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

USH-Enews ~ August 4, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image: Mark Unno

Sunday Service 10:30 AM - August 7, 2016

Rhythms of Great Compassion: Seasons of Life and Death

Mark Unno, Pulpit Guest and Julie Grace, Worship Associate - When we open our hearts, we are able to receive the Great Compassion of the universe herself. Then we become increasingly able to experience the seasons of life and death, the ebb and flow of experience, much more naturally, with a greater sense

of being in rhythm with ourselves and the world around us. In the tradition of Shin Buddhism, we call this responding to the call to entrust ourselves to the awakening of Infinite Life, or in Japanese Namu Amida Butsu.

Mark Unno is an ordained priest in the tradition of Shin Buddhism, of Japanese Pure Land, one of the largest sects of Buddhism in the world. He is also Associate Professor of East Asian Buddhism in the Dept. of Religious Studies at the University of Oregon. His research examines such areas as Comparative Religion and Buddhism and Psychotherapy. He has published books and articles on these topics including his edited volume, *Buddhism and Psychotherapy Across Cultures* (2006). He is a regular contributor to leading Buddhist journals such as *Tricycle*, *Buddhadharma: The Practitioner's Quarterly*, and *Lion's Roar*. You can find these articles and other information on his web site: <http://mtunno5.weebly.com/> He lives in Eugene, Oregon with his wife Megumi.

A SUMMER HELLO FROM OUR REVS.

Hi everyone! We hope you all have been having a good summer. We have been, and...it always seems to fly by so fast. We are looking forward to seeing you all again at the end of the month.

We shared with the USH Board last night some happy news: we are expecting another kid! Cathy is pregnant, and we are looking forward to welcoming another Rion Starr into the world sometime around Valentine's Day, 2017. Obviously there are things to plan for and we'll need to take some time off to focus on this new little life, and we will be doing that planning in the months ahead. For now, we just wanted to share our good news with you and invite your excitement. At some point Cathy realized that this will be the first baby of a settled minister in the almost-200-year history of the Unitarian Society of Hartford--you've had ministers who've been fathers, but never a minister who's actually given birth herself while being a minister of the the congregation.

There are many other good things going as well, as we are so grateful to all of you for your part in Summer Services at USH, tending to the Meeting House and Gardens, keeping so many good things going and also beginning to plan ahead for next year. Remember that the Water Ceremony and Ingathering Service is on September 18. We'll see you then, if not before.

**Warmly--
Revs Heather & Cathy**

Important Survey from our Congregational Strategic Planning Team!

Whether you come regularly to the Meeting House or just keep up with us via our newsletter, we are interested in hearing from you. Would you please respond to this Survey by September 25 at the latest (earlier would be great!)? Your input will be helpful to us as we undertake a Strategic Planning process and map out

our future for the next 3-5 years and beyond. As the Board identified last year, there is a need for some fresh thinking about our coming years as a congregation. We want to hear from you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K8Y2WYZ>

If you'd like to have a conversation about this survey, call or e-mail Tom Richardson (see his contact information in your USH Directory or respond to this E-news to ask for it. Thanks!) There will also be paper copies available on Sunday mornings--please ask for them if you have trouble finding them.

Thanks so much for your participation. --Your USH Strategic Planning Team, Tom Richardson, Sherry Manetta, Kate Gervais, Jack Almeida, Virginia DeLima, and RevHeather.



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

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.

In This Week's Enews:

Summer At USH | Upcoming Services at USH this Summer | Sunday Service Recap | Do You Like to Volunteer? | RE News You Can Use

Church Business News: Board Meeting Minutes | Solar Progress Report

2016 Programs for Adults and Families: Soliciting Fall Programs | Daytime SGM Starting in the Fall

Upcoming Special Events and Other News: First Sunday Connections Aug. 6
MISSING: Pocketalker Pro | Hiroshima Remembrance Aug. 6th |
Knox Garden Party August 11th | The Many Colors of a W*O*M*A*N FREE
Jazz Festival Sept. 24 | Update on the Refugee Family

Events of Note in the Larger Community:

A Message From Joanne Orlando and The Village Update - Need School Uniforms, please help

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 are on Vacation & Study leave June 20 – August 30th

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 10:30am. 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 Recaps by Kayla Costenoble
Photos: David Newton and Judy Sullivan
July 24, 2016



Awe, Wonder, Love: Stories from the Field - Who doesn't love a good story? At the summer service at the USH on July 24, 2016, we were treated to two good ones by Pulpit Guest Maggid (storyteller) David Arfa, a most welcome visitor from nearby Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. The first was an unusual and delightful description of the creation; the second was David's own true and unusual experience with butterflies.

