



**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 an appointment**

**USH E-News ~ December 16, 2015**  
**Worshipping Together Since 1830**  
**Sunday Service 10:30 AM - December 20th - 2015**  
**Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr**



Image: <http://www.jewishfolksongs.com>  
"Pass On the Light"

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr and DRE Rayla Mattson - For centuries upon centuries, millennia even, people have gathered together at the darkest time of the year and created rituals about the return of the light.

For us in the Northern Hemisphere, we celebrate the Winter Solstice – December 21st, the longest night of the year.

Happy Solstice. Merry-almost-Christmas – the story of rebirth!

The USH Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's so that everyone--staff and volunteers alike--might take a little extra time to spend at

home and/or with their families. Some of us will be still be "around" a bit catching up on tasks, but we will not be staffing the Office during usual Office hours that week. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please, as always, contact our Revs via their cell phones, listed in the Directory. Thanks for your understanding and we look forward to seeing and catching up with you in the New Year, starting with our January 3 Sunday service!

Join us on Dec 27 for visiting Guest Minister Rev. Doug Wilson, formerly the Director of Rowe Camp and Conference Center, speaking on "The Beatles." Pi-Hsun Shih will be accompanying and there will be some singing-along invited!

**On January 3, we will celebrate "Wisdom from Centenarians"**--those in our community and country who have lived to be 100 years old, including our own Betty Arnold (who's been coming to USH since she was 11 years old)! Bring along your favorite wisdom from someone older than you, and if you can't find someone, come to USH--we are proud to be a very multigenerational congregation, all learning from one another. Come and celebrate life-long learning with us. Rev. Heather Rion Starr will be leading worship and Pi-Hsun Shih will be accompanying.

**Next week's E-news for December 23rd will be a double issue, there will be no E-News sent on December 30th, 2015.**

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

(Please double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted.

Email corrections to [calendarchanges@ushartford.com](mailto:calendarchanges@ushartford.com) -Thank you!

**December Rundown from the Ministers** - It can be hard to find peace and light in the darker days and the hectic chaos of December, so I'm leading a special candlelight contemplative chanting service this Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30pm to provide an oasis of calm beauty.

This Christmas Eve we'll be celebrating one very special service for all ages at 5pm with story and song, and of course candlelight. Please bring a plate of cookies to share. Carolling will begin at 4:30pm.

**Our Sundays are full of special treats too!**

\* Sunday December 20th is our Annual Multigenerational Solstice Service to celebrate the sun at the darkest time of year.

\* Sunday December 27th we'll have a special guest, Doug Wilson, former director of Rowe Camp and Conference Center as guest preacher.

Many thanks to the many hands and hearts who are giving of their time to create all of this!

We hope that our various worship services and fun activities will nourish your soul, buoy your spirit, and fill your belly this season. We know that the holidays can be a rough time for many - so please be gentle with yourself, and do be in touch with Rev. Heather or myself if you are struggling.

**With love,  
Rev. Cathy (and Rev. Heather)**

**Sunday, December 13th Recap by Patrice Fitzgerald**



Photos by Harriet Gardner  
A Glorious Special Music Sunday

December 13th brought a theme of "The Old and the New" as we celebrated music from the Jewish tradition, nearly all of it in Hebrew. The service, organized by Acting Choir Director Rebecca Pacuk, was full of delightful sounds and interesting reflections, and required her to wear many hats. She conducted, she sang, she spoke, and she taught... causing us to reflect on how lucky we are to have such a talented individual at the Meetinghouse!

The congregation began by singing "Bashanah Haba'ah" -- this one in English. The text is particularly apt for today from many different perspectives, including the Syrian refugee crisis, the Black Lives Matter movement, and this week's three-year anniversary of the Newtown tragedy.

"Soon the day will arrive when we will be together, and no longer will we live in fear. And the children will smile without wondering whether on that day thunderclouds will appear. Wait and see, wait and see what a world there can be if we share, if we care, you and me."

During the Time for All Ages, Rebecca brought the children up and taught them, along with the congregation, "Hava Nashirah," as a round. Since she just graduated from the University of Hartford last week, and is now officially trained as a musical education major, she was quite comfortable in the role!

