



## UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: [firstunitarian@ushartford.com](mailto:firstunitarian@ushartford.com)

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

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr

USH-Enews October 21, 2015



Photo: <https://www.ishafoundation.org/us/>

### **Together Since 1830 - Sunday Service 10:30 AM**

**Sunday Service, October 25, 2015** “While Still There Is Light” - Rev. Heather Rion Starr; Worship Associate John Brancato

“How I have wanted to live!

I am—I realize later—in misery that first night—

but during the deepest hours of it, as I wrestle the question of how  
to live through this even if I can’t live through it,

I understand this wrestling as perhaps the most significant piece of work I will  
ever do.”

—from “Pathology Report, Part Two,” by Nancy Shaffer

“I was...clear: The only question large enough  
is how to give enough thanks for our lives.

That’s the beginning: large enough thanks.”

--from “Fragments Written on Goldenrod Paper in the Hospital,” by Nancy Shaffer

**Special Notice about the Order of Service**

Anyone contributing information for the Order of Service (OOS), please include Linda Clarknat [ushlindaclark@gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark@gmail.com), Please put in the Subject: "OOS and the DATE"Thank you!

**New Web Up and Functioning:**

Has everyone checked out the New Website?  
Please send Questions and comments to Bruce Robbins ([bruce.robbins@snet.net](mailto:bruce.robbins@snet.net)).

For the username and password for the Members Only section, please email

Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark@gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark@gmail.com)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE ONLINE CALENDAR:**

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

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

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

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

Email Calendar Events to: [calendarchanges@ushartford.com](mailto:calendarchanges@ushartford.com) Thank you.



Photos by David Newton and Harriet Gardner

**Sunday, October 28th Recap by Kayla Costenoble**

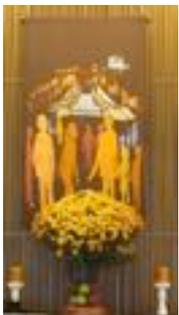
Send a Postcard When...Pulpit guest Cori Mackey challenged faith communities to risk working for justice, saying the doing of justice is the only excuse for being

born. She recognized and commended our “tender, insular love” but said we leave out public love, which should be faith communities’ primary mission. Ms. Mackey is Executive Director of the Christian Activities Council, a United Church of Christ social justice organization that organizes for social justice in metropolitan Hartford. She said “intentional mindfulness” is required to benefit those in need, and gave us “one small example” of a systemic issue where faith communities could act out for justice in a concrete way.

In Hartford, 200-300 families a year have to leave their homes/apartments for code violations that are not their fault. Illegal rentals (such as in attics) and fires are two examples. There is a current law requiring relocation of these families—primarily minority and low income—but it is ignored. So these families become homeless over night.

“It is a privilege to be here,” Ms. Mackey said, and thanked the USH for being a witness for the “dire need to work and act for justice,” citing our being part of the recent Moral Monday protest and our prominent Black Lives Matter signs on the lawn close to the street, calling them a “daily source of hope and witness.”

Sunday, October 11, 2015, was National Coming Out Day. For the LGBT community, the voluntary self-disclosure to friends, family and colleagues of one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity is a basic form of activism. Homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance.



For Ms. Mackey, however, her coming out had to be done in a different time and in the old-fashioned way. She said when she was ready, she “had to come out every day...explaining and connecting constantly.” She spent 10 years in the Catholic Church, working for economic justice, immigration reform, against the Iraq war, and for climate change. Although she felt deeply connected to her work, “I had to leave one part of myself at home.”

In 2010, her (now) wife Megan proposed and gave Cori an engagement ring. “What was I doing?” she asked herself, as she took off her ring to go to work. She said this act exposed a deep hypocrisy.

But when she started exposing her situation to her colleagues, she experienced rejection, discrimination and was fired. So one thing she might have written on that blank postcard that was the cover of the Sunday Order of Service would be, “I want to act, but don’t know how.”

