



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

USH-Enews ~ July 13, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Star



Image: Provided by Marye Gail Harrison - **Sunday Service 10:30 AM - July 17, 2016 - “Revering Mother Nature” - Marye Gail Harrison, Pulpit Guest Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate**

Source: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



September 18, 2016, 10:30am: "I Am One Thing. I Am Many Things. I Am Water. This is my dance through our world."

--Thomas Locker.

Join our Revs., Heather and Cathy, for our Annual Ingathering and Water Ceremony Service. Remember to gather some water representing your summertime reflections and refreshments,

whether they be at your own sink, a nearby park, or someplace far away, symbolic, or particularly meaningful. What's important about this service is our returning to be with one another again after summer breaks from routine, and our sharing with one another about how our spirit has been touched and nourished. Join us. All are welcome. Image: www.stevenwrubleski.com

Dear Readers: The E-News for July 20th will be a double issue. There will be no Enews on July 27th.

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

Highlights In This Week's Enews:

Summer At USH | Upcoming Services at USH this Summer | Sunday Service

Recap | RE News You Can Use and a Message from Rayla

Church Business News: Approved Budget Posted online

2016 Programs for Adults and Families

USH Book Club Update

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

The Latest on the Archives | Knox Garden Party August 11th

Events of Note in the Larger Community

A Message from the Village | New World Trio Concerts featuring Pi-Hsun | The

12th Night at UU East | Bridging Cultures Book Group

Check out our online Calendar for Upcoming Events:

<http://www.ushartford.com/events/>

To submit a Calendar Request, please cut and paste the FORM at the end of the E-News into an email and send to calendarchanges@ushartford.com

(Please double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Please email corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com -Thank you!)

Summer at USH - The Revs will be at General Assembly, Vacation & Study leave June 20 – August 30th Once back from the General Assembly we begin our vacation and study leave with our annual trip to Oregon to see RevHeather's family. We'll be back in town from July 12th onwards doing a combination of play, rest, study, office cleanup, and more that we don't get to do during the flurry of the church year.

During this time, Rev Cathy will be completely off of email, and Rev Heather will be checking email periodically (revheather@ushartford.com). Please do contact us by phone if someone is in the hospital or otherwise significant things come up, and please hold your non-urgent communication until we're fully back August 30th.

If you'd like Caring Network support or have a joy or sorrow to be shared in worship while we're away, please contact Caring Network Co-Chairs Eve Pech

(elpech@sbcglobal.net, 860-379-5035) or Janice Newton (janicecnewton@gmail.com, 860-335-3742).

Summer Worship & Religious Education: Six Sources Summer

Worship and Religious Education will continue every Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Our summer is organized around the Six Sources of our faith (a companion to the 7 Principles). As UUs, we draw inspiration for our faith not just from one sacred text, but from direct experience, prophetic justice seekers, various world religions, Christian & Jewish teachings, humanist teachings, earth-centered traditions, and more. We have an incredible line up of guest speakers, including our kids, our young adults, our crones, and a few terrific guests (an atheist chaplain, a Jewish storyteller, and a Shin Buddhist teacher). Meanwhile, our children will be exploring the sources through interactive activities and play in the garden. Pi-Hsun Shih will be our Summer Accompanist. If you're in town, you won't want to miss these Sundays!

What are the Sources?

Here is the text about our sources. You can also find this in your Order of Service and at the front of the hymnal.

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

- * Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
 - * Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
 - * Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
 - * Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
 - * Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
 - * Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
- These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.

Sunday Service Recap, Sunday, July 10, 2016 by Kayla Costenoble



Photos: Harriet Gardner

Cradle of Our Dreams - USH Worship Leader Nina Elgo ended her July 10, 2016, thoughtful Reflection by saying, “It is still how we are in relationship to each other and our world which must guide us in making meaning in our lives.” Acknowledging how many of us feel “in this time of anguish and heartbreak this week’s series of tragedies have wrought,” she suggested we must use our hearts and minds to find wholeness through each other.