The centerpiece of this Special Music Sunday was contemporary composer Eric Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs, a beautiful collection of short and varied pieces with Hebrew text by the composer's wife, Jerusalem-born Hila Plitmann.

Magnificent violin and piano accompaniment by Ann Stowe and Sarah Puckett, guitar by talented new choir member Roger Chappelle, a vocal solo by Sarah McKenzie, and a lovely quartet from our Hartt Choral Scholars made for a tremendous musical event.

The final song, titled "Tenderness," features this text: "He was full of tenderness; She was very hard; And as much as she tried to stay thus, Simply, and with no good reason, He took her into himself, And set her down in the softest, softest place."

In her remarks, Rebecca spoke about the connections between Judaism and Unitarian Universalism, and her own appreciation of our faith and our congregation as one in which she felt both comfortable and welcomed. She reflected on the power of the ancient language and traditions of Hebrew and the Jewish faith to inform us and build bridges from the past to the present.

The congregation finished by singing "Hineh Mah Tov," which means "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity!" Finally, Rebecca sang a glorious soprano solo with Hebrew text taken from the Song of Songs. It was a fitting ending to a beautifully crafted service.

It is exciting to see the strength and agility of the choir as it has grown over the past few months. This is due to Rebecca's inspiring leadership as well as the enthusiasm of this robust group of volunteer singers... plus the support of the congregation for USH music in the form of contributions that allow us to bring Hartt students in to swell the choral ranks. The collection on Sunday was dedicated to the "Friends of Music" fund, which helps support music at the Meeting House throughout the year.

Plans are being firmed up for a spring Music Sunday featuring Paul Winter's "Missa Gaia." The mass is an environmental liturgy of contemporary music. It features the instrumentation of the Paul Winter Consort along with a choir, vocal soloists, and the calls of wolves, whales, and many other animals that are woven into the pieces, sometimes used as the melody. Singers from the Universalist Church of West Hartford will be joining us. Be sure to watch for notice of this exciting musical event! **Patrice Fitzgerald, Chair, Music Committee**





### **"Merry Christmas to All"- that means You!**

Consider making the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the Meeting House part of your ever-evolving tradition, this Christmas. Who might you invite to join you in coming to the Meeting House for this special service? We would really like to revitalize and help spread the word about the warmth and welcome the Meeting House offers

to people of many beliefs and backgrounds on this special night. Please plan to join us, and bring someone along with you who perhaps hasn't been to a Unitarian Universalist Christmas Eve service before!

Thursday, December 24, 5:00pm (one service only this year)

Our theme this year will be: "The Legend of the Poinsettia," based on the children's book by Tomie DePaola. A Candlelight Service for Everyone. We need cookie-bringers and a few Cookie Coordinators. We need some extra helpers--perhaps: you? Let RevHeather know if you can make this service--truly a service to the larger community, an "alternative" spiritual gathering that welcomes everyone--part of your holiday plans this year.

RevHeather / revheather@ushartford.com / cell/text: 541-390-6052

Image: [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)



### **Be part of the Exciting Project to Add Solar Power to USH!**

Everyone is invited to be part of the solar project at USH. All contributions—large and small—will be through the Endowment Fund. Please contribute what you are able and together we can save money for USH over the long term, help the environment, and be true to our 7th principle!

Our official kickoff will be during the SOLSTICE service on December 20, when we will celebrate the return of the sun by using the offering to help collect the sun's rays. All money in the collection baskets will go towards the project, but this is only one of many ways you can contribute.

Your contribution can be by check (with "endowment/solar project" on the memo line), cash (in an envelope designated as for the endowment/solar project), or gifts of stock directly to the endowment (talk to Jim Venneman if you are interested in this option). Your contribution can be part of the collection on the 20th—so we can get off to a 'radiant' start—or as soon as possible after that, preferably by the end of December. (We do understand that some people may need to wait until the beginning of the 2016 tax year.)