Rayla used some big words talking to her kids Sunday—injustice, equality, fairness--and showed them pictures illustrating opposite sides of these traits. We give an “A” to the young man who described “equality” as everyone getting the same thing and “equity” as everyone getting what they need. **Kayla Costenoble**



**RE News You Can Use** - This week, Sunday October 25th, the nursery will be available from 10:15AM-11:45AM for infants and toddlers ages birth to three. There will be a Time For All Ages message followed by age appropriate classes for children and youth.

Please make sure to pick-up your child from the nursery or from their class immediately following the morning worship service if they are in 5th grade or below. This includes the nursery. Thank you. **Rayla D. Mattson**

**Director of Religious Education Unitarian Society of Hartford**

860-233-9897 ext 104 860-839-5001 - cell

I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

If you need to reach me outside of those times, please feel free to text or call my cell.



**2015 Fall Programs for Adults and Families**  
**USH Calendar of Events: [www.ushartford.com/events/](http://www.ushartford.com/events/)**

Sunday at the Programs Table, you can sign-up for the Senexet Retreat, November 6 - 8, and the Drum Circle, for all ages, November 10.

Information and handouts about these and other programs offered at USH will also be available.

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

**Programs:**



In David's Den  
@ The Meeting House

RSVP to  
[bharvey@ushartford.com](mailto:bharvey@ushartford.com)  
or just drop in.

Friday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 – 6:30 PM

## 20s & 30s Gathering

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We gather monthly, usually on a Friday evening, for spiritual deepening and social connection. Friends and newcomers welcome! Our fall gatherings are Fridays, 6:30-8:30ish **Oct 23, Nov 13, Dec 18**. Bring a snack to share. If you're a young adult and want to be in the loop, join our listserv (send an email request to [ushindiacian@gmail.com](mailto:ushindiacian@gmail.com) or join our Facebook group: [Twenties/Thirties \(20s/30s\) at USH](#)

**Questions?** Contact Rev. Cathy ([revcathy@ushartford.com](mailto:revcathy@ushartford.com), or 541-390-7553).



*Tickets:*  
**Premium- \$30 Standard- \$15**  
*Students with ID- \$10*  
**USH Children under 18 - Free**

**The Unitarian Society of Hartford**  
**Performing Arts Series**

Saturday, October 31, 2015 – 7:30 PM  
*To Benefit USH*

## **Masked Ballroom Dance**

*Dance demonstrations and teaching by a professional instructor from Arthur Murray Dance Studio, as well as free dancing. Refreshments included, costumes welcome!*

**Tickets sold at the door.**

### **Nov 1st, 2015 - Halloween Breakfast Buffet**

**More than Just Pancakes!!!** Preparing a hearty breakfast on any Sunday morning can be a chore, but especially on the morning that the clocks go forward one hour. Forget about getting out the pans and ingredients and just come to church between

9:00 and 10:00 am and enjoy a breakfast of multiple varieties of pancakes, real maple syrup, other toppings, eggs, bacon, veggie sausage, orange juice, coffee and milk.

All for the low, low price of \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

Plus you can come in costume or just enjoy looking at everyone else getting into the spirit of the weekend. We also have premium tickets at \$10 per person. You get the same food - but you'll just feel better knowing you're helping a good cause! Be a part of this USH tradition. Please sign up at the Programs Table this Sunday. Having a head-count beforehand assists in buying supplies.



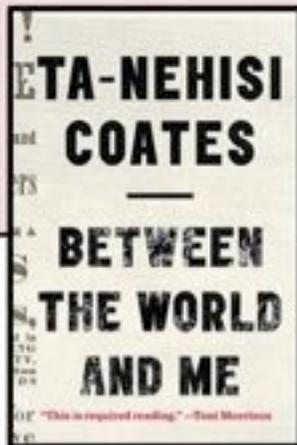
## Halloween Breakfast Buffet

**9:00 – 10:00 am Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**





- ★ Come enjoy the fun! You get pancakes with various ingredient and topping options, veggie sausage patties, bacon and beverage. Come in costume or just take in the festivities around you.
- ★ Tickets will be available October 18<sup>th</sup> during Fellowship Hour.
- ★ The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Proceeds will benefit the USH General Fund (plus matching grant).
- ★ We also have premium tickets at \$10 per person. It's the same food - but you'll just feel better knowing you're helping a good cause!



