

You can reserve for yourself - and can also bring a non-USH friend, if you like - at the Sunday Fellowship Hour Programs Table, with cash, check, or credit card (\$10 each) and indicate your choice of meat or vegetable pizza topping. Or, you can call Janice at 860-677-1121, by Wednesday, March 9. Leave a message on the machine, being sure to specify number of reservations and meat or veg topping choices. Then you can pay by cash or check at movie night.

If on the day of the movie you find you cannot attend, please call me before noon, leaving a message on my cell phone (860-380-7062), so the pizza order can be adjusted. Questions or concerns? Call Nita at 860-693-4269.

*from DVD box

Submitted by Nita H.



**Great Decisions: March 6
9:00 AM In Servetus
Cuba and the U.S.- Paula
Jones, Kevin Gough and
Guest - Discussants**
The U.S. announced in

December 17, 2014, that, after decades of isolation, it would be taking major steps to normalize relations with Cuba, its neighbor to the south. The announcement marked a dramatic shift away from a policy that has its roots in one of the darkest moments of the Cold War—the Cuban missile crisis. Although the U.S. trade embargo is unlikely to end any time soon, American and Cuban leaders today are trying to bring a relationship once defined by antithetical ideologies into the 21st century.

-Submitted by Ed Savage; http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions

Creative Sharing and Mutual Inspiration Society - Come join us! Welcome! For this winter and spring, the arts group formerly known as the Artist's Way and Visualize Your Life's Journey Through the Arts has become the Creative Sharing (the essence of what we do) and Mutual Inspiration (what happens through creative sharing) Society. Open to all, the group meets from 6:15 to 8:00 or 8:30 in the USH library on the second and fourth Monday of each month through June 2016.

Individual members of this group have volunteered to plan one program each second Monday of the month and sponsor an open workshop 'bring what you're working on or ideas to share or nothing at all' evening on the fourth Monday of the month.

Programs include such topics as written response and discussion based on a specific book, prayer beads for Unitarians, Soul Collage, creating a finger labyrinth, making a personal dream catcher, and a few yet to be announced. These are not drop-in programs but are offered as a complete session. Plus, we also just chat and enjoy each other's company and energy and creativity!

Contact Person: Sherry Williams booksandbeads@comcast.net 860.214.7045
Cost: \$5.00 for the session and possible (minor) materials fees

In peace and harmony with the Muse, Sherry

Transitions: A New Small Group Ministry - Are you at a turning point in your life? A place where the old way is not working but you're not sure what would be better? Do you feel restless? Stuck? Confused? Trapped? On eight consecutive Saturday mornings starting April 2, Judy Robbins will lead a Small Group Ministry for people who feel they are in transition. We will inspire and learn from each other while at the same time paying special attention to our own inner guidance.

Sessions will be held at the Meeting House Library from April 2-May 21;
9:00-11:00AM.

The group is limited to ten participants. The first session is mandatory and a commitment to all sessions is strongly encouraged. We expect this group to fill quickly so sign up soon at the Programs Table in Fellowship Hall after Sunday

service or call Janice Newton at 860-677-1121 or email her at janicecnewton@gmail.com.

Judy Robbins PsyD, is a psychologist, nationally certified life coach and long-time UU. She and her husband Rick Tsukada live in Glastonbury and are members of USH.



The Guru In You Experiencing the transcendent Self

Transpersonal Psychology acknowledges the spiritual and transcendent in human experience and integrates these into modern psychological practice. It presents us with a model for living as fully mature body-mind-spirit beings. Our culture emphasizes the body-mind and has sorely neglected the innate spirited part of us that we are calling

the inner guru. In this 5-session class, we will investigate the nature and usefulness of the inner “guru,” the part of us that taps into universal peace, wisdom, love and joy. Using lecture, discussion, and lots of participatory exercises, we will have some fun exploring the guru, the source of our inspiration and inner guidance. Class is limited to 10 and we strongly encourage attendance at all sessions.

Facilitators: Judy Robbins is a psychologist whose doctorate is in Transpersonal Psychology, the field that integrates the spiritual aspects of human experience within the framework of modern psychology. Rick Tsukada is a clinical social worker who has worked as a psychotherapist and workshop leader for decades. Rick and Judy, both long-time UUs, are married and members of USH.