Our Unitarian ancestors had a long and proud tradition of religious heresy, Nina said, reminding us that “heresy” comes from Greek and Latin words for “choice.” Michael Servetus, Francis David, Joseph Priestly, and William Ellery Channing laid the groundwork “for our spiritual and religious home.”

Michael Servetus, a 16th century Roman Catholic Spaniard, was convicted of heresy and burned at the stake for studying the Bible and concluding that the Trinity was not based in scripture. This planted the seed for what eventually became Unitarianism and helped the struggle for religious tolerance “for all those who abided by freedom of conscience,” Nina said.

Francis David became the spiritual leader of Transylvania Unitarians, where there were more than 425 congregations in Romania and Hungary by 1600. After the only Unitarian King, John Sigismund, died, support for religious tolerance

waned. Rev. David refused to agree that Christ should be worshipped, and died in prison for his “innovations.”

Joseph Priestly, a British Unitarian, was an accomplished scientist (credited with contributing to the discovery of photosynthesis and oxygen) who considered theology and ministry his higher calling. He was a critical thinker and embraced civil and religious liberty, plus social and political radicalism. He founded a Unitarian society in Pennsylvania when he emigrated to America.

William Ellery Channing is considered the founding father of American Unitarianism; he led the liberal wing of the Congregationalists into what became the Unitarian church. Nina called him “one of my favorite American Unitarians.” Many of his writings continue to be frequently quoted. More than 200 years ago, he wrote, “Admidst the immense variety of sentiment, each of us is right in our own eyes...Each of us is prone to magnify the importance of our own peculiarities and to discover danger in the peculiarities of others.”

Nina used that quote to describe conditions existing today. For example, “We have been swamped and even overwhelmed by what we can do with science and technology.” They have allowed us to live longer, unlock mysteries of the universe and of our brains. But the rapid change can overwhelm us “with the magnitude of our choices and the desire and/or need to always make decisions quickly.” This, in turn, lessens “our ability to connect and understand each other in meaningful ways.”

“Our” Nina, a first generation Filipino-American and currently a Connecticut Superior Court Judge, was the first Asian Pacific person to be appointed as a judge in Connecticut in 2004. Judge Nina also had the “privilege and honor” of serving as UUA’s Parliamentarian at last month’s General Assembly in Ohio. (We first met many years ago at a Great Decisions discussion when she was investigating the USH.) She used a couple of her own stories as examples of feeling disconnected.

“Immersed in a very white culture” by parents who emigrated here in the late 50’s and “felt strongly about assimilating,” it wasn’t until meeting more than 50 cousins during a visit to the Philippines that she realized “how beautiful they all were...and that someday I would have a child that would look like them.” That child, the talented Caroline, will be starting college at Brandeis University this fall, and was an important part of Sunday’s service. Nina and Caroline read Kenneth Patton’s responsive reading 444 (“This House”) for our Opening Words: It is a house of prophecy, outrunning times past and times present in visions of growth and progress. During the offering, Carolyn sang the poignant “Home.” Some words:

I was told

Ev’ry day in my childhood
Even when we grow old

Home will be where the heart is
 Never were words so true! At a large clan gathering in the Philippines when everyone was speaking their language Tagalog, stories were ending in uproarious laughter, but her cousin's attempt to translate could not keep up, and she felt "so completely on the outside." Lessons learned from these experiences:

* (1)"There are subtle, powerful ways in which our culture and environment create norms which will shape what we think is right or wrong, beautiful and ugly, important and unimportant, relevant and irrelevant."

* (2)We view people and things through the prism of our experiences and the more limited and/or superficial those experiences are, the more likely we are to have distortions in our perception of those who are not like us."



RE News You Can Use! - The nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45AM this Sunday morning for infants and toddlers.

