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

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



Image: Pinterest.com (UU of Burlington)

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr - This Sunday: Share the Love! - A multigenerational celebration of Love - the big kind of love that holds us all, whether or not we get Hallmark cards from a special someone on Valentine's Day. Come and be reminded that YOU are loved while we share our love with one another and our social justice partners. We'll present our first annual Courageous Love Award, and the Good Neighbor Offering will be split between the Awardee and the Standing on the Side of Love campaign. Come and be immersed in beauty, music, justice, and community.

This Sunday's offering will benefit Standing on the Side of Love and Moral Monday CT.

The total of all cash and checks received will go to Standing on the Side of Love and Moral Monday CT. If you wish for your contribution to go towards your pledge instead, please write 'pledge' in the memo line.

Standing on the Side of Love: It's sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and is a public advocacy Campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression.

Moral Monday CT: Gathers voices in the struggle for freedom and justice for black and brown people. We are rooted in the social justice and civil rights movement started by the Reverend Doctor William Barber of North Carolina in response to recent restrictions on voting rights. We are a statewide Connecticut-based coalition of individuals and organizations brought together by the power of the Black Lives Matter movement.

-Submitted by Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera



As we kick off a new congregational year, we are so excited to announce that Thirty Days of Love, this time dedicated to intersectional racial justice, is back for 2016! Thirty Days is an exciting opportunity to support the emerging and ongoing racial justice organizing happening in Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country, in the tradition of organizing for civil and human rights and in support of the growing Movement for Black Lives.

After a brief hiatus this year to allow room for the newly launched Climate Justice Month, Thirty Days returned Saturday, January 16 and continues through Sunday, February 14, 2016.

In 2016, we are centering on racial justice as it intersects with other core justice priorities of the UUA, such as immigration justice and LGBTQ equity. We are featuring multi-generational and family resources as in years' past, and will offer congregational resources for each week.

Back in 2012, the team at Standing on the Side of Love realized there were exactly 30 days in between Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Valentine's Day. We had already been re-imagining Valentine's Day as a social justice holiday for a few years, so we thought we'd get creative and make something meaningful happen in between these two powerful holidays. From that Thirty Days of Love was created!

In subsequent years, it hasn't been an exact 30 days between these two holidays, but the dates still provide an important anchor to the start and close of our initiative.

So, what are the goals for Thirty Days of Love? Why is it important and why should we participate?

Thirty Days of Love brings tools for individuals and congregations to engage in listening campaigns, expanded partnership and collaboration, theological

reflection, collective sharing, political education, and support for direct action.

We offer tangible resources for you to celebrate the words and deeds of unsung heroes and to continue the effort to promote equality, acceptance, diversity, and inclusion.

Thirty Days of Love has been a phenomenal experience for lots of folks and we consider this year no different. This year, we'll send one weekly email on specific justice issues as they relate to racial justice, and offer you resources for reflection, education and action. There will also be a daily message or action shared via social media so follow along on Facebook and Twitter to see those messages.

In years past, we have heard the powerful voices of justice leaders both within Unitarian Universalism as well from many of our partner organizations who are on the frontlines of organizing for racial justice. We expect this year to be no different. Take your involvement to the next level by signing up to participate in Share the Love Sunday, giving a Courageous Love Award, and collaborating and organizing with local Black Lives Matter organizations to take action for racial justice in your own community.

And of course, we are here to help with any questions along the way.

Article from: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ourstories/2015/9/10/mark-your-calendars-for-thirty-days-of-love-2016>

HEARTS & SPARKS
AUCTION
At the
Meeting House

**Tickets
on sale
NOW!**

**Saturday
Feb 13, 2016
Silent auction from 7-8 PM
Live Auction at 8pm.**

**\$10 Admission
includes refreshments**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!
MORE DETAILS COMING**

**Don't miss this fun night and
major fundraiser for USH**

**GOING... GOING...
Not quite Gone....**

Read on for the final Auction update and a special note from Revs. Heather and Cathy. The USH Auction is this Saturday, February 13 at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door. There are some new items that will be offered on Saturday. Don't miss out on this evening of fun.