Two readings were appropriate preludes to the sermon. In Responsive Reading 641 (from Leviticus 19): "...but you must love your neighbor as you love yourself." And in a prayer before meditation, Worship Associate Sue Smolski read Rev. O. Eugene Pickett's "We give thanks this day." Some words:

For the expanding grandeur of Creation,
worlds known and unknown,
galaxies beyond galaxies,
filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations.

David, among many other things, now is active in three rural New England synagogues, bringing stories to prayer services, family programs and interfaith events. It's our good fortune that he and Rev. Heather met at a Joanna Macy environmental workshop, which is why he is here with us today. The Talmud (rabbinical literature, which has captured the oral traditions in writing) is where he gets his stories. "The Jewish identity has been fed by stories," he said. Prior to telling a story, our Maggid closes his eyes and takes several deep breaths. This gets him prepared to speak and his audience prepared to listen.

His first story, "The Birth of Love," uses traditional imagery and can be seen as the first celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year or, in this version of the story, the birth of human love. It takes place six days after the Creation, because the Holy One was tired. Although the Holy One had given his human creation curiosity and compassion, some things had been left out. The original human, who was man and woman, looking around and seeing many other creations in pairs, was lonely. So one angel suggested adding "love," and all the other angels cried, "Count me in!" The Holy One separated them as man and woman; they held hands, embraced, and all creatures came to the first wedding (that included a chuppa, of course) after which the Holy One "brought down the curtain of night" so they could have their privacy. (Please note that my abridged printed versions are a far cry from listening to Maggid David.)

Our storyteller also has an MA in Environmental Education; his second (true) story was about a field trip he was part of in Pacific Grove, California, where monarch butterflies winter. This town loves butterflies—has an annual butterfly parade, a Butterfly Inn, and the Monarch is the name of its newspaper. When the group of environmental students reached the grove of eucalyptus trees, they were "stunned by the silence" although every branch was filled with butterflies. As the sun rose, butterflies started to fly, but some fell to the ground because it was still too cold. Their guide showed them how to gently scoop them up, breathe warmly on them, and watch in awe as they flew away.

[Fascinating facts (was there life before Google?) North American Monarchs are the only butterflies known to make a two-way migration. Some fly as far as 3,000 miles (and can travel between 50-100 miles/day) from Western North America to reach their warm winter home, traveling only during the day.]

Multiple generations of monarchs fly together on the return to their northern homes. It can take over one year for four generations of butterflies to make the journey. “What can we set in motion that won’t see its fruition until four generations from now?” Maggid David asked us. He said “in part of the multi-generation story, every step carries equal power to bring our dreams into the world.”

This was our second Sunday during this hot summer to have our service downstairs in cool Fellowship Hall. As Worship Associate Sue reminded us, “It takes a village to transfer Fellowship Hall into a worship space,” and she thanked all who had helped do this. Also on duty was Worship Associate Rick Tsukada, who was called on several times during the service to adjust our temperamental mike.

Early in the service, Maggid David said, “Not many Jewish storytellers come and speak here.” Of course he was right, but as one of the hyphenated—a Jewish-Unitarian—I was delighted to see and hear him.



**Finding Our Common Humanity
Building Bridges Between Atheists and Theists
July 31, 2016**

“We’re not as different as we may think,” Pulpit Guest Chris Stedman, Executive Director of the Yale Humanist Community, told us during his sermon on July 31, 2016. This 29 year-old young man has lived through more life changes than many of us have, and he was brave enough to share his story with us. Chris said

a question we may be asking is one he still asks himself at times: “Why does an atheist like me care so much about interfaith work?” His answer: a strong desire to bring together people with different understandings to work together with common goals for a better world.

Chris said he grew up in a family where religion was not talked about and was not a part of their lives. He became a born again Christian at the age of 11, when he was looking for stability, a place to belong, when he had questions, and when his parents were going through a divorce. At first, he felt welcomed there, but questions and doubts grew, especially when he realized he was gay. He found the church was “obsessed with homosexuality,” considering it a sign of demonic possession that could and should be changed.