## USH Book Group

Thursday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 PM  
@ The Meeting House

*Ta-Nehisi Coates's new book is a monumental work about being black in America that every American urgently needs to read.*

Please let Richard or Jean know if you will attend: [rgroopofus@me.com](mailto:rgroopofus@me.com)

## Women's Alliance Senexet Retreat

Friday, Nov 6<sup>th</sup> through  
Sunday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> - 2015



Many different activities including Rev. Cathy leading us in several contemplative spiritual practices with our voices, with our hands, and with our bodies. These practices will help us center down deep and remind us of who we are and how we wish to be in the world. These will take place Friday evening and Saturday morning.

The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals  
is \$175, or 1 night 3 meals \$100.

More details at the Program  
Desk starting Sept 27<sup>th</sup>

**NEW THIS FALL** - There are a couple more openings in this Small Group Ministry which starts October 26th. Gloria Mengual will facilitate - don't miss this opportunity!

This group will meet on Monday evenings from 7 - 9 pm at the home of Kathie Ferguson, 98 Van Buren Avenue in West Hartford. If you're interested in signing up for this SGM which will meet for 8 weeks on Monday evenings, please sign up at the Program Table in fellowship hall during coffee hour or contact Janice Newton at 860-677-1121.

Drum Circle at USH: Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 PM.

USH Ballroom Dance Classes: Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves Us: Saturdays, 10 – 12 Noon, November 14, December 12.

Building Your Own Theology: Tuesdays, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, beginning March 1.

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

Emei Qigong: Tuesdays, Beginning Learners: 6:15 PM, Cultivation: 6:30 PM, Deeper Learning and Understanding: 7:15 PM.

Emei Qigong: Wednesdays, Tutorial: 4:45 PM, Internal Cultivation/Practice: 5:00 PM.

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

Authentic Connection & Communication:  
An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 PM. .



**Performing Arts Series**  
**Regular series price \$90.**

2015-2016 USH Performing Arts Series  
A

II events will take place on Saturday nights at 7:30  
unless otherwise noted.

Do you have your series tickets yet?

Join us for the 2015-2016 Performing Arts Series! Only \$90 for SIX wonderful events. All profits go to the USH General Fund, and are doubled by our amazing and mysterious anonymous donor!  
(All events will be on Saturday evenings at 7:30 unless otherwise noted)

Jan. 2 - John & Katie Jesensky in Concert  
Talented USH favorites Katie and John come back to perform for us and kick off the New Year.

March 5 - 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 - Classical and Broadway Vocal Concert  
(immediately after the service)

Come hear lively vocal music... including some performed by our choral scholars and featuring our new accompanist.

April 2 or April 16 - Jacques Lamarre Play Reading Premiere

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

Only \$90 for six events at the standard ticket price! Premium ticket price \$180. Sales benefit the USH General Fund.

**Tickets also sold at door. USH children under 18 free, always!**  
**Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council**

### Upcoming Special Events and Other News

#### Syrian Refugee Resettlement Help

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



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

To resettle a family a number of support items are required (e.g.): rent for 4-6 months, furnishing the apartment with donated goods, help in obtaining employment, help to learn English, settling children in schools, getting health care, driving to appointments, acclimating to the area, government paperwork, etc.

How much of this we might undertake as a congregation alone or with others, or as individuals is to be determined.

We are now seeking to enlist other interested church members in this exploration.

Please contact Mike Winterfield, Richard Groothuis, or Vanessa Gonzales Rivera, if you are interested in aiding in this effort.

**Photo: <http://security.blogs.cnn.com/>**



### **Solarize USH! We Are Exploring the Exciting Possibility of Solarizing USH! –**

As many of our members and friends may remember, in 2011 USH was actively pursuing a solar system. To our frustration, the company agreeing to install the panels was dissolved at the time and our pending Agreement was never signed.

