



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
 Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: firstunitarian@ushartford.com
 Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00
 or call for appointment

USH -Enews March 2, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image from: www.spacetelescope.org Piercarla Garusi : <http://www.piercarla-paintings.co.uk/>

Sunday Service 10:30 AM - March 6, 2016 "What Do You Leave at the Door?"
Rev. Cathy Rion Starr - We humans are social creatures, and we need healthy ways to be in community together, to find and uphold shared values that help weave the fabric of beloved community. But what happens when we assume that unity is based solely on what we hold in common and ignore our differences? How do we authentically connect with one another across differences, especially in the midst of this election season?

Worship will include special new music composed by our Composer-In-Residence, Gala Flagello.



Plan ahead! March 20: Stewardship Sunday is coming up! - Rev. Heather Rion Starr will speak on our 2016-2017 Annual Budget Drive Theme of let's "Keep On Movin' Forward." What do YOU want to celebrate about your Unitarian Society of Hartford? What do you want to see flourish here in the year to come? What matters most to you that you want to help support? Our music staffing, our sanctuary, our social justice work, our facility, our dedicated 17 part-time staff (yes, we have 17 part-time staff!), how we communicate about who we are to the larger Hartford region--these are all things that depend upon your financial support. Come celebrate the resilience and vitality of

this congregation and help us leap forward with confidence into the coming congregational year! A Pancake Breakfast for All will precede the service; come prepared to fill out your pledge card for 2016-2017 and help us all move forward with gusto!

Image: uu interfaith chalice www.pinterest.com

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

Highlights In This Week's Enews:

RE News You Can Use

Church Business News: Annual Report Submissions Due by April 15th | Stewardship Message: Now Touch (or Smell) This!

Upcoming Election to Replace Retiring Board Members May 15th

Winter/Spring 2016 Programs for Adults and Families:

Great Discussions March 6th | USH Book Club Meeting March 6th Dinner and a Movie March 11th | Drum Circle March 15th

USH Performing Arts Series 2016 - March 5th: Concert Pro Femina and Special Event at this Saturday's Concert

Upcoming Special Events and Other News:

"Female Style" Clothes Swap Saturday, March 5th

UU USH and YOU Final Session: March 6th

First Sunday Connections Under the Stairs: March 6

Peg Van Dyck's 96th Birthday: Please Send a Card

Memorial Reception for Roy Cook April 2nd - Volunteers Needed

The USH Wish List | USH Resettlement Update

Volunteers Needed for USH Library Project | Lunch Bunch to Meet

Art News: New Artist Featured for March | Caroline Kriesen Performs at Pops n Jazz |

Cluster Connections 2016 Coming U

Check out our online Calendar for Upcoming Events:

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

(Please double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Form for Calendar Requests at end of Enews
Email corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com -Thank you!



RE News You Can Use! - This week, Sunday March 6th, the nursery will be available during the service from 10:15-11:45 for infants and toddlers. There will also be childcare after the service for those under the age of 12 until 2:00PM. This is for any parent who has a meeting, event or just wants to enjoy a quiet coffee hour.

This week we will have Children's Chapel followed by age appropriate classes.

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

Annual Report 2016 Reminder - Attention Contributors

It's time to begin collecting submissions for the 2015-2016 Annual Report which will be distributed at the Annual Meeting set for Sunday, May 15th, 2016. *The deadline for submissions will be Friday, April 15, 2016. This will enable us to have the reports available the Sunday before the meeting. Please email content to ushlindaclark@gmail.com with 'Annual Meeting' in the Subject. Please send as a word document or put the content of the report in the body of the email.
Thank you! -Linda Clark

The Stewardship Theme This Year: Keep on Movin' Forward!