He then attended more progressive Christian churches that helped him understand experiences with suffering and justice. He studied religion at a Christian college, but eventually realized he was not a Christian although he “struggled to relate to religious people” and had arguments with those who did not share his views. He calls “moments when you feel afraid” missed opportunities.

His continuous search for meaningful conversations led him to enroll in the UU Seminary in Chicago, where he found an interfaith youth group challenging, and a religion grounded in community. Although he respected this religious community, he still “didn’t feel at home there.” His decision to work outside a religious community led him to Harvard University as a Humanist chaplain and coordinator for the interfaith service program. He had become a secular humanist and began to reach out to the religious communities he had been part of earlier in his life. In 2012, Beacon Press published his memoir “Faitheist,” whose subtitle says it all: “How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious.” (Copies of his book were available at the USH.)

Being part of a community is also important for atheists, who are not anti-religious, Chris said. In interface dialogs, he works with diversity, identifies with others as they share common joys and challenges. Hearts and minds can be changed through honest dialog.

Bridges, and their different meanings, were important in today’s service. A photo of one graced the cover of the Order of Service. It was a core word in the title of the service. We sang Hymn 1023, “Building bridges Between our divisions, I reach out to you, will you reach out to me? With all of our voices and all of our visions, friend, we could make such sweet harmony.” Pi-Hsun’s piano playing of “Bridge Over Troubled Water” during the Offering was delightfully dramatic. And we closed our service with Hymn 1064:

"I give thanks to the waves upholding me, hail the great winds urging me on, greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor’s song."

We have been playing Musical Rooms at the USH during this summer's intense weather—Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and, today, the almost-too-cool-for-some Chapel. We continue to hear wonderful words from our Worship Associates. Before our Turning Inward, Julie Grace reminded us to “remember you are surrounded by a caring community...and need not struggle alone.”



A Surprise Guest - This Red Tailed Hawk dropped in and checked USH out this past Sunday!

Do you like to volunteer? - The DRE is looking for some help both in and out of the classroom. If you are available to work with the children or be an assistant, from 10:30-11:30AM on Sunday mornings, or come in a few hours during the week to help with office tasks, please let her know:

dre@ushartford.com

Thank you!

RE News You Can Use! - This week, Sunday, August 7th, the nursery will be open from 10:15-11:45am for morning worship.

The children and youth will meet in the downstairs classrooms to finish preparing for the worship service on the 21st. **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.



Solar Progress Report July 28, 2016

Greetings Folks,

The report this month is short and encouraging. It can be illustrated by the image inserted into the text below:



What this chart tells us can be captured easily in words. For the period from April 1st to July 26, 2016, the USH solar panels produced a total of 18.3 Megawatts.

The estimated production for the same period given our solar angle, season, average cloud cover for the season, and similar factors, was estimated at 18.3 Megawatts. Obviously, we may have had less clouds than normal, etc. The point is, at least for this year, we produced the number of kilowatts estimated when plans were made for construction, future costs and savings were projected, etc.

That is very good news!

The Building and Grounds crew recently had some tree work done mostly for safety and aesthetic improvement. There was also some work done to reduce the shade on a few solar panels. The shade portion of the project enhanced production of the solar arrays, at least to a minor extent.

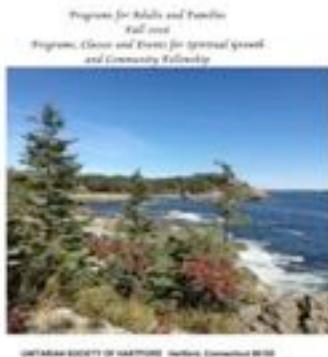
As of our meter reading for the end of July, which reading occurred on the 29th, USH has exported to the grid a grand total of about 6,240 KWh of green power.

Those KWh(s), “stored” for us by Eversource, will return to the Meeting House during the darker seasons for our use.

In addition, we will receive payment beginning next spring for that portion of our green power production occurring on and after July 1st (for the quarter July - September) used for ZREC creation. USH will receive \$82.58 from Eversource for each MWh (1 ZREC unit) of clean energy production used internally as well as those exported. A ZREC is a Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit.

As we continue our efforts to conserve power, using only what we need when we need it, the benefit of such exemplary behavior will result directly in reduced electric costs and permit diversion of operating budget dollars from our electrical bill to other line items as well as reducing our contribution to global warming because our solar power produces no CO2.