As happens this time of year, there is the possibility of snow. If weather is a problem on Saturday, a decision will be made by noon if we will cancel Saturday night and move to the snow date, which is Sunday, February 14 at 7 PM. An e-mail blast will be sent out if there is a cancellation.

And now, a note from our co-ministers: Welcome! We are excited to be part of our second USH Auction! There are almost 100 beautiful, fun, delicious and delightful offerings that so many of you have generously donated. This is as much a reminder of the incredible talent and generosity of our USH members and friends as it is a chance to raise funds to support our congregational life.

Take advantage of this opportunity to get-to-know and appreciate one another in new ways or to take home something special that will always remind you of your connection to this community. Together, we create opportunities for the sharing of beauty, joy, and creativity, and in so doing, we strengthen all our spirits for healing this world. Thanks to all of you for your participation and support of this congregation, and we look forward to seeing you at the Auction! -Revs. Heather & Cathy Rion Starr

And, assuming the Auction will take place on Saturday night, here are some final details for Sunday, February 14:

* Please stop down and see what did not sell. Make an offer, match a minimum and it's yours!

* AUCTION DONORS - Please be prepared to come to Fellowship Hall Sunday morning after our "last chance" sale and pick up any of your items that did not sell.

February 7, 2016 Sunday Service Recap by Kayla Costenoble



Photos: Harriet Gardner

Being a New Englander - "Welcome on this radiant New England morning," Rev. Heather greeted us on February 7, 2016. It was a great choice of words for a sunny Sunday that reached 50 degrees. But this came after a heavy rain, a cold, windy, snowy Friday, a milder Saturday, and the "promise" of more snow this coming Monday and Tuesday, with a high on Monday struggling to reach 30

degrees. I couldn't help but think of our Mark Twain's oft-repeated, "If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes."

Our minister, a native Oregonian, did a lot of homework for her sermon, probably ending up knowing as much or more about New England that we who've lived here for some time do. She began her sermon with two true stories illustrating those heralded New England characteristics/stereotypes: self reliant, independent, hardy, resourceful, flinty, taciturn, not always friendly, hard-working.

"The Human Shingle" featured a man whose wife woke him from a nap to climb on to his roof (as he had done many times before) on January 29, 1907, to fix some holes in the shingles. The view was spectacular, the sun was shining (sound familiar?), and he happily fell asleep as he lay on his back on the roof. Hours later, the 20 degree cold woke him, his body ached, and he was frozen to the roof. He had also lost his voice and could not call for help. His son eventually pried him off the shingles; he nearly died, but recovered and resumed his chores within a week. Hardy, etc.

Story number two concerns a French Canadian Italian family who arrived in Hartford in 1920. The father in this arranged marriage opened a shoemaker shop at the corner of Homestead and Garden Streets. One of his five daughters was Ann Uccello, elected in 1967 and again in 1969 as the first female mayor of the city of Hartford and the state of Connecticut. During the riots following Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968, she helped ease the pain and confusion by spending the night in the streets with Hartford residents. So let's add "brave" and "courageous" to our list of New England traits. Mayor Ann, as she was called, is now in her 90's.

Rev. Heather also told us about the late poet Maxine Kumin (1925-2014) who won the Pulitzer prize in 1973 for "Up Country: Poems of New England" and won the 2006 Frost Medal in 2006. When she was a young poet she attended the annual Bread Loaf Writers' Conference at Middlebury College in Vermont, and literally sat at the feet of Robert Frost as he gave a "savage reading" and harangued the would-be poets, as she recalls the event in her "The Final Poem," to:

Look up from the page. Pause between poems.
 Say something about the next one.
 Otherwise the audience
 will coast, they can't take in
 half of what you're giving them.
 Reaching for the knob of his cane
 he rose, and flung this exit line:
 Make every poem your final poem.

Much, of course, can be inferred from that final line of Frost's advice to poets and Kumin's use of it in her poem. It speaks of life, aging (Frost was old and not well), death and acceptance of one's own mortality. Rev. Heather reminded us that we all live finite lives, that we are here just temporarily, and that we are all searching for meaning in our lives.

We are not lacking in stories, Rev. Heather said, but the question is what to do with this history? How can we move forward to the future? Our challenge in New England is to move towards the future without entrenchment in our history. We must "focus on who we are now, in the present moment, without needing to give elaborate history lessons." What do we want our footprint to be as New Englanders and as Unitarians?