All contributions—large and small—will help make this project a success and all contributors will be recognized as having participated. In addition, you can be proud of what you and your congregation are doing.

Please remember that we encourage your contribution to the solar project only if it's possible for you to do so in addition to what you planned to contribute to the annual stewardship campaign.

**RE News You Can Use!** - This week, December 20th, the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45am for infants and toddlers.

We have a wonderful multigenerational service this week with participants of all ages.

We hope you will come join us.

**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.



**The Star Island Corporation is currently accepting applications for our summer staff.** - If you are not already familiar with Star Island, we run a seasonal religious and educational conference center off the New Hampshire coast and hire approximately 100 college-aged people to work from mid-June to mid-September. As our roots are linked to the UU and UCC faiths, working on Star offers a unique employment opportunity for UU and UCC young adults (age 18 and older) in a beautiful location.

We hope you will help us spread the word about employment opportunities on Star Island by sharing the attached flyer with your congregation. Our application deadline is January 22 so we appreciate you posting the information as soon as possible.

For more information about working on Star Island, please visit our website (<http://starisland.org/working/seasonal/>) or feel free to contact me with questions - Kate Brady, Office Manager, Star Island Corporation, 30 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801, (603) 430-6272. Please contact the DRE for assistance with the application process.



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

Please note there will not be a Programs Table until after the New Year. We wish you a very Happy Holiday.

Now that the Fall Programs are ending, have you been thinking about a workshop or program that you would like to offer this Winter or Spring?

We'd like to include your program, workshop, or event in the listing of the 2016 Winter/Spring Programs for Adults and Families.

On Sundays, there will be handouts for your course, event, etc. at the Programs 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 [www.ushartford.com](http://www.ushartford.com). From the Building Community, pull down Menu at the top of the home page, click on Adult & Family Programs. In the bottom right corner under Documents, 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.

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:**

Friday Pizza and Movie Night: January 8, 5:30 PM, featuring "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl".

Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves You: Saturday, January 23, February 13, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 11, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon.

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

Emei Qigong: Tuesdays, Beginning Learners: 6:15 PM, Cultivation: 6:30 PM, Deeper Learning and Understanding: 7:15 PM. Contact Diana Heymann (860-461-0908).

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

Contact Diana Heymann (860-461-0908).

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

Authentic Connection & Communication:

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

**Ballroom Dance: on Thursday nights.** Instruction in Foxtrot, Waltz, Rumba, Swing and Tango as well as Latin club dances like Salsa and Cha Cha will be taught by Wendy Nielsen, from Arthur Murray Dance Studios. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 PM. Fee for the classes is \$45 per month. For more information stop by the Adult Programs table in Fellowship Hall

on Sundays, or contact Ron Friedman at rsfriedman41@gmail.com or 860-523-1105.



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

Please talk to Richard Groothuis if you have any questions.  
860-678-1030;rgroopofus@comcast.net

Meetings are generally held between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month in David's Den at the Church.  
USH BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 5:30 PM

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

(From Amazon.com) Submitted by Richard Groothuis

Upcoming Books:

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

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

Apr 7: The Shell Collectors: Stories- Anthony Doerr

May 5: The Little Friend- Donna Tartt

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



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

Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council



**Annual "Coming Home" concert at the Unitarian Meeting House.**

"Coming Home with John and Katie LaPorta Jesensky" featuring Megan LaPorta Sherry and Mia Scarpa.

Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 7:30pm  
\$15 tickets, \$ 10 students with ID.



Katherine LaPorta Jesensky, a professional opera singer, and her husband, pianist and vocalist, John Jesensky return from Los Angeles to their home state of Connecticut to perform songs inspired by family. Both husband and wife will perform songs ranging from Simon and Garfunkel to Leonard Bernstein—including many genres of music. There will be sure to be something for everyone!