So far so good. **-Submitted by David Newton**



2016 Programs for Adults and Families

We look forward to seeing you in the fall at the Programs Table. For those of you thinking about offering a program in the fall, please see Soliciting 2016 Fall Programs for Adults and Families.

Ballroom Dance is running a summer special during August – \$25 per month or \$10 per session. The August classes will feature the Swing and Cha Cha.

For questions contact Ron Friedman (860.523.1105) or rsfriedman41(at sign)gmail.com.

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)

Soliciting 2016 Fall Programs for Adults and Families

It's not too early to think about including your program, workshop, or event in the listing of the 2016 Fall Programs for Adults and Families.

On Sundays, when the Programs Table resumes, there will be handouts for your course, event, etc. at the Table for visitors as well as for members and friends. Registration for your program, course, etc. and any required payment can also be done at the Programs Table.

To obtain a Program Proposal form, you may go to <http://www.ushartford.com>. From the Building Community pull down menu at the top of the home page, click on Adult Programs. In the lower right corner, click on Propose a Program Form. The form is also available at the USH office. Please attach a detailed paragraph in Microsoft Word (if possible) about the program to the completed Proposal Form that can be used for promotion. Please email the completed Proposal to Janice Newton at [janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com).

FALL 2016 Small Group Ministry – A Daytime Small Group Ministry group will meet at the home of Bruce Robbins on Wednesday afternoons beginning September 21st. The group will meet from 1:30 - 3:30 PM for eight sessions.

The sessions will be facilitated by Ginny Allen. Don't miss this opportunity to join a Daytime Small Group ministry!

There is a \$5 registration fee.

Register at the Programs Table or by contacting Janice Newton (860-677-1121 or [janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com))

For additional information about Small Group Ministries, contact: Esther McKone – [estmckone\(at sign\)aol.com](mailto:estmckone(at sign)aol.com) or Bill Shoemaker - [wshoemaker17\(at sign\)comcast.net](mailto:wshoemaker17(at sign)comcast.net)



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.

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

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

1st Sunday CONNECTIONS

For Visitors & Newcomers

Each month we host an informal gathering for visitors and newcomers to learn more about UU, USH, our mission, education program and membership. Ask questions, share your concerns, and meet others.

We meet "Under the Stairs" (Lower Lobby)
15 minutes after the end of the service.

Attend as many times as you wish.

Upcoming Meetings
August 7

Free Childcare Provided



MISSING: Pocketalker Pro – We are trying to locate two Pocketalker Pro units. They are personal hearing devices to be used at meetings, etc. Four of these were purchased. Each was in a plastic container and stored in the Sunday Cabinet. We have Units A and B, but not C and D. **If you know where these are,**

please give them to either Bill LaPorte-Bryan or Janice Newton. Thank you very much!

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Annual Remembrance



*A shared call for the abolition of nuclear weapons
and promoting a vision of a nuclear free world.*

6:00pm ~ Pot Luck Dinner
6:30pm ~ Program with Music, Speakers and Poetry
8:00pm ~ Candle-Lighting Ceremony

August 6th 6:00 – 9 pm
Unitarian Society Meeting House
50 Bloomfield Avenue
Hartford, CT

For more information: (860)561-1897
www.hopeoutloud.org

Facebook Event: Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance 2016

Sponsored by
Hope Out Loud ~ No Nukes/No War ~ Unitarian Society of Hartford



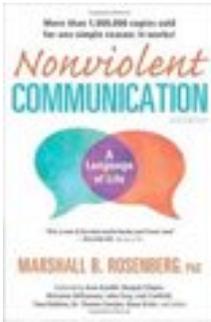
Garden Party @ Twilight – 50th Anniversary
Thursday, August 11, 2016 • 6 – 10 pm

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/>



Book Request - Do you have a copy of Marshall Rosenberg's book, "Non Violent Communication: A Language of Compassion" around that you'd consider donating to the USH library?

If so, please let me know, thank you, Linda Clark;
ushlindaclark@gmail.com



**THE MANY COLORS of a W*O*M*A*N XXXVI
 FREE JAZZ FESTIVAL
 SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016 8 PM
 Unitarian Society of Hartford**

29 year celebration of jazzwomen – the longest running jazz festival showcasing the music and women of jazz.