Our always-wonderful music was enhanced by the addition of Rev. Cathy, cello and Ginny Allen, violin, as they joined the USH Choir in a moving rendition of "The Snow" (music by Edward Elgar, poem by his wife Alice Elgar). They also enriched our closing hymn "Blue Boat Home."

Peter Meny, chair of this year's Stewardship Committee, told us that February was a "month of thanks" and a time to be grateful that we are partners with the USH. We will be hearing three "inspiring and moving" pulpit testimonials from some of our newest members. Pledge Sunday on March 20 will feature one of our famous traditional pancake breakfasts followed by our traditional pledging during the service as we "build the foundation for another great year at the Meeting House." See you there. **Kayla Costenoble**



**Highlights from Coffee Hour:
Including Photos of the Hearts and Sparks Auction Preview
Coming This Saturday, February 13th at 7:00 PM!**





Don't forget to check out the books for sale during coffee hour and the friendly faces you'll see.

And here's a photo of our Stewardship Committee for 2016 ~ Thank you so much to

Deb, Ginny, Laurie, Peter and (not pictured) Rev. Heather and Joe Rubin!



RE News You Can Use!

“Alone we can do little: together we can do so much.”

– Helen Keller

This past Sunday our 3rd-5th grade class took a trip to My Sister's Place to drop off the funds and household items they have been collecting. Thank you everyone for supporting them and their efforts. When they returned they were so excited and proud. I'm sure if you ask, they would be happy to tell you what they have learned. While they



were giving back, our High School Youth Group was doing the same. They began with an overnight here at the church that including planning for their service later this year. They concluded the overnight by serving food and sorting clothes at Church St. Eats. So proud of both of these groups getting out and working in the community.

This week, the nursery will be available from 10:15:-11:45AM. There is no after childcare this week. There will be a Time For All Ages, after which the children and youth will remain in the service for an all ages look at love. It will be fun and interactive. Please 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.



Church Business News

Solar Arrays Being Constructed... Your Vote Solicited!



- As weather permits, the construction of the new Meeting House solar arrays is going forward. Soon, we will have three large solar arrays to the east of the Meeting House. Because we all share our Meeting House, we will need to work together as a community to protect them. They are robust structures and our contractor says a fence is not required. However, we will need to take ordinary care to protect them as we would for windows and roofs of our homes. Therefore, we solicit your vote in selecting the words for a couple of signs posted

near our new arrays. In a preliminary vote of the Solar Stewardship Work Group, we have selected three choices. We now request that you vote on them to make the final selection for sign wording. The choices are:

- (1) Working Solar Array Not Here for Play
- (2) Sun is Working Let It Do Its Job
- (3) Do Not Disturb We Are Saving the Planet

Vote for one choice only. Please send your vote by email to dcnewton@ushartford.com. In the text, simply say: I vote for #1, 2, or 3
Votes will be counted up to Monday 2/15 at noon.

Highlights of the February Meeting of The USH Board of Directors

At its meeting on February 2nd, the Board began preparing to respond constructively and proactively to what we hope will be a continuation of our recent rapid growth in membership by reflecting on what we learned from the 1st half of a book entitled *The Myth of the 200 Barrier*. The Ministers' Report included an update on our collective adaptation to the new child care schedule, the ministers' assistance to the New Haven congregation during its minister's unexpected medical leave and Rev. Heather's part-time consulting ministry to the Monson MA congregation. We accepted with regret Gloria Francesca Mengual's resignation as Co-Chair of the Council on Social Justice. We received the final report and recommendations from the Music Transition Team, explored its implications, and agreed to take action at the March Board meeting. We reviewed and updated the inclement weather policy and received and reviewed the quarterly reports from the Councils on Community Within and Spiritual Life. The next Board meeting will be March 1st at 7:00 PM. As always, guests are welcome.

Submitted by Margaret Leicach

Keep on Movin' Forward! The theme of our Stewardship drive this year is 'Keep on Moving Forward'. There is great energy, enthusiasm, and commitment at the Meeting House. We want to continue this momentum and keep attracting new members, strengthening our social justice efforts, and providing Worship services and Education programs that inspire, deepen our connections, and help us practice our UU principles.