The Jesensky's make their annual return to sing for their former home at the Unitarian Society of Hartford and bring with them an array of talented singers from the local area. The concert will include one of central Connecticut's most in-demand sopranos and member of the critically acclaimed Voce Inc, Megan Sherry. And fresh off her starring role in "Hello Dolly!" and one-woman show singing the songs of Judy Garland, mezzo-soprano, Mia Scarpa. In 2012, Katie LaPorta Jesensky relocated from a lifetime on the east coast to Los Angeles, California, and she has already been establishing a flourishing career on the west coast. Ms. Jesensky was most recently heard singing the role of Blondchen in Mozart's Die Entführung aus dem Serail with Angel City Opera and in Center Stage Opera's Classics Concert featuring opera arias with the Center Stage Orchestra.

This season she also reprised the role of Gretel in Hansel and Gretel with Black Tie Opera and sang the role of Annina in La Traviata with Center Stage Opera. In Ms. Jesensky's short time in Los Angeles, she has also performed the roles of Olympia (Les Contes d'Hoffmann), Valencienne (The Merry Widow), Die Königin der Nacht (Die Zauberflöte), Mrs. Nordstrom (A Little Night Music), Giannetta (L'Elisir d'Amore), and Suor Infermiera (Suor Angelica). Up next will be the role of Despina in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte with Center Stage Opera this spring!

<http://www.johnjesensky.com/#!audio/c1pb6>

<http://www.katherinejesensky.com/#!media/cnp3>

Huffington Post on John Jesensky

"Olympia was charmingly sung by Katherine LaPorta Jesensky, with spectacular coloratura and customized fioritura which significantly extended the already extraordinarily high range of the aria." -Singerpreneur on her April 2014 performance of Olympia in "Les Contes d'Hoffmann"

"Jesensky's sparkling soprano was a highlight in an evening already full of good singing." -Singerpreneur on her January 2014 performance of Valencienne in "The Merry Widow"

"Katherine LaPorta Jesensky easily maneuvered the stratosphere in "Olympia's Aria" with many surprising optional high notes that delighted the audience." - Singerpreneur on her November 2013 Concert

"Katie's voice has a glorious sound, and her technique lets her hit the highest pitches in rapid-fire with astonishing accuracy...plus her acting ability and depth of feeling move us to tears." -USH News on her August 2011 Recital

**-Submitted by Ed Savage**

## Upcoming Special Events and Other News



### Meals for Crystal and Jeremy

One of our newest families to join, Crystal Kelley and Jeremy Young, are expecting a baby in a few days. One way we can be helpful to them is to provide them with a few meals after the baby has arrived. The following website has been set up to provide meals for Crystal and Jeremy and their two daughters.

The website is <http://www.TakeThemAMeal.com>. To get to the meal schedule, type in Kelley for Recipient Last Name and 8667 for Password. The dates, depending on when the baby arrives, start around December 17 – January 2, every other day. If you prefer not to use the website and would like to be added to the meal schedule, please call Nancy Reed at 860 521-1082 or email [ndreed35\(at sign\)comcast.net](mailto:ndreed35(at sign)comcast.net).

The Boys and Girls Club Northwest (on Granby St less than a mile from the Meeting House) needs volunteers this FRIDAY, between 12 and 4:00 pm to wrap presents for the children. The Social Justice group sent 4 folks last year; because the organization has changed, this year we could use more, as the other church groups will probably not be able to get there.

**If you can help, call Ed Savage at 860-966-8155 to sign up; we may carpool from our parking lot, as there is limited off-street parking at the club. Thank you for your efforts to help our neighborhood**



The three wise men brought gifts, and Christmas has become a time for giving and receiving. Gifts of dolls, trains, books, and stuffed animals are given and received.

Candy, warm hot chocolate with whipped cream and peppermint striped candy canes hang from each stocking.

At the Festival of the Seasons you gave our friends from The Village for Families and Children love, confidence in our care, and wonderful gingerbread houses.

The hats, mittens, scarves and all other warmies being collected on our tree will be our tangible gift to the children at The Village. Until the end of the year, please add to the tree so that it will be full of gifts to be given and happily received by our friends. **-Submitted by Joanne Orlando**

### **Building and Grounds Plans** an Indoor Clean Up Day

Have you noticed, sometimes our Meeting House rooms begin to look like everyone else's extra room? Full of stored items never to be used again, or perhaps, among the... we will need it someday stuff, a few isolated items that will actually get used.