Well, as they say, that didn't work and now we have the opportunity to restart the process. In concert with our commitment to be a Green Sanctuary and to our 7th principle, an ad hoc group, The Solar

Stewardship Work Group, is exploring how we can get solar power for our Meeting House.

The group includes folks participating on various impacted sub-councils. Board President, Endowment Committee Chair and members, B&G, Green Sanctuary and others. Members of the Ad Hoc Group have been asked to explore questions related to identifying a vendor, funding such an acquisition without doing damage to pledge and endowment efforts, exploring legal and tax arrangements and related concerns. In all potential situations from the get go, the emphasis has been on open communication, nothing held back, full disclosure of what has been happening to anyone interested. Naturally, the Board and Ministers were informed as a courtesy before more general communications occurred in various places.

There are a lot of details to work out to determine if this is a viable project. We are considering establishing an LLC of major contributors in addition to having other mechanisms for smaller donors.

Anyone who is interested in financially supporting this endeavor or anyone who has expertise in the legal or accounting aspects of an LLC, or solar design and acquisition, is encouraged to contact **David Newton**. Image: <http://www.solar-panel.biz/>



**Board News** - At the September meeting, the Board identified three goals that it will be working on during the current church year. These are:

1. Develop a long-range financial strategy as part of a plan for "Our Next Chapter"
2. Increase collaboration with our two sister congregations in the Hartford Area
3. Develop and try out the use of a "dashboard" of key indicators of congregational well-being.

In a nice coincidence, the current newsletter of the New England Region of the UUA has an article on Congregational Collaboration, which directly relates to goal #2. (you can see the current newsletter by going to <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs184/1102593057446/archive/1122490216763.html>).

Karen Bellavance-Grace, author of the article and Congregational Collaborations Lead in New England, does a lot of work supporting congregations exploring intentional collaborations. These collaborations run the gamut from having simple neighborly relations to joining forces on a local justice ministry, to becoming so closely connected that they become "One Church in Two Locations."

Our co-ministers and members of the board will be talking with Karen and will use some of her ideas as we reach out to our counterparts at the Universalist Church on Fern Street and the Unitarian Universalist Society: East in Manchester. We will be exploring how we all might benefit from collaboration.

We will keep you posted on activities and welcome your input.





**3 Sunday sessions**  
**(Oct 11, Nov 1 & 8)**  
**12:00-1:30 pm**

Followed up with a  
**Membership Sunday on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**

**A Path to Membership**

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.



**Free child care provided.**

Rev. Heather will be present for all three sessions.

Sign up at the Programs Table or contact Brian Harvey at [bharvey@ushartford.com](mailto:bharvey@ushartford.com)

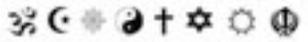
**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US**

Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast



Thursday, November 12, 2015  
 Light Breakfast 7:15 a.m. - Program starts at 7:30 a.m.  
 The Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Ave. Hartford, CT (corner of Woodland St.)

**Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast**

  
*"There is Abundance in Hartford"*

*Join us for a time of multi-faith prayer, music, education & reflection. Joining this year will be Rosanne Haggerty, Jackie Gorsky Mandlyck, and David Fink who will discuss this year's theme "There is Abundance in Hartford".*

**David Fink**, Policy Director for the Partnership for Strong Communities  
**Rosanne Haggerty**, President and CEO of Community Solutions  
**Jackie Gorsky Mandlyck**, Managing Director of the iQuilt Partnership

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Please register by mail or online

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to be contacted by: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ mailing \_\_\_\_\_ or phone or text (phone # \_\_\_\_\_)

Please register me a donation of \$10 (cover cost) or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of the Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast.