After the service this Sunday the Stewardship committee will host the first of three 'Under the Stairs' get-togethers during coffee hour. These gatherings are part of a Month of Thanks – a time when we reflect on and appreciate how grateful we are for the opportunity to be part of this great congregation.

Find out from Board President-elect John Brancato how our financial contributions will support exciting and important initiatives next year. Ask questions and share your thoughts about what you feel is most important. Please come to one of these gatherings and let us hear about your vision for our future.

If you can't make it this Sunday then join us on either February 28 or March 6 (childcare available).

And March 20 is Stewardship Sunday – mark it on your calendars! We will begin the day with a tasty and entertaining Pancake breakfast. During the service we will all be invited to make our most generous financial pledge to support the values, mission, and work of this Society.

Together.....all of us will build the foundation for another great year at the Meeting House. Let's keep on moving forward! **Stewardship Committee - Ginny Hedrick, Laurie Kelliher, Deb Meny, Peter Meny, Joe Rubin, and Reverend Heather.**

Submitted by Peter Meny

We are excited to share with the congregation the most recent news of the AIM Task Force: The USH Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Task Force has been working on completing a certification program where USH will be formally recognized by the UUA for our commitment and progress towards welcoming, integrating, and supporting people with physical and psychological disabilities. There are 3 phases towards certification, all of which require UUA approval.

We are pleased to report that the UUA Review Team has approved Phase 1, allowing us to move forward in conducting a needs assessment. This assessment will involve you, the USH congregation, in determining how welcoming, supportive and inclusive we are for people with disabilities and their families. This assessment will be followed up with specific plans to make our church more accessible to all. 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 or Katharine Ann Buck, Secretary and member of mental health subgroup.

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

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

* John Brancato will be complete his one-year term as President-Elect and become Board President.

* Louise Schmoll will complete her service as Treasurer.

* John Clapp will be stepping down as Chair of the Council on Administration.

* Tina Davies will be stepping down as Chair of the Council on Community Within.

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

All Board members participate in monthly Board meetings.

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

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

sign checks. Working with the Finance Committee, the Business Manager and the Board, they also coordinate the development of the annual church budget.

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

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

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

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

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

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



2016 Winter/Spring Programs for Adults and Families

USH Calendar of Events:
www.ushartford.com/events/

For those of you asking about Small Group Ministry, there are two groups available,

one Saturday mornings starting April 2, and one Monday evenings starting March 7. A new offering – The Guru In You – Experiencing the Transcendent Self, facilitated by Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada, will begin Wednesday, March 30. Reverend Heather's Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves You, will meet February 13. Plan to stop by the Programs Table Sunday to register or to find out more about the programs.

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

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

Programs:

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

Great Decisions: First and Third Sundays, February 21, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

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

Small Group Ministry: Mondays, starting March 7, 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

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

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

USH Book Club: Thursday, March 3, 5:30 PM.

Drum Circle: 3rd Tuesdays, February 16, 6:45 – 7:45 PM.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM.

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

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

Contact Diana Heymann (860-461-0908).

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

Authentic Connection & Communication:

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

Ginny Allen will facilitate a Small Group Ministry (SGM), 8 sessions, beginning March 7, 2016 at the home of Laurel Goodgion in Newington.

This is where deep sharing and deep listening happens. Meetings will be on Monday evenings from 7 - 9 pm. It is important to attend all (or most) sessions. If you wish to sign up for this SGM, please sign up at the Programs Table during coffee hour on Sunday or contact Janice Newton, janicecnewton@gmail.com, phone - 860-677-1121 or if you have questions, email or call Esther McKone, ESTmckone@aol.com, phone 860-677-6682. There is a total \$5 registration fee for 8 sessions.

Transitions: A New Small Group Ministry - Are you at a turning point in your life? A place where the old way is not working but you're not sure what would be better? Do you feel restless? Stuck? Confused? Trapped?

On eight consecutive Saturday mornings starting April 2, Judy Robbins will lead a Small Group Ministry for people who feel they are in transition. We will inspire and learn from each other while at the same time paying special attention to our own inner guidance.