NOW TOUCH (OR SMELL) THIS! WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON MOVING FORWARD...BRINGING USH INTO THE 21st CENTURY

A Stewardship Message - What is that bumpy thing I'm feeling under my shoe? I look down and see a loose bump in the rug where I'm standing in the Servetus Room. If the rug looks this bad, how must it smell? I have no desire to find out. USH would like to replace the rug in Servetus, not only for the aesthetics, but because it makes business sense. With some regularity, the conversation turns to a suggestion that we more proactively market USH as a rental space. The funds would be welcome, but the quality of some of our space is wanting. A rug replacement in Servetus would cost approximately \$1,800. Your giving toward this would help to make this space not only more aesthetically appealing for Great Decisions gatherings and other events, but more

marketable as a rental space as well. Thank you for all you do to make USH a warm, welcoming place... **-Submitted by Gloria Mengual**

The past two years USH has seen exuberant energy and growth. Now is the time to explore the nurturing of this welcome momentum and begin to dream. Join representatives of the stewardship team and the Board at 12 noon (location TBA) on Sunday March 6 to share ideas of what a successful stewardship drive could bring to our community. The session is a time to think large and imagine the congregation of our future. It's not all about paying the water bill and plowing snow. We can be the congregation of light and sound and action blasting into the larger community as we caress our own. **-Submitted by Laurie Kelliher**

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 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/

Plan to stop by the Programs Table Sunday to sign up for one of these programs or to find out about other Winter/Spring programs offered at USH:

The Friday Pizza and Movie night is March 11 and a new offering – The Guru In You – Experiencing the Transcendent Self, facilitated by Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada, will begin

Wednesday, March 30. The next Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves Us is March 26 and a Small Group Ministry, Transitions, will start Saturday, April 2.

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:

Friday Pizza and Movie Night: March 11, 5:30 PM.

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

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.

Creative Sharing and Mutual Inspiration Society: Second and Fourth Mondays, 6:15 – 8:00 PM.

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

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

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

Drum Circle: 3rd Tuesdays, March 15, 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.

**DINNER & MOVIE, FRIDAY, MARCH 11
WINTER BLUES CHASER**

"Rollicking fun!"*

"Irreverent and outrageous!"*

"An explosive comedy!"*

On Friday, March 11, enjoy the droll fantasy/drama "The 100 Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared", the next film in the USH Dinner and Movie series.



"Adapted from the runaway international best-seller, . . . a charming, globe-trotting riff on world history and the highest-grossing Swedish film of all time."*

Watch the trailer here <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=owWrjyIC37k>. This movie runs for almost 2 hours and is rated R (for some language and violence); captions will be shown. On Friday, March 11, we will meet for popcorn and socializing at 5:30 PM, with pizza and salad dinner at 6, movie at 7, with an optional discussion afterwards.

You can reserve for yourself - and can also bring a non-USH friend, if you like - at the Sunday Fellowship Hour Programs Table, with cash, check, or credit card (\$10 each) and indicate your choice of meat or vegetable pizza topping. Or, you can call Janice at 860-677-1121, by Wednesday, March 9. Leave a message on the machine, being sure to specify number of reservations and meat or veg topping choices. Then you can pay by cash or check at movie night.

If on the day of the movie you find you cannot attend, please call me before noon, leaving a message on my cell phone (860-380-7062), so the pizza order can be adjusted. Questions or concerns? Call Nita at 860-693-4269.

*from DVD box

Submitted by Nita H.



Great Decisions: March 6 - 9:00 In Servetus

The Rise Of ISIS Paula Jones and Kevin Gough, Discussants
Born out of an umbrella organization of al-Qaeda in Iraq, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) burst onto the international stage after it conquered Fallujah in December 2013. Since then, the group has seized control of a number of critical strongholds in both countries and declared itself a caliphate. Still, the

question remains: what is ISIS, and what danger does it pose to U.S. Interests?

http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions - **Submitted by Ed Savage**

**Great Decisions: DATE CHANGE: April:
Date TBA 9:00am In Servetus**

Cuba and the U.S.- Paula Jones, Kevin Gough
and Guest - Discussants

The U.S. announced in December 17, 2014, that, after decades of isolation, it would begin taking

major steps to normalize relations with Cuba, its neighbor to the south. The announcement marked 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; http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions



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! **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

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.