There will be NO Time For All Ages. The children will head directly to the classroom off the Fellowship Hall for Summer RE. We will be working on our August 21st service and studying the sources of our UU Faith. Please note the DRE will be away at Star Island this week but the children will still meet.

The DRE is looking for some summer help. Both in and out of the classroom. If you are available to work with the children on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30AM or be an assistant, please let her know.

The last few weeks in RE have been very enlightening. I thought tackling the topic of UU sources would be a bit overwhelming for the children as some seem rather vague. This past Sunday we looked at our second source. When I read it to the children and they looked at me blankly, I thought I was in trouble. I read, "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront

powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." We then started discussing what is power and who has it. The discussion began to veer off track so we went into Fellowship Hall to do an experiment.

I asked the children to stand in line in order of who had the most power and who had the least. That was the only directions I gave. Two of our smaller children decided not to participate. Three of our younger girls immediately went to the far end and stood in order against the pole that represented the least amount of power. Two siblings stood in the middle but closer to the power side. At the "power pole" our 4 male students struggled with each other to be the one closest to the pole signifying they had the most power. Being curious as to why each person chose the position they did, I went to all three groups to ask why they were standing where they were.

I began with the three girls at the pole that represented the least amount of power. Those girls were all younger siblings to an older brother. They stated they took their position because they were younger and their older siblings had more power over them. They also stated that adults also had power over them and how at times they feel powerless. I found this very ironic as the three of them are the ones who challenge me the most and are the first to assert themselves. I see them as three of our strongest children here at USH yet they saw themselves differently.

I then went to the siblings in the middle. They chose their position because they felt they were strong but since we are in a male dominated society, felt they weren't as strong as the boys at the "power pole". Then the older sibling stood closer to the pole as she said she had power over her sister because she was older and taller and therefore had more power. The younger one disagreed and tried to move but the older one refused to let her be on the more powerful side.

Lastly, I went to the power struggle. My son stated that he was powerful because I was the DRE and so here he felt that gave him more power over the other children in the program. Then one student stated that no matter what anyone else said or felt, he was the most powerful because he was the tallest of the white males here and as everyone in society knows, white men carry the most power. Another boy who was taller looked down on him and stated he was bigger and more powerful. To which the other child calmly stated again that as a taller white male, all power rested with him.

We then went and sat down and shared what everyone said and thought and how it all related to our greater society. We discussed children in the world who had power and powerful statements from famous UU's. I then read them the following quote.

"One night I went to the church. They had a mass meeting. And I went to the church, and they talked about how it was our right, that we could register and vote. They were talking about how we could vote out people that we didn't want in office, we thought that wasn't right, that we could vote them out. That sounded interesting enough to me that I wanted to try it. I had never heard, until 1962, that black people could register and vote... When they asked for those to raise their hands who'd go down to the courthouse... I raised mine. Had it up high as I could get it. I guess if I'd had any sense I'd've been a little scared, but what was the point of being scared? The only thing they could do to me was kill me and it seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time ever since I could remember." -Fannie Lou Hamer

I won't tell you how the discussion ended. But, if you can, get to know some of our young people. Ask them about what we've discussed this summer. I think you would be impressed, shocked, surprised, amazed. Many of them will be sharing their thoughts at our service on the 21st of August. I hope you will consider coming. We have an amazing group and they are eager to share with you all. **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.



Image: whuuf.net

Church Business News:



The approved budget for FY 16-17 has been posted on the web, with the link. Go to:

<http://www.ushartford.com/members/reports/financial-reports/>

You will need the user and password to view, if you do not have them, please email Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com and she will send it to you.



2016 Programs for Adults and Families

Ballroom Dance is running a summer special during July and August – \$25 per month or \$10 per session. The July classes will feature the Salsa and the Hustle and in August the Swing and Cha Cha. For questions contact Ron Friedman (860.523.1105) or rsfriedman41(at sign)gmail.com.