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

The group is limited to ten participants. The first session is mandatory and a commitment to all sessions is strongly encouraged. We expect this group to fill quickly so sign up soon at the Programs Table in Fellowship Hall after Sunday service or call Janice Newton at 860-677-1121 or email her at janicecnewton@gmail.com.

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

GREAT DECISIONS 2016 Meetings – February TOPICS

We're pleased to announce the topics for Great Decisions 2016! discussions, an eight-meeting series continuing each Spring at the Unitarian Meeting House for more than 25 years. The first month's topics are as follows:

* Feb 21 – (Tentative) Cuba and the U.S. – Paula Jones & Kevin Gough, discussion co-leads

We will meet in Servetus from 9:00 am to around 10:00. Registration for the meetings and briefing books is \$25. Folks are welcome to drop in for a session, although at least glancing at the on-line resources is recommended as preparation.

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

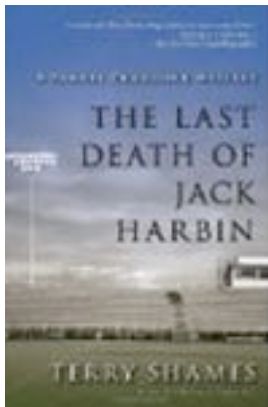
Submitted by Ed Savage

The Guru In You - Experiencing the Transcendent Self

Transpersonal Psychology acknowledges the spiritual and transcendent in human experience and integrates these into modern psychological practice. It presents us with a model for living as fully mature body-mind-spirit beings. Our culture emphasizes the body-mind and has sorely neglected the innate spirited part of us that we are calling the inner guru. In this 5-session class, we will investigate the nature and usefulness of the inner "guru," the part of us that taps into universal peace, wisdom, love and joy. Using lecture, discussion, and lots of participatory exercises, we will have



some fun exploring the guru, the source of our inspiration and inner guidance. Class is limited to 10 and we strongly encourage attendance at all sessions. Facilitators: Judy Robbins is a psychologist whose doctorate is in Transpersonal Psychology, the field that integrates the spiritual aspects of human experience within the framework of modern psychology. Rick Tsukada is a clinical social worker who has worked as a psychotherapist and workshop leader for decades. Rick and Judy, both long-time UUs, are married and members of USH. Schedule: Five two-hour sessions. A commitment to attend all 5 is strongly encouraged. Wednesday evenings beginning March 30 6:00 – 8:00 PM in SERVETUS. Suggested Donation: \$25 Participant Limit: Because of the experiential nature of this group, the class is limited to ten (10) participants. **Submitted by Programs for Adults and Families** Image: www.pinterest.com



USH Book Club
Thursday, March 3, 5:30 PM
at the USH Meeting House

All are welcome!

The Last Death of Jack Harbin by Terry Shames
 A LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2014!
 A Samuel Craddock Mystery

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

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

The USH Book Club Meets in David's Den On the first Thursdays of the month
 From 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Please talk to Richard Groothuis if you have any questions.

860-678-1030;rgroopofus@comcast.net

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.

Upcoming Books:

Apr 7: The Shell Collectors: Stories- Anthony Doerr

May 5: The Little Friend- Donna Tartt

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

-Submitted by Richard Groothuis

Creative Sharing and Mutual Inspiration Society Come join us! Welcome!

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

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

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

Attention: The first program, presented by Helen David, will be on Monday, Feb. 22, due to a snow cancellation. Thereafter, the regular schedule will resume.

Contact Person: Sherry Williams booksandbeads@comcast.net 860.214.7045

Cost: \$5.00 for the session and possible (minor) materials fees

In peace and harmony with the Muse, Sherry



© Can Stock Photo

Looking for Performers! We have some fabulous stuff lined up for you for the "Family Share Talent/No Talent Show," coming up on Sunday, February 21st immediately after services. It's going to be hopping down in Fellowship Hall, where there will be soup served along with the Council on Community Within Fair... a busy day, and a fun Sunday.

So far we have Reverend Cathy doing her famous "magic" act, Richard Leslie making some good impressions and apparently playing some tunes on his cheek

(!) and the Meeting House Folk folksingers treating us to a couple of tunes. What can you do?

Talent is optional... but we need more performers! Acts of four minutes or less are welcome. Be in touch with PatriceFitzgerald at gmail dot com to get yourself in the lineup. No pressure, just fun. We particularly encourage the young or young at heart to participate.