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

A Special Notice from the USH Book Club

Our February Book Club meeting discussed Being Mortal.

Because of the level of interest, we decided to devote part of March's meeting to a continuing dialogue.

The issues facing all of us as we age and/or have significant medical problems call for a number of hard choices. The book focuses on the failures of the medical profession and many assisted living situations in permitting the individual to make informed choices based on ones short and long term goals.

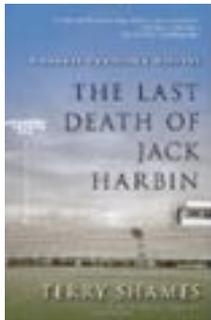
How can we best navigate our lives to maximize the quality of life and objectives each of us wants to achieve? Come and puzzle with us!

We will also discuss our March selection: The Last Death of Jack Harbin.

USH Book Club

Thursday, March 3, 5:30 PM

at the home of Richard and Jean Groothuis. RSVP to Richard Groothuis (860-678-1030 or rgroupofus@comcast.net). 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; rgroupofus(at sign)comcast.net -Submitted by the Programs for Adults and Families Sub-Council

The USH Book Club Meets 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; rgroupofus@comcast.net

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



Performing Arts Events Upcoming Events

Late-Breaking News! Our Saturday night concert will end with a round of contemporary songs by women when Nicole Grondahl performs Adele, Dolly Parton, Bonnie Raitt, and Carole King while her husband accompanies her on Chapman Stick. The classics!

New Policy for Performing Arts Events -- A Goodwill Offering (suggested amount \$15) Will Be Collected At the Door

Join us THIS Saturday, March 5, 7:30, in the sanctuary for Concert Pro Femina, an evening of glorious music by women!

Featured performers will include...

- * our own Acting Accompanist, Sarah Puckett, playing Clara Schumann
- * former Interim Music Director Carolyn Halsted performing her own composition
- * baritone Richard Leslie singing romantic songs by women
- * mezzo Nicole Grondahl performing popular music
- * professional husband-and-wife duo Benita Rose and Tony Gibbs playing a fantastic saxophone and piano composition, Tableaux de Provence, by Paule Maurice
- * Hartt-trained composer Jessica Rudman performing a movement from her own piano and clarinet piece with Alexander Kollias, currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Hartford

And as you may have heard... we're trying out a new policy. Since we want to fill the pews and thrill the community, the final three events in this year's Performing Arts series will require no tickets or payment. We will instead suggest a \$15 "goodwill offering" to go to our General Fund and be matched in this last year of our favorite anonymous donor's beneficence.

Please come, and bring your friends! Family! Neighbors!

Be sure to put the rest of these upcoming events on your calendar, and plan to join us:

Sunday, March 20, noon, in the sanctuary - Songs from Broadway, the American songbook, and classical composers, featuring our Choral Scholars and members of the choir. A chance to hear some of these folks singing solo!

Saturday, April 16, 7:30, in the sanctuary - The tremendously successful playwright and USH friend Jacques Lamarre will be presenting his fifth annual new play reading for us, followed by a reception. This one-woman comedy features the phenomenal Virginia Wolf, and depicts the adventures of a lady who accidentally becomes a cult leader. Don't miss "Betty Jo's Fan Club"!

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.



Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council

Upcoming Special Events and Other News




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

Followed up with a **Membership Sunday on May 1st**

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

First Sunday Connections: Sunday, March 6th - We hope you can join us this Sunday for our monthly “First Sunday Connections” gathering for newcomers, visitors and anyone else interested in joining a discussion about the Unitarian Society of Hartford, its values, programs and members. The session will be held after the worship service this coming Sunday.

We encourage folks to attend multiple times, as each session has its own distinctive direction based on where attendee questions and interests lead. The discussion is held in the lower lobby “under the stairs” and will start 15 minutes after the service and last for 30 minutes. There are light refreshments and an open “drop-in” format, which means you can come and go as your schedule dictates.

Childcare will be provided. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday.