Schedule: Five two-hour sessions. A commitment to attend all 5 is strongly encouraged. Wednesday evenings beginning March 30 6:00 – 8:00 PM in SERVETUS. **Suggested Donation:** \$25

Participant Limit: Because of the experiential nature of this group, the class is limited to ten (10) participants. **Submitted by Programs for Adults and Families** **Image:** www.pinterest.com

A Special Notice from the USH Book Club

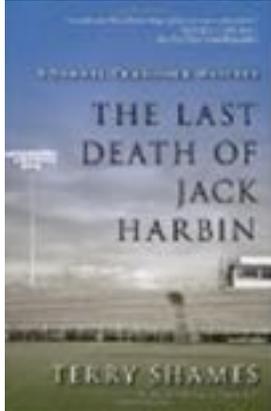
Our February Book Club meeting discussed Being Mortal. Because of the level of interest, we decided to devote part of March's meeting to a continuing dialogue.

The issues facing all of us as we age and/or have significant medical problems call for a number of hard choices. The book focuses on the failures of the medical

profession and many assisted living situations in permitting the individual to make informed choices based on ones short and long term goals.

How can we best navigate our lives to maximize the quality of life and objectives each of us wants to achieve? Come and puzzle with us!

We will also discuss our March selection: The Last Death of Jack Harbin.



USH Book Club

Thursday, March 3, 5:30 PM

at the home of Richard and Jean Groothuis. RSVP to Richard Groothuis (860-678-1030 or

rgroopofus@comcast.net).

All are welcome!

The Last Death of Jack Harbin by Terry Shames

A LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2014!

A Samuel Craddock Mystery

Don't be misled. Shames' novel is set in a Texas country town and peopled by folks named Lurleen and Marybeth

and an aging lawman with a cane for his bad knee, who calls a murder scene "a dreadful sight." But know that you're not getting a sampling of the wisdom of simple souls. This is a perceptive look, written with style and tight discipline, into a hermetic society in which everything—a night out gone bad, a high-school football game—assumes colossal proportions. Jack Harbin is a blind, one-legged Vietnam vet brutally murdered for no apparent reason. It's for Samuel Craddock, a retired lawman pressed into service because the current police chief is a boozier, to limp around asking questions until the truth comes out. The details are mundane, going from disability checks to bottles of cold medicine, and for all the interlocking small-town dramas, the solution to the mystery hinges on the sudden appearance of two out-of-towners. They look different. They don't belong. Getting involved with outsiders was the killer's major mistake. A gritty take on small-town crime. --Don Crinklaw

Please talk to Richard Groothuis if you have any questions. 860-678-1030; rgroopofus(at sign)comcast.net -Submitted by the Programs for Adults and Families Sub-Council

The USH Book Club Meets on the first Thursdays of the month

From 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Please talk to Richard Groothuis if you have any questions.

860-678-1030; rgroopofus@comcast.net

Upcoming Books:

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

-Submitted by Richard Groothuis



Coming Up Soon: Performing Arts Events are now FREE!

We're instituting a new policy. Since we want to fill the pews and thrill the community, the final three events in this year's Performing Arts series will require no tickets or payment. We will instead suggest a \$15 "goodwill offering" to go to our General Fund and be matched in this last year of our favorite anonymous donor's beneficence. If anyone who paid for the 2015-2016 series would like to discuss a refund, please be in touch with Patrice.

Put these upcoming wonderful events on your calendar, and plan to join us!

Saturday, March 5, 7:30, in the sanctuary - A concert of glorious music by women. Concert Pro Femina!

Sunday, March 20, noon, in the sanctuary - Songs from Broadway, the American songbook, and classical composers, featuring our Choral Scholars and members of the choir. A chance to hear some of these folks singing solo!

Saturday, April 16, 7:30, in the sanctuary - The tremendously successful playwright and USH friend Jacques Lamarre will be presenting his fifth annual new play reading for us, followed by a reception. This one-woman comedy features the phenomenal Virginia Wolf, and depicts the adventures of a lady who accidentally becomes a cult leader. Don't miss "Betty Jo's Fan Club"!

Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council

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 16, 2016 - Jacques Lamarre Play Reading Premiere
 Don't miss another exciting new play premiere penned by USH friend and supporter Jacques Lamarre.



A Rousing Talent Show! - A grand time was had by all when we resurrected the lengthily-named "Family Share Talent/No Talent Show." We had acts ranging from funny stories to funny impressions to funny magic shows (see photo of Reverend Cathy demonstrating her skills in prestidigitation along with her mini-me assistant Robin), followed by some great songs! The Meetinghouse Folk wrapped it up with a couple of rockin' numbers.

As a result of the wonderful response, we plan to have another Family Share again as soon as we can find a suitable Sunday. People, hone your acts! The bright lights of Fellowship Hall await you.