We wish everyone an enjoyable summer. During the coming months, there may be an occasional Sunday Programs Table.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall. You may call Janice Newton (860.677.1121) or email her at janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com for program information.

PROGRAMS:

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

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM.

Emei Qigong Cultivation: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 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.

20s/30s Brunch: Sundays after worship ~ Meets at 12 pm in the USH Library, Open to existing members, friends, newcomers, and visitors in their 20's and 30's.

Contact: Stephanie Briggs (stephanie.e.briggs@gmail.com / (860) 716-1920)



USH Book Club:

1. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, September 8, in David's Den at the church.
2. Please read Mothering Sunday, the latest Graham Swift novel.
He is a Booker Prize winner; you will see why.
It is short but full of discussion themes.
3. After our first meeting, continuing past practice, meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month and generally in members' homes.
For books selected by the Ministers, we will meet at church.
We will skip January to give everyone time for the holidays and have our last meeting in June.
4. For next year's book selections, please email me your suggestions by JULY 30, so that I can share them with you and then arrive at a list for the year.
5. I am asking Janice Newton to create a process at the program table so that individuals interested in participating can sign up by paying the normal \$5 fee for church programs.

A review of Mothering Sunday:

“There never was a day like this, nor ever would or could be again.” The day in question is Mothering Day, the day that servants were allowed off to visit their families. It is also the last time that Jane Fairchild, a servant girl, and Paul

Sheringham, an upper-class neighbor, will meet for their tryst before he “marries up” and moves to London.

The day – a perfect sunny March day that feels more like June – will start off languidly and sensually yet will take surprising turns. The initial pace is unhurried, as we play voyeur to Jane and Paul who enjoy their lusty coital time together; after his departure, Jane is left to wander around in an unhurried manner in his wake. Gradually, as the novella reveals its intentions, we discover nuggets about Jane’s past and her future as a well-respected novelist.

There, too, the theme is profound self-discovery, leading to a career as a writer. And there as well, the focus is on how we remember and convey truths and how fiction can be used to get to “the heart, the nub, the pith: the trade of truth-telling” and what it means to be true to the “very feel of being alive.”

**Please contact Richard Groothuis with any questions,
rgroopofus@comcast.net**

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

Archive Update: Larry Lunden and Zac Mirecki met on June 29 to continue work on arranging and weeding new additions to the archives in the Margaret Fuller Room. They were happy to file and condense meeting minutes and financial records from 2004-2006 as well as weed and recycle many duplicates that were found. **We have removed the box on the floor in the office to keep the central Archives "mailbox" on the wall as to cut down on the additions to the archives. We would kindly ask depositors to put any relevant document in the mailbox, but only one or two copies at most.** The files we found from 2004-06 sometimes had 8-10 copies of the same document which is much more valuable for scratch paper or for recycling. Moving forward we hope to slowly merge files and rearrange the files in the archives to fall under one single organizational scheme. The central issue we are noticing is that many files are arranged chronologically or topically and there are numerous copies of the same records in multiple locations without being collocated to make it possible to know what we have and where it is.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled the last Wednesday in July at 10 a.m. Curious to learn and see some amazing history from our dynamic congregation? Please join us! - **Submitted by Zac Mirecki**



**Garden Party @ Twilight – 50th Anniversary
Thursday, August 11, 2016 • 6 – 10 pm**

50 Green Years: 1966 – Today. A half century of leading the horticulture and urban agriculture movement in Hartford.

Immerse yourself in the local food scene. Enjoy a night under KNOX's signature tent. Sip wine and relax with live music. Local celebrity chefs showcase their Hartford flare. Tasting-size dishes served from the griddle to your plate. Ingredients sourced from Connecticut (and KNOX) farms. A silent and live auction highlights Hartford's culinary, environmental, and entrepreneurial scene.

Take a tour of our Watkinson Community Garden and meet some of KNOX's community gardeners. This garden is twice the size of a football field, and rarely toured by the public. With a history spanning over 40 years, the soil holds the history of urban agriculture.