**“Female Style” Clothes Swap
Saturday March 5th from 1:00-3:00PM
in Fellowship Hall**

Have clothes in your closet you can't fit or don't wear? Come swap them! We are collecting female clothes from now until the event date. For drop offs Contact Rayla at dre@ushartford.com. You do not have to drop off anything to come pick out something. Everyone is welcomed. All gender identities are encouraged and welcomed to participate. A free will donation will be accepted but not necessary to participate. Image: clipartpanda.com



**Next Sat., March 5, is Peg Van Dyck's 96th birthday. Her address is:
Peg Van Dyck, c/o Avery Heights, Unit #1 Room 16A, 705 New Britain Ave.,
Hartford, Ct. 06106. Let's shower her with cards and notes and make her day special!
-Submitted by Janice Newton Image: clipartpanda.com**

Memorial Reception for Roy Cook - April 2 - 11:00 AM - Can you bring some type of finger food for the reception following Roy's Memorial Service? We expect a large crowd and your donation would be greatly appreciated. Cookies, bars, quick bread, cheese/crackers, veggies, fruit platters are all great choices. We will be making sandwiches beginning at 9:00 that morning and would love to have 3-4 helpers. Please let Louise Schmoll, Nancy Reed or Janice Newton know if you can assist us. Food contributions should be labeled with the ingredients. Please avoid peanuts. Thank you!
-Submitted by Janice Newton

The USH Wish List

Hello Everyone!

There are 4 items that we can really use:

A Functional 21st century computer that could be used for volunteer tasks

New collapsible functional easels

1 Coat rack tree

Staples gift cards



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



Refugee Resettlement Update (Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Committee IRRC)

We all know of the global refugee crisis -- over nineteen million refugees worldwide, four million people driven from their homes in Syria alone, over one million fleeing to Europe in just the last year, little children drowning in their family's desperate effort to find a safer place. None of us can solve the refugee crisis; it's too big and too far away.

But this doesn't mean there is nothing we can do about it.

Information on the Refugee Family:

The specifics of who is in the family, the ages, the number of individuals, and any special needs is not known until about two weeks before the family arrives. Most of the families are coming from the Middle East, Africa, and Central America. Characteristically families have been in refugee camps for two to three years. The screening process which clears these families for resettlement in the United States is rigorous and usually takes two or more years. Families are interviewed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and then interviewed further by the Department of Homeland Security and

subjected to security checks through finger printing and interviews by the CIA, the FBI, and the Defense Department. Finger prints are cross checked with the intelligence agencies of other nations. A medical exam is conducted to make sure communicable diseases are not present. Only if all these steps are passed is a family approved for resettlement. The family arrives fully documented, authorized to work, and can become citizens in five years.

IRRC consists of a committed group of volunteers from:

1. The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield
2. The Bloomfield Muslim Community Center
3. The Unitarian Society of Hartford
4. The Bloomfield Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
5. The First Church of Windsor
6. The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
7. The Flagg Road UCC in West Hartford
8. Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Bloomfield

In addition, there are individuals at Seabury and at Duncaster supporting the IRRC. IRRC has been holding organizational meetings, recruiting volunteers and raising monies to welcome a refugee family sometime in April.

At USH, our Board voted to support this effort and we have 12 individuals working with many from the other groups.

There is an opportunity for all of us at USH to make a real difference in the lives of one or more refugee families who will need our welcome, care and support as they start a new life in Bloomfield.

Support for the refugee family: The group of eight organizations listed above have worked to develop a network of teams which will focus on resettling the refugee family. Specifically, the network has a group responsible for: furnishing the apartment and stocking the pantry, transporting the family members to various appointments, finding employment, arranging education for children, arranging health care, providing English language lessons to adults, developing a budget and teaching the family about the banking system, orientation to the Bloomfield community, and organizing registration with Social Security, the DMV, and DSS.

IRRC is responsible for covering the first six months of apartment rent and related support for the refugee family, estimated at about \$6,000 in total. We hope USH can come up with a total of at least \$1,500 of this essential support. Please make your checks out to USH, with a notation that it is for IRRC. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Please contact Richard Groothuis, Mike Winterfield or Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera should you wish to be part of and/or contribute to this vital effort that supports so many of our principles.