This event also inspired a plan to make a CD of the Meeting House Folk to sell for the benefit of the USH General Fund. Assistance is sought for this project! Ideas and support are welcome. Please be in touch with PatriceFitzgerald@gmail.com

Photos: Harriet Gardner and Patrice Fitzgerald: Rev. Cathy



Upcoming Special Events and Other News



**The Plight of the Yazidis
21st Century Genocide**

5,000 Yazidis MURDERED in Iraq
7,000 Yazidi Women, Girls & Children
ABDUCTED and SOLD as SLAVES
500,000 Homeless IN NEED of Food, Shelter,
Clothes, Medicine & Protection
A 6,000 Year Old Yazidi Culture Stands on the

Brink of Extinction

WILL YOU REMAIN SILENT?

Please join us for a presentation outlining the atrocities and genocide perpetrated by ISIS against the Yazidis. A viewing of the PBS Frontline documentary, Escaping ISIS, will follow the presentation. Learn how you can help this persecuted religious minority.

DATE: Sunday, February 28, 2016

PLACE: Unitarian Meeting House-Emerson, 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06105

TIME: Following Morning Services: 11:30am-1:00pm

-For more info. contact **Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera**



UUUSH & YOU

A Path to Membership

Free child care provided.

Rev. Heather will be present for all three sessions.

3 Sunday sessions
(Feb 7, 21 & Mar 6)
12:00-1:30 pm

Followed up with a **Membership Sunday** on **May 1st**

Join us in our three-session workshop and examine how Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Society of Hartford relates to your spiritual growth, sense of community, and everyday life.

Sign up at the Programs Table or contact Brian Harvey at bharvey@ushartford.com

DO YOU LOVE BOOKS? LOVE A PROJECT? WANT TO VOLUNTEER ON YOUR OWN SCHEDULE?

Consider whether or not helping reenergize the USH Library might be just the right project for you. Now that the USH Archives have been moved from the Meeting House Library into the Margaret Fuller Room, there are shelves available in the Library for expanding and growing our Library into truly being a Community & Congregational Library. Think of the books we could solicit, organize, and make available for checkout. Take a look at the books already there that would benefit from being sorted through, showcased, highlighted, and discussed. Help to make the Meeting House Library truly a library! If this is something you'd be interested in working on, individually or as a small team, please let Rev. Heather know



at revheather@ushartford.com or 541-390-6052. There's no stress about this, it's just one of those things that could use a dedicated and creative presence (or two or three) to help us enliven and make better use of the marvelous Meeting House space.



Lunch Bunch to Meet: We will meet at La Trattoria in Canton at noon on Tuesday, March 15th. Our speaker will be Kit Northup. Please let me (Janice) know by noon on Wednesday, March 9th if you will be joining us. To register for the March lunch, contact me at 860/677-1121 or janicecnewton(atsign)gmail.com or see Nancy Reed or me at the Programs Table during Fellowship Hour on

Sundays. We will order from the menu and will be given separate checks. I am always extremely happy to hear from you sooner rather than later!

I am looking forward to having you with us on March 15th. **Janice Newton**



ART NEWS

Coastal Heath, a felted landscape created by congregant Diane Cadrain, took First Place in the 72nd Annual Connecticut Artists Exhibition at the Slater Museum in Norwich on February 7, 2016. Diane's fiber art is currently on display in the USH ambulatory.

All items are for sale. Too few of us were able to visit the beautiful exhibit of fiber art in Hartford. Diane Cadrain, multi-gifted creator, generously has brought her gift to us. **-Sara Sturges**



Update on the USH Archives by Zac Mirecki

On February 10, Rev. Heather joined Zac and Larry to continue work on the USH archives. Larry has worked quickly to arrange boxes in order by letter, keeping the organizational scheme imposed by Margaret Sax. As work continues, we will soon be getting to materials that are yet unsorted and uncatalogued and updating the 1997 inventory of the collection.

Thermometer/Hygrometer: Larry has graciously donated a thermometer/hygrometer to the archives which provides a high to low range. Regular readings will ensure we are monitoring the temperature/humidity/dew point in the Margaret Fuller Room and see what work to better insulate the may need to consider. By creating a spreadsheet we can track the measurements monthly and input the data into <http://www.dpcalc.org/> which is a calculator for determining long-term preservation risks. According to Mary Lynn Ritzenhaler in *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts* (Society of American Archivists, Chicago, 1993) relative humidity is a more critical factor in preservation of materials. High Temperature,

however, does speed up chemical reactions. For every 18 degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature, chemical activity in most substances approximately doubles. It has been estimated that the useful life of paper is cut approximately in half with every 10 degree increase in temperature (45-46).”

Call for equipment!