<http://ghpb.weebly.com/>

(The Greater Hartford Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast is run by volunteers)

For More Information go to : <http://ghpb.weebly.com/>  
<http://files.ctctcdn.com/00fa79ba001/c59fe435-6e4c-4170-9adb-5b6e10a1e27e.pdf>



**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](mailto:kthpayne@gmail.com)

Image: <http://school.discoveryeducation.com>



**Festival of the Season is Coming**

**Saturday December 5th!**

**What do you love best about the biggest all-church event of the year at USH?**

- \* Making (and eating) a graham cracker house with sticky icing and candy...
- \* Putting together your own personal wreath or tree decoration...
- \* Hanging mittens and hats on the tree in the lobby for donation to chilly children without their own...
- \* Listening to the carolers as they stroll around the ambulatory...
- \* Discovering hand-crafted gifts at the Holiday Boutique...
- \* Relaxing in the Chapel with yummy snacks and seasonal movies... OR...
- \* Going downstairs after all the crafts are over and joining the 100+ other congregants for a delicious potluck meal, followed by our crazy traditional version of Twelve Days of Christmas?

Whatever it is, whether crafts or singing or the worship moment or telling Santa about your wish list, we'll have it all for you on Saturday, December 5th! The precise time is yet to be determined, but it looks like craft-making will begin around 3:30 and the dinner is likely to begin at 6:00. So what do we need?

We need volunteers! There is plenty of work and plenty of fun to be had at this congregation-wide, family-friendly celebration. **Please contact the 2015 Festival of the Season Chair, via PatriceFitzgerald at gmail dot com, if you'd like to help. And thank you in advance!**



### **A Call for Friday Office Volunteers!**

Hello all,

USH is in need of Friday Office Volunteers. Your presence and friendly face and voice is what makes USH so special!

There are easy things to keep you busy but are essential for USH to present a welcoming atmosphere on Sundays, such as putting OOS and the OOS covers together. (Everything is already printed and waiting). There is also answering the phone and taking messages or making copies of some of the hand outs at the

Welcome Tables.

Please contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark@gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out.

Also, pictured here, is a tray set up in the office of most of the printed materials for the Welcome and Visitor's Tables. If anyone has need of something, please check there and make copies as needed. See me on Sunday if you have any questions. Thank you!



**CALLING ALL COOKS  
(OR FRIENDS OF COOKS)**

**NOW FOR SALE!**

**THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF  
HARTFORD COMMEMORATIVE COOKBOOK**

**PLACE YOUR ORDERS ANY SUNDAY**

**AT COFFEE HOUR!**

**LOOK FOR THE SPECIAL "COOKBOOK TABLE"!**

**CASH OR CHECK ~ \$15 Per Copy**

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

### **Great discussions – October was the environment month**

We had two discussions on climate change: first the worldwide perspective and in particular the UN development resolution, and second an analysis of Connecticut's progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (GHG)

Actually, the picture is pretty bleak on both scales. While the UN development guidelines use the word "sustainable" over and over again in the 17 resolutions, no one in the group thought that there was a chance that those development

goals would be reached by 2050. Despite that pessimism, we were encouraged so many countries have at least signed on to trying to improve the GHG situation. Connecticut is one of the national leaders in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our 2008 development goal of reducing emissions significantly by 2020 has already been met. Folks quickly pointed out that with the elimination of the "Dirty Five" coal burning power plants, the increased price of gas for the past couple of years, and a mild shift to a culture of conservation, "low hanging fruit" have been picked off. To get to the 2050 goal of 10 tons, Jeff's presentation made it clear that the harder goal will be to reduce emissions from transportation.

One suggestion was to add taxes to increase the price of gas to around \$10 ; this would take enormous courage on the part of politicians currently in office, and a recognition of the realities of necessary GHG controls akin to Lowell Weiker's promotion of the state income tax. Clearly, we believe that a major cultural shift will have to occur if the nations are going to leave a "sustainable" planet to the next generations.

In November, Paula Jones and Kevin Gough will lead our discussions on the first and third Sundays of the month. We kick off the talks at 9 AM, so bring your coffee mugs and enjoy the wake up discussion. - **Submitted by Ed Savage**



**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.

Help pay for the Black Lives Matter lawn signs by contributing to our Faithify fundraiser.

Faithify is a UU fundraising site like Kickstarter. Check it out and donate here: <http://www.faithify.org/projects/black-lives-matter-lawn-signs-conversations-3/>

### **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.