At the Garden Party @ Twilight,
it's all about the local food and the people behind it.
For more info. go to: <https://www.knoxhartford.org/knox-events/garden-party/>



Hello USH Gardeners! Thanks to all those of you who have done some weeding and tending so far, of any of the USH Gardens--the Memorial Garden, Pet Memorial Garden, or Community Garden plot.

Please sign up on the SignupGenius if you wish to help out with the garden:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094cafa92ba1f49-ushgardeners>

Cynthia Dodd, our Labyrinth Designer, will come paint the labyrinth design onto the landscape fabric which has been installed. She will also indicate areas to be cut out for plantings.

I will be gone with my family visiting Oregon family from June 29-July 12. If you are around at all during that time, please sign up on the SignUpGenius page so that I can point Cynthia to who is around who she can show next steps.

We are moving forward, bit-by-bit! Thanks to all for your patience and participation. - **Warmly, Heather**



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.signupgenius.com/go/8050b45a5ae2baa8-chalice>



The USH Wish List

Hello Everyone!

There are some items that we could really use at USH:
A Functional 21st century computer that could be used for volunteer tasks

- Donated - Thank you!
- 2 Mirophone Stands (like this one pictured)
- 2 Floor Length Mirrors
- New collapsible functional easels
- Staples gift cards

Please contact Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com or 860-233-9897 x100 if you have one of these items and would like to donate it to USH. Thank you.

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!



Events of Note in Our Larger Community



Yup, We Dress Alike - These students from Burns Elementary school are all dressed in their blue and black school colors. The uniforms reinforce a sense of a community among the students. Help more than 900 families served by The Village for Families and Children



to buy uniforms for their children. Support our friends by mailing a check to the Meeting House, made out to USH, with Village Uniform Program in the memo line. Cash or checks may also put in the collection plate, make sure that your name is on the envelope. Our buddies need your care as they get ready to return to school in August.-**Submitted by Joanne Orlando**



New World Trio Concerts

Colors in Sound

**Thursday, July 28, 2016 • 7:30 pm
Trios of Tchaikovsky, Higdon, and Duo by De Falla**

Sarah Porter Memorial Hall
First Church of Christ, Congregational, 75 Main Street, Farmington, CT

For information about tickets and performers (violinist and cellist), please visit our website at <http://www.newworldtrio.org/> or call NWT at (860) 586-8579 or obtain tickets at the door: Series Subscription \$60 General Admission \$25
Students with ID \$15 Children 12 and under, free

Hope to see you there. -Pi-Hsun



Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The Bard has come to UUS:E!

All welcome to see Shakespeare's boisterously hysterical comedy Twelfth Night, a love story about illusion, deception, disguises, madness, and the extraordinary things love causes us to do. Saturday, July 16 in the Meeting Room at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, July 17

on the lawn at 2:00 p.m. Suggested donation \$5.00, payable at door. Info: Jessica Offir.

Unitarian Universalist Society: East
153 West Vernon St., Manchester CT 06042 860-646-5151 www.uuse.org

Join Our **Bridging Cultures** Book Group **Nicaragua**

Join us for a discussion of Nicaraguan
folklore with stories and related poetry mainly from
the western part of the
country.



Wednesday, July 20, 2016
12:30 to 1:30 P.M.

(Bring your lunch!)

FREE



In collaboration with Hartford/Ocotal Sister City Project, Inc.

For help finding folklore sources and other information, please contact kanderson@banet.net or sanderson03@msn.net.



2nd Floor, Seminar Room
Hartford Public Library
500 Main Street • Hartford, CT 06103
www.hplct.org • 860-695-6337 • learning@hplct.org

For Access to the Members Only Section on the Web Page:
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 will be provided you must arrange it with the DRE.)

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

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

Email to: ushenews@ushartford.com

Please note in the subject line, "USH-Enews". Thank you for your submission!

**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 to 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

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