Folks, the time has come for a general clean up effort for our Meeting House rooms on January 30th. That will be the day when the spaces will be cleaned out of accumulated debris. And, here is where you come into the picture. We want all useful items in various spaces that actually get used to be labeled by the owners. As for the remaining items that have no labels come January 30, they will likely disappear forever. Mark your calendars, as it will be useful if you can assist on January 30, but if not, there is homework to be done. **More later....**

**David Newton, for B&G Image: clipartpanda.com**



### **Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM)**

**ANNOUNCEMENT** - We are excited to share with the congregation the news of the AIM Task Force. AIM, the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry, is charged

with “welcoming, integrating, and supporting people with physical or psychological disabilities and their families in our congregations” (UUA.org). AIM is a joint program of the Unitarian Universalist Association and its EquUal Access affiliate, a UU organization that enables full engagement of people with disabilities and their families in congregations. Our USH Task Force has been assembled and consists of 17 enthusiastic members who will be working together on completing a certification program where USH will be formally recognized as a congregation by the UUA for our commitment and progress to this cause. We expect this process will take several years.

The Board reviewed and endorsed the work of the Task Force at their meeting last week. The next steps are to conduct a needs assessment to determine the extent to which USH is currently accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities and to develop plans to improve. Other future steps will include a series of workshops on various topics related to inclusion and support for individuals with disabilities and their families. We look forward to the entire congregation's participation in this important step for USH.

If you have questions about the specific goings-on of AIM, feel free to contact Bill LaPorte-Bryan, AIM Chair & Mental Health Chair; Katharine Ann Buck, Secretary and member of mental health subgroup; Paula Bleck, Mobility Chair; Dennis Gallant, Perceptual Chair; Brianna Bittel, Chronic Pain Chair; Owen McKenzie, Learning & Intellectual Disabilities Chair; Edith Savage & Diana Heymann, Chemical & Food Sensitivity Co-Chairs. **Submitted by Katharine Ann Buck**  
**Logo: UUA.org**

**Art News** - Two friends, both gifted artists and members of the congregation, will be sharing their spirit-lifting art during the grey chill of the new year. Martha Bradley and Susan Spaniol offer interesting contrasts in style, method and materials. Read their artists' statement to be found hanging in the ambulatory with the paintings. If you would like to suggest an artist to be featured at USH please contact Sara Sturges. - **Submitted by Sara Sturges**

If you contributed this fantastic chapeau to the USH Re-Gifting sale, I would like to learn more about it. Is it a kufti? Using Southeby's speak, I would like to learn its provenance. Both Zean and I were enthralled by it; we now share custody! **Thanks, Nita**  
**(bonnieandroberta - at sign - comcast.net)**



**Status of the USH Archives** - With the recent passing of Margaret Sax, I think it will benefit many in knowing the hard work she performed in the USH Archives will not be forgotten. Starting in 2016 I will be working with Rev. Heather to pick up where Margaret left off; it is my hope to begin by surveying the collection, weeding any duplicates we decide do not need preservation, and incorporate newer material into the archives (including a growing collection of audiovisual and electronic material). Ultimately this project will be ongoing and sustain the growth of the Congregation's history through the records we decide to keep. As the end of my Masters in Library Science program approaches next year, I would like to reach out to those who might be interested in helping with this project either through a donation of church materials or volunteering time. Do you have any items from your congregational life at USH you'd be willing to part with? Are you interested in helping survey what we have? Re-boxing materials? Help prepare a record retention policy or archive guidelines?



**Please contact me directly (ZMirecki@comcast.net or call/text 860-916-9014. -Zac Mirecki** **Photo: Heather Rion Starr**



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>  
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)

**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.



**SPEAKING LOVE TO HATE  
A COMMUNITY GATHERING FOR PEACE**

On the shortest day of the year,  
we will gather  
to share our light.  
With each other.  
With our community.  
With the world.  
join us for a candlelight vigil,  
community art project  
and inspiring readings.