**DO YOU LOVE BOOKS? LOVE A PROJECT?
WANT TO VOLUNTEER ON YOUR OWN
SCHEDULE?**

Consider whether or not helping reenergize the USH Library might be just the right project for you. Now that the USH Archives have been moved from the Meeting

House Library into the Margaret Fuller Room, there are shelves available in the Library for expanding and growing our Library into truly being a Community & Congregational Library. Think of the books we could solicit, organize, and make available for checkout. Take a look at the books already there that would benefit from being sorted through, showcased, highlighted, and discussed. Help to make the Meeting House Library truly a library! If this is something you'd be interested in working on, individually or as a small team, please let Rev. Heather know at revheather@ushartford.com or 541-390-6052. There's no stress about this, it's just one of those things that could use a dedicated and creative presence (or two or three) to help us enliven and make better use of the marvelous Meeting House space.

Lunch Bunch to Meet: We will meet at La Trattoria in Canton at noon on Tuesday, March 15th. Our speaker will be Kit Northup. Please let me (Janice) know by noon on Wednesday, March 9th if you will be joining us. To register for the March lunch, contact me at 860/677-1121 or [janicecnewton\(at\)sign@gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at)sign@gmail.com) or see Nancy Reed or me at the Programs Table during Fellowship Hour on Sundays. We will order from the menu and will be given separate checks. I am always extremely happy to hear from you sooner rather than later! ? I am looking forward to having you with us on March 15th. **Janice Newton**



ART NEWS

Who knew that we had a creative and prolific collage artist in our midst? Maggie Greene will be sharing her intriguing Soul-Collage art during the month of March. Hopefully others may be inspired to try collage...no age or gender

limitations!-**Sara Sturges**



Update on the USH Archives - by Zac Mirecki

On February 10, Rev. Heather joined Zac and Larry to continue work on the USH archives. Larry has worked quickly to arrange boxes in order by letter, keeping the organizational scheme imposed by Margaret Sax. As work continues, we will soon be getting to materials that are yet unsorted and uncatalogued and updating the 1997 inventory of the collection.

Thermometer/Hygrometer: Larry has graciously donated a thermometer/hygrometer to the archives which provides a high to low range. Regular readings will ensure we are monitoring the temperature/humidity/dew point in the

Margaret Fuller Room and see what work to better insulate they may need to consider. By creating a spreadsheet we can track the measurements monthly and input the data into <http://www.dpcalc.org/> which is a calculator for determining long-term preservation risks. According to Mary Lynn Ritzenhaler in *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts* (Society of American Archivists, Chicago, 1993) relative humidity is a more critical factor in preservation of materials. High Temperature, however, does speed up chemical reactions. For every 18 degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature, chemical activity in most substances approximately doubles. It has been estimated that the useful life of paper is cut approximately in half with every 10 degree increase in temperature (45-46).”

Call for equipment!

The Archives is in need of equipment to safely play (and potentially record/transfer) audio found on numerous cassette tapes, magnetic reel-to-reel tapes, and LPs. It appears the last time anything was done to the tapes was around 1995 and they are slowly deteriorating. It is doubtful these lectures/sermons/events have been recorded elsewhere. Do you have a reel to reel player or tape deck you would be willing to donate for use in the archives? More importantly, do you know how to operate these safely without causing more harm? I am much more comfortable getting intimate and dirty with 18th century manuscripts than I am with relatively new (but unstable) tapes and do not know the best way to play these safely!

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on March 23th at 10am. This will be a work date to continue to sort new material and weed out duplicates. Please join us to help out or learn more information.



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.



Our own Caroline Kriesen performs at Pops n Jazz 2016 with the award winning Hall High Jazz program

The 58th annual production of Pops 'n Jazz, featuring Hall High School's acclaimed jazz bands, dancers, and singers, opens March 11, at Hall High School, with additional performances March 12, 17, 18, and 19. Doors open at 7 p.m. and performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Our own Caroline Kriesen, now a senior at Hall High, will again be singing with the Choraliers/Jazz Singers and is a featured soloist performing the Billy Strayhorn classic "Lush Life."