Notes on Music - We have some exciting music coming up for you throughout the rest of the church year! This is just a taste of what's in store, but watch this space for more details in the upcoming weeks.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1st, our projected Music Sunday. The USH choir will be swelled by the ranks of the folks at the Universalist Church in West Hartford (where we will be singing during their service the week before) as we bring you "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass," a beautiful piece featuring instruments, choir, vocal soloists, and the calls of wolves, whales, and other animals.

We're also delighted to be working with our new Composer-in-Residence, Gala Flagello, a senior composition student at The Hartt School, this semester. We'll be hearing three or more of her compositions in the months to come... and there is nothing more exciting than singing brand new music composed with our congregation and choral strengths in mind. We are looking forward to a wonderful musical year at USH, due in large part to the support of you--the members--who contribute via both your annual pledge and dedicated contributions to the Friends of Music fund on Music Sundays. **Thank you! Patrice Fitzgerald for the Music Committee**

Coming Up Soon:

March 5, 2016 – Concert Pro Femina
 Inspired by the 15th year of the Hartford Women Composers Festival, this concert brings a dazzling array of classical music written by women, featuring chamber groups, solo voices, and choral works.



Sunday, March 20, 2016 – Classical and Broadway Vocal Concert
 immediately after the service 12:30 P.M. Come hear some great vocal music... including some performed by our choral scholars and featuring our new accompanist.



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



Also Coming Up: Saturday, May 21st - Clara Barton UU Choir Festival (tentative)

Performing Arts events are \$15. Students with ID are \$10. Children are free.

But please don't let the ticket price keep you away. Come anyway and pay what you can... or come for FREE! Fill the pews... all are welcome.

Saturday night events begin at 7:30. -- **Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council**

Upcoming Special Events and Other News!



UU USH & YOU
A Path to Membership

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

Followed up with a
Membership Sunday on May 1st

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

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



Being Good Neighbors - The Good Neighbor Offering on Sunday January 31st was designated for The Village for Families and Children. As you have done before, you opened your hearts to our neighbors who have become our friends and donated \$660 to The Village. As Donna Jolly, chief communications officer at The Village writes: "Our good neighbors continue to support us!

We are so grateful for your generosity and the care and concern you show us and the children and families we serve. Thank you for all you do for The Village."

Submitted by Joanne Orlando



Dear All Who Helped Out with our January 2016 USH Indoor Clutter Cleanup Day! THANK YOU! Thank you so much for all your support, help, energy, preparation, thoughtfulness, perseverance, enthusiasm, wisdom, and other planning and engaging with the January 2016 USH Indoor Clutter Cleanup Day. So much was accomplished, and even more importantly, many of you throughout the congregation went and sorted through the accumulated stuff in our shared Meeting House that had not been looked at in a long time. Many great spaces were cleaned out and things reorganized! The staff was remarking at last week's staff meeting how there are several spaces that really feel lighter and cleaner. Thanks so much for all your efforts. Attached is a photo of the box of "grade" books for our religious education program from the 1950's that got appropriately moved into our Archives collection in the Margaret Fuller Room. If any of you ever want to join us at an Archives meeting (see the latest E-news Update on the Archives), you can flip through these with us and let us know if you recognize any names... Most of all, thank you for helping with the Indoor Clutter Cleanup! Many hands made light and much more significant work.



--Rev. Heather, Co-Minister Lead for Building & Grounds



Dear USH Members and Friends -- Here's a fun and mostly personal note -- I wanted to let you all know that I am adding on to my half-time ministry at the Unitarian Society of Hartford with a 1/3-time Consulting Ministry for the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson, Mass. If you have no idea where that is, you're not alone--but plan to come check it out sometime! Among other fun-and-creative projects this little-but-resilient congregation has taken on over the years, they have a used Bookstore that takes up their entire lower floor and is regularly open to the public.

Yes, I think I am finally going to get to fulfill my dream of both "working" in a bookstore and offering pastoral care, at one-and-the-same time. You can imagine me--instead of advising "Pray this Particular Prayer, it'll change your life," I'll be advising: "Read this Amazing Book, it'll change your life! (and come back and tell us What YOU Think about it, of course." :)

Let me know if you have any wisdom or connections to share with me about the Monson, Mass./Stafford Springs, Connecticut area -- I have much to learn!