**DECEMBER 21. 7 P.M. CHARTER OAK CULTURAL CENTER**

21 Charter Oak Avenue Hartford, CT 06106 860-310-2580

**Muslims & Christians pray together:**

reclaiming the truth we know  
about each other

Tuesday, December 22, 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church

285 Church Street, Hartford

please join us; bring a friend or family member of any faith.

we trust in a God who brings Peace,  
and we seek to live in God's Light.  
come for an evening of light & warmth, peace & truth.

Sponsored by the Muslim & Christian Women of Hope & Faith

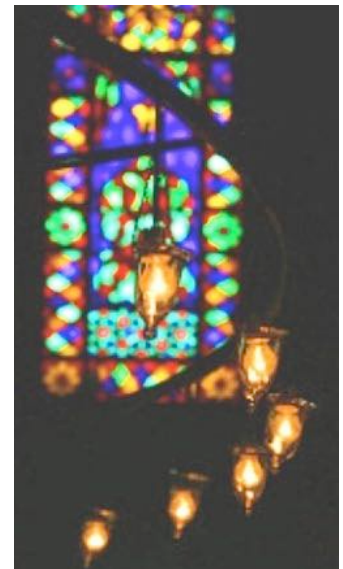
We say no to the fear and hate  
spread by bigots and extremists,  
and we say yes to what we know  
we have together:  
the strength of our friendship,  
in faith and solidarity.

"God is the Light of the heavens  
& the earth ..."

Qur'an, Surah 24:35:

Dear friends,


These days the hateful words & violent actions of some might  
easily turn us toward fear & distrust, anger & despair. We  
choose instead to turn to the deep connection & genuine  
friendship we already have with each other, and to draw on this  
for hope. The good that we know to be true about each other



strengthens our togetherness. By making our togetherness visible, we give encouragement to ourselves & to others, and we declare that our hope -- & our truth -- will prevail.

Please join us on Tuesday evening, December 22 at 7:00pm, for an evening of prayer & solidarity. We will gather at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street in Hartford (corner of Church & Ann, directly behind the XL Center). All are welcome; please come, bring a friend, neighbor or family member, and share this invitation with others. No need to RSVP, but if you're coming, drop us a line to let us know. We'll be glad to see you ! There's free parking in the lot across from the church; tell the attendant you are attending a service at the church.

**With much appreciation, Salaam / peace & all good -- and courage,  
Carole Fay & Fatma Antar for the Muslim & Christian Women of Hope & Faith  
ccfnoank@yahoo.com**



**HELP US END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**DONATE**  
A quarter feeds a kid and \$1 a family of 4. Meals are donated to Gifts of Love & Foodshare.

Mail Donations to: FVAMC, P.O. Box 853, Farmington, CT 06032 or donate online at: <https://razmobile.com/2cafb/donation.html?cp=612>

**VOLUNTEER:**  
Pack 160 meals in one hour

Packing Event will be held on 1/16/2016 at FVAMC, 35 Harris Road, Avon, CT 06001

Email us at [info@fvamc.org](mailto:info@fvamc.org). Like End Hunger Farmington on Facebook

Dear Friends,  
Last year the Farmington Valley Hunger Collaborative packaged over 32,500 meals, that went directly onto food pantry shelves. This year, with your help, we are planning on doing it again on Saturday, January 16th, 2016. Please join us in supporting our second annual food packing event. Our goal is to package 25,000 meals here in the heart of the Farmington Valley. A donation of any amount is

appreciated, \$5, \$10, \$20. 25 cents = a meal \$1.00 feeds a family of 4. The more \$ we raise, the more meals we can pack and the more fun we can have putting them all together! Please share widely with your communities. Sign ups will begin after Jan 1. We can't reach our goal without you:

<https://www.youcaring.com/foodshare-and-gifts-of-love-485344#> **Submitted by Bridget Adams**

#### **New Web Up and Functioning:**

For the username and password for the Members Only section, please email Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark@gmail.com](mailto: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)

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

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

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

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

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

**Email to: [ushenews@ushartford.com](mailto: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.