Pops 'n Jazz 2016 features more than 100 student performers, the school's Concert Jazz Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Jazz Dancers, Choraliers (jazz singers) and I Giovani Solisti. The program, which varies slightly each night, offers an array of American jazz classics from all eras, performed in big band and combo settings, highly choreographed

jazz productions, and featured solo performances. Among this year's highlights will be a Billy Joel medley inspired by the Broadway musical *Movin' Out*. Pop retros of hits from the '70s through the present will also be featured along with traditional jazz classics and a trip to Cuba.

In addition to the student performances, invited guests from the ranks of professional musicians appear on selected evenings. This year, featured guests include 2016 Grammy Award winner, Arturo O'Farrill (piano) on March 12, Hall High alumnus and winner of the Shure Montreux Jazz Competition, Alita Moses (singer) on March 17, and Grammy Award nominee, Ted Nash (sax) on March 18. Participation of guest performers is supported by the Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust.

Hall Concert Jazz Band alumni include renowned jazz musicians Jimmy Macbride (drums), Garrett Sayers (bass), Drew Sayers (sax), Richie Barshay (drums), Joel Frahm (tenor sax), Brad Mehldau (piano), Pete McGuinness (trombone), Noah Preminger (tenor sax), Patrick Zimmerli (tenor sax), and Gregg Kallor (piano).

FIRST TIME EVER – New online ticketing system with ASSIGNED SEATING. Ticket Website: <http://hallhighjazz.tix.com>. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$14 for students.

Tickets can be purchased in person at the Hall High box office and online. Box office hours will be Monday - Friday, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. Like us on Facebook at pops 'n jazz.

Follow us on Twitter @pop_jazz. For more information, please call the Pops 'n Jazz hotline at (860) 929-5151, or visit www.hallhighjazz.com<<http://www.hallhighjazz.com>>

-Submitted by Nina Elgo



Cluster Connections 2016
“We Are Stronger Together”
Saturday, April 9, 2016, 8AM-4PM In New Haven

Hello Collaborators on Cluster Connections,

We are counting down the weeks now to the April 9th event and are looking for your help. We need you to encourage your fellow congregants to register ASAP for the event. To plan appropriately for food, childcare, and other logistics, we need to have registration complete by March 28th, so whatever you can do to help out would be greatly appreciated. Also please remember, that even presenters need to register!

One of the ways we are trying to do this at our congregation is to set up a station in our social hall during the coffee and fellowship time for the next couple of weeks with a person with a computer to take on-line registrations. Just a suggestion for you to think about!

Having a robust attendance is in all of our congregations best interests, so we hope you will help us out with this.

Kind regards,
Mary Donohue
Cluster Connections Team
Unitarian Society of New Haven

This transformative event will be an opportunity for UU congregations in Connecticut to gather together to strengthen our UU community and identify ways to support each other. The program is listed below and can also be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTUUCcluster2016/>

Registration IS NOW OPEN!!!

Registration fee is \$30 and includes lunch and childcare. To register on-line please go to: <https://clusterconnections2016.eventzilla.net>

Registration closes on March 26, so sign up soon! For more information on the schedule of activities, please check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTUUCcluster2016/>.

Unitarian Society of New Haven,
700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT (www.usnh.org)

For a complete list of courses offered go to:
<https://sites.google.com/site/site4ctuus/home/cluster-connections-2016>

For Access to the Members Only Section on the Web Page:

For the username and password for the Members Only section, please email Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com

Special Note: Hi Everyone! Please check the online calendar to make sure the Room and Time you wish to reserve is still available before you make a request. This will help in planning your event.

Thank you! Linda Clark, Office Administrator

For events for the online calendar please include the following information:

(Cut and Paste from the E news will work)

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

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

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

The NEW deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon
Email to: 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.