Featured acts to date (August 1):

Mathis'AFRIKAN AMERIKAN JAZZ New Millennium All Stars: RICKY ALFONSO trumpet, BILL ARNOLD drums, JIM DAGGS bass, DAWN DUMAS voice, MELANIE DYER viola; JOANNE JAMES djimbe, YASUYO KIMURA percussions, MAXINE MARTIN tenor, NYSHEA McCAULEY voice, MICHELLE McFARLAND voice, DAWN McKINLEY voice, LINDA PRESGRAVE piano, DOTTI ANITA TAYLOR flute/voice; LYNN TRACEY guitar, DEBORAH WEISZ trombone, MARK WHITECAGE alto sax; the Bertha Hope Trio with Kim Clarke, bass and Lucianna F Padmore, drums; and MORE TO BE ADDED.

Co-sponsored by MCW, Inc. and Unitarian Society of Hartford , 501-C-3 non profit organizations

Contact for more information: Nikki Mathis - 860.231-0663

Funded in part by MCW, Inc., Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee,

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SPONSORS INVITED 860.231-0663

MCW, Inc. is a 501 © 3

Non Profit Organization

-Submitted by Ed Savage

The Refugee Family from Syria Our Church Is Co-Sponsoring ~ August Update ~

The Al Asmi family has been in the United States for ten weeks and is really doing quite well. Fadi, the father, will soon be completing a probationary first month as a baker at City Steam Restaurant in downtown Hartford. Eman, the mother, has been shopping for food and clothing. Hamdi, the eight-year-old son, has enthusiastically attended a day summer school and camp program. Farah, the two-year-old daughter, has charmed everyone she meets with her bright smile and baby Nour Sham is now five months old.

There are several teams of individuals, from our ten congregations and partner retirement life centers, involved in supporting them. After identifying and furnishing the apartment, there has been a steady stream of maintenance items to pursue.

Teams include: the Medical team to ensure all family members have had basic and follow-up medical tests and care; the Finance team meets with Fadi weekly to assist with financial decisions and understanding of the various financial resources; the ESL team which arranges for regular English lessons for both Fadi and Eman; the Transportation group to coordinate transportation for activities; the Employment team that prepared Fadi by developing a resume and a flyer showcasing his beautiful baked goods and desserts as well as supporting him on job interviews and with the negotiations related to his employment!

One woman organized three days of special English training related to baking over the Fourth of July weekend just prior to his beginning his job. There is a vegetable garden tended for the family at Duncaster.

Some people have hosted the family at special events related to visiting area mosques, participating in Ramadan festivities, enjoying the park and even a trip to Lake Compounce. Other people have assisted with computer, internet acquisition and setup, and babysitting. The Clothing group is beginning to plan for needs related to school in the fall and clothing for winter. We obtained bicycles for Fadi and Hamdi and recently bought a portable washer for the apartment to help Eman and to economize on laundry costs.

Each week there is a planning meeting with the family with a planning coordinator and a translator to review all of the events of the forthcoming week, to coordinate the logistics and to ask and answer the many questions from both the family and the volunteers. There are several translators who help us all. And a few dedicated individuals have tried to steer all of the activities to be sure support is coordinated and nothing is missed.

Obviously this entire undertaking can only be handled by the "village" as a whole! Thank you again to all who have helped either financially or by donating

furniture and household goods or by volunteering. The family is very appreciative of all our efforts. If you are interested in joining our group, it is best to volunteer for one of the subgroups mentioned above. Contact Carolyn Carlson at carlsoncjc@gmail.com or Richard Groothuis at rgroopofus@icloud.com -**Submitted by Carolyn Carlson and Richard Groothuis**

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 and Labyrinth.

Please sign up on the SignupGenius if you wish to help out with the garden:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094cafa92ba1f49-ushgardeners>

We are moving forward, bit-by-bit! Thanks to all for your patience and participation. Come down and walk the red labyrinth path if you haven't already!

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:

2 Microphone 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[at]gmail[dot]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



School Uniforms Needed - For the past three years USH has participated in the Uniform and Backpack program sponsored by The Village for Families and Children. This year, in response to a reassessment of needs, The Village is asking only for monetary donations to help families who cannot afford their children's required uniforms. Last year we raised \$1,635 to help our friends next door send children back to school with pride. Let's try hard to match last year's contribution for our buddies! The fund drive ends August 15th, just two weeks away.

Checks can be mailed to Brian Mullen at the Meeting House with Uniform Program in the memo line. Cash or checks can be left in the envelopes at church with your name indicated on the envelope -**Submitted by Joanne Orlando**



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.

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