The Archives is in need of equipment to safely play (and potentially record/transfer) audio found on numerous cassette tapes, magnetic reel-to-reel tapes, and LPs. It appears the last time anything was done to the tapes was around 1995 and they are slowly deteriorating. It is doubtful these lectures/sermons/events have been recorded elsewhere. Do you have a reel to reel player or tape deck you would be willing to donate for use in the archives? More importantly, do you know how to operate these safely without causing more harm? I am much more comfortable getting intimate and dirty with 18th century manuscripts than I am with relatively new (but unstable) tapes and do not know the best way to play these safely!

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on March 23th at 10am. This will be a work date to continue to sort new material and weed out duplicates. Please join us to help out or learn more information.



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 10:10 AM so we can show you the routine before the service begins.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b45a5ae2baa8-chalice>



Food and fellowship build communities.

Please consider signing up to supply snacks for an occasional coffee hour following our Sunday service.

Any food item you would like to share would be welcome. Bring something that would give you joy in sharing it with others. You don't have to please everyone.

The youth group will continue to serve soup on the third Sunday of the month; no additional snacks needed that day. And our wonderful Sunday Sexton, Crystal, will continue to provide coffee & beverages.

We're just looking for some extra snacks for those who would like! Sign up by clicking on the link below~

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4faeae2ea3f58-sunday>

Once you sign-up, you will receive an email reminder two days before your scheduled Sunday. Questions or Comments? Contact Kathy Payne at kthpayne@gmail.com

A Call for Office Volunteers! - Could that possibly be YOU? We are in need of volunteers to maintain a friendly office presence. Easy work - or bring a book, knitting and a smile for any visitors or phone calls the office may receive. Please contact Linda Clark (at: [ushlindaclark \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:ushlindaclark@gmail.com)) or phone the office at 860-233-9897 and let her know if you can spend a few hours a week in the USH Office to help us keep our friendly and efficient office going!



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.

Dear Friends,

I am writing to invite you to the Third Annual Inter-Faith Film Series co- hosted by the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding, Inc. and the Wadsworth Atheneum.

We would be most grateful if you would kindly spread the word about this series. We hope to see you at the screenings. We would also appreciate your sharing this flyer with your distribution lists, students and colleagues.

Thank you.

Shyamala Raman
Coordinator of the Film Series Team
Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera

-Submitted by



Cluster Connections 2016

**“We Are Stronger Together”
Saturday, April 9, 2016, 8AM-4PM**

This transformative event will be an opportunity for UU congregations in Connecticut to gather together to strengthen our UU community and identify ways to support each other. The program is listed below and can also be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTUUCcluster2016/>

Registration IS NOW OPEN!!!

Registration fee is \$30 and includes lunch and childcare. To register on-line please go to: <https://clusterconnections2016.eventzilla.net>

Registration closes on March 26, so sign up soon! For more information on the schedule of activities, please check out our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTUUCcluster2016/>.

Unitarian Society of New Haven,
700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT (www.usnh.org)

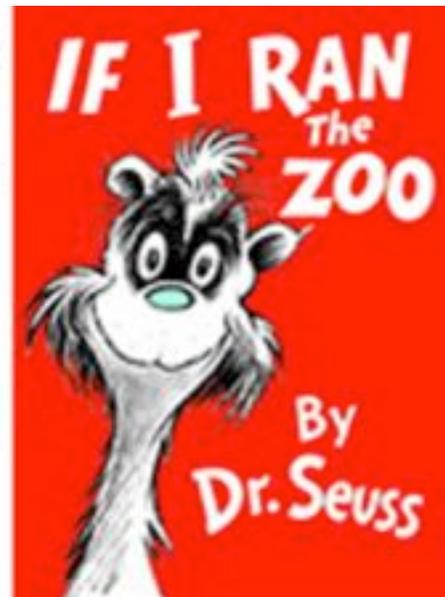
For a complete list of courses offered go to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/site4ctuus/home/cluster-connections-2016>

LIVE UNITED



**United Way of Central
and Northeastern Connecticut**



A fun kind of outreach! - I want to personally invite you to volunteer with United Way for the 19th Annual Read Across America Day in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2!

We are looking to recruit 100 volunteers between Hartford and New Britain to read the classic, "If I Ran the Zoo" to a whole kindergarten classroom! To make this happen we need your help.

This is the perfect fun and fulfilling one-time volunteer opportunity if you only have a couple hours to spare. You can bring a friend, family member or a group of colleagues! Please REGISTER HERE.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Brian Mezzi at bmezzi@unitedwayinc.org or 860-493-1112. Image: en.wikipedia.org and United Way

New Web Up and Functioning:

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

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

For events for the online calendar please include the following information:

(Cut and Paste from the E news will work)

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.