Warmly, Rev. Heather

Rev. Cathy wrote a blog post about our local schools entitled "Choosing a school that will help my child dismantle systemic racism and White supremacy"

"For a system that's set up to deal with race, they sure don't want to talk about race," said my partner as we left the school



choice fair that existed to deal with long history of separate and unequal schools in and around Hartford, Connecticut.

Read more here: <http://www.raceconscious.org/2016/02/1128/>



Next Meeting House Sing Along

February 13, 2016, 2 to 5 PM

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along! Maggie Greene and Ed Savage are offering an opportunity to CT Singing families, Peoples Music Network singers, song-

writers and audience members to join in song with acoustic instruments on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 PM. We will have song-sheets and some copies of the Rise Up Singing and Rise Again songbooks available. Bring along your own 'Rise Up Singing' if you have one, as we have used it a lot in other months. Find some songs on "BIG LOVE" to share. We bring a little juice drink and herbal teabags and gratefully enjoy any other snacks you might choose to bring.

How does this work ? It is not an "open mike" event, although solos are welcomed.

We'll put some chairs in a circle and take turns singing or playing, with those who know the tune or words joining in as they wish. You can come early or come late, whatever fits your family schedule. The UU Meeting House is at 50 Bloomfield Avenue in Hartford near the University of Hartford. Signs inside the door will direct you to the sing-along room.

Contact: Maggie Greene 860-223-2407 turtlepoem@yahoo.com or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) edsavage@ushartford.com if you have any questions.

Our next singing date is Saturday, March 12, 2016 , same time and place.

If you know someone who likes to sing, forward this message!

Sign Up for this Email List [HERE](#).

Image: cliparts.co



Council on Community Within Fair

Come visit the Council on Community Within Fair on Sunday, February 21 in Fellowship Hall after the service. Get a cup of hot soup made by the Youth Group, visit our information tables of the sub-councils of the COCW, and enjoy the Performing Arts Family Share Talent/No Talent Show. Information will be

available explaining the activities of the sub-councils and ways you can become involved in making our community at the USH Meeting House more welcoming, caring, informed, and vibrant. Come join us! - **Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Council on Community Within**



ART NEWS

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

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



Update on the USH Archives

Our last Archives meeting was held on Jan. 13 with Rev. Heather, Larry Lunden, Kayla Costenoble, and myself present. We revisited our most pressing issues with the condition of some of the unboxed archival materials (architectural drawings and some scrapbooks) and planned two upcoming dates to re-inventory the collection. This meeting was productive as we discussed the possibility of creating a record retention schedule for the entire congregation (i.e. what records we must keep and for how long as well as determining what to do with said documents at the end of their business use) as well as looking into purchasing a thermometer-hygrometer to track the temperature and humidity in the Margaret Fuller room.

Archival boxes were purchased to store records from Rev. Kathy Lee, Rev. Dave, as well as a box to keep for documents from Revs. Cathy & Heather. A list was created of the necessary acid-free storage tubes to buy for the architectural drawings recently donated to USH from Roy Cook; the nature of blueprint paper is either a thicker wax paper, or that of thin onionskin, the latter being very very fragile. Moving into the Spring, our group hopes to meet at least monthly to work at the arrangement and description of the archives and to build upon the Inventory of the Archives Margaret Sax created in 1997. We hope to bring a synthesis to records created in the church office, paired with what we currently have in the Margaret Fuller Room to what may be lingering in members' basements or attics to bring the history of USH to the present. Over time, we hope to incorporate all the archival materials (including many formats of audio-visual materials) to make them accessible to all so we can freely share our story. Would you like to join us in this endeavor? We are next meeting on Feb. 10 at 10 for general processing and then from 10-2 on February 24 to begin to inventory the collection. Bring your lunch and come and see how archives are not typically white-gloved affairs, as we delve into our rich past. **Please contact me at 860-916-9014 or Zmirecki@comcast.net or Rev. Heather if you'd like to help out.** Thank you, Zac Mirecki



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**

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.



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

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

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

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

**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.