



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

USH -Enews March 30, 3016  
**Worshipping Together Since 1830**  
**Sunday Service 10:30 AM**  
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image: <http://savingparadise.net/>

**Sunday Service 10:30 AM - April 3, 2016 - "God Is Not A Christian" Rev. Heather Rion Starr** - Drawing upon the clear and inspiring teachings of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, we will explore the universality of the religious and spiritual impulse. Tutu also said: "Religion is a tool like a knife is a tool; you can use it to slice bread, or to slice someone's throat." In this particularly tense moment in our country and our world, how do we use religion as a tool for positivity and goodness? As more and more people identify as not religiously affiliated yet with rich spiritual lives, how must that transform the purpose and practices of all our religious communities?

**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:**

Sunday Service Recap: March 27, 2016 | Did You Know? -A Note From Rev. Cathy | RE News You Can Use | Church Business News: Annual Report Submissions Due by April 15th | Unitarian Society of Hartford Announces Solar Installation

Winter/Spring 2016 Programs for Adults and Families

New Family Friendly SGM Starting April 1st

USH Book Club: April 7 - The Shell Collector by Anthony Doerr

Great Decisions: April 3 - The Future of Kurdistan | Dinner and a Movie April 8th - A Serious Man

USH Performing Arts Series 2016 - Last Performance This Season: Betty Jo's Fan Club: April 16th

**Upcoming Special Events and Other News**

Memorial Service for Roy Cook April 2nd | First Sunday Connections

Moral Monday Holy Week of Holy Action | Meals for Kristen: Family Welcomes New Twins! | Meeting House Sing Along April 9

Regional Cultural Competency Training at USH April 10th | Lunch Bunch to Meet | Refugee Update | Pi-Hsun's Upcoming Concerts

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community: True Islam Event April 2nd in Meriden | Book Discussion at Hartford Public Library April 20th: "To Die in This Way: Nicaraguan Indians and the Myth of Mestizaje, 1880-1965" by Jeffrey L. Gould | Womensphere Gathering May 7th

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](mailto:calendarchanges@ushartford.com) -Thank you!

## March 13, 2016 Sunday Service Recap by Kayla Costenoble



**Photos: Harriet Gardner**

**Saving Paradise** - In her Opening Words for the Easter Sunday service at the Meeting House on March 27, 2016, Rev. Cathy urged us to celebrate life, live every day to the fullest, and say “hallelujah” to life, love and one another.

BUT she also said that, for her, Easter is “one big holy mess of contradictions,” summed up by the question, “Do Easter eggs come from the Easter bunny?” The children carried our traditional banners and hung them at the front of the Chancel as we sang Hymn 61, “Lo, the Earth Awakes Again,” written by Samuel Johnson, the poet’s brother. Rev. Cathy said, “This song resonates deeply with me,” even with its UU words. Then our musical minister sang it again, alone, with its original words. “The contradiction of Easter is right there in this song,” she said.

Rev. Cathy used, as background for her sermon, the book “Saving Paradise” by Rita Nakashima Brock (co-founder of Faith Voices for the Common Good) and Rebecca Parker (UUA theologian who served for many years as president of the UU Starr King School for the Ministry). The book’s subtitle says it all: “How Christianity Traded Love of this World for Crucifixion and Empire.”

“Suffering is central to most Christianity, but this just doesn’t work for me,” Rev. Cathy said. She is not one who struggles with redemptive suffering and the teaching that terror, torture and murder are the will of God. “No wonder I have trouble with Easter...but there is much to be learned from Jesus’ life,” she said. During the first millennium, Christians filled their sanctuaries with images of Christ as a living presence, as a shepherd, teacher or healer. The crucifix was not the focus of early Christianity.

Rev. Cathy directed our attention to the front cover of the Order of Service with its image of a mosaic in a church in Ravenna, Italy; this picture is a reproduction of the cover on the book “Saving Paradise.” She asked us what we saw in this picture—and our answers were words such as: peaceful, no crucifix, shepherds, serenity, abundant life, animals, great color, tangible and real. She called this a “parable for early Christianity.”

At the time of the Crusades, however, once Jesus was seen as crucified, the crucifixion served as power for the empire, and was used to make sense of violence, war and suffering. In today's world (the third millennium), Rev. Cathy said, we find the same question early Christians faced—how to align the spirit of life with the world as it is. “Our words of collective love are more powerful than our fears,” she said. We must say ‘no’ to intolerance, fortify ourselves and our community with strong love, and “wrestle with the contradictions of Easter. Paradise is here and now.”

“What happens after Easter?” Rev. Cathy asked. Tomorrow begins a week of holy action, centering around housing, jobs, wages, worship services, and action planning. There is much to do.

Rayla asked the many youth crowded around her on and overflowing the Chancel steps, “What are you going to do with the life you’ve been given?” Then she sang (we are so lucky to have so many wonderful voices among us) a song her mother always sang to her, Mahalia Jackson’s “If I Can Help Somebody.”

If I can help somebody, as I pass along,

If I can cheer somebody, with a word or song,

If I can show somebody, how they’re travelling wrong,

Then my living shall not be in vain.

Luckily for us, pianist Pi-Hsun Shih will be with us for a while, as the search for a permanent accompanist begins. She gave us a rousing sit-up-and-listen concert Sunday playing Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” (Now I’ve heard there was a secret chord That David played, and it pleased the Lord...Hallelujah, Hallelujah...) and Pink Floyd’s “High Hopes” (...The grass was greener, The light was brighter, The taste was sweeter, The nights of wonder...). Our USH choir added to Sunday’s outstanding music with Thomas Memley’s “Ave Maria.” This was certainly not the one we’re used to; in this, the voices are used to orchestrate the piece. Beautiful!

Our Sanctuary these Sundays is filled with new faces in the pews and new Worship Associates assisting the minister. I’ve come to realize what an important and helpful position this is. Not only does the Worship Associate give out the necessary nitty-gritty details (where the elevator is, what goes on in Fellowship Hall after the service) but also set the tone, early in the service, in greeting and welcoming visitors—and we’ve had lots these many weeks. There is no set script; each does it in her/his own well-chosen words. I spoke to Worship Associate Ann LaPorte-Bryan after the service and she confessed that she is becoming more and more comfortable doing this.



### **Did you know?**

#### **A note from Rev. Cathy**

There's so much happening at USH, that even we, your ministers, don't know all of it. It's truly wonderful! Here are two pieces of news that you may not know.

#### **The good news:**

The Ministers' Discretionary Fund is a special fund that the ministers use to support congregants in need, as well as special projects as they come up. In recent months, the fund has been used to pay for therapy for a member with depression, for pizza for volunteers & those arrested in the Moral Monday action in the fall, for food for a family in need, scholarships for the Women's Alliance retreat, and more.

If you find yourself struggling to pay an important bill, put food on the table, or tend to your mental health, or wishing you could attend a USH event but lack the funds, please know that this fund is for you and do contact Revs. Cathy or Heather. The fund is separate from our operating budget, and only the ministers will know of your request.

We will receive a special offering to support the Ministers' Discretionary Fund this Sunday, 3/27. Thanks to you all for your support of USH and one another!

#### **The bad news:**

Our Black Lives Matter lawn signs are regularly stolen from our lawn. We've lost count, but it's at least 7 times in the last few months. Our solar sign and other signs have never once been stolen, so clearly the message of "Black Lives Matter" is prompting this action. I ask you to consider what would lead someone to steal our signs? What changes do we need in the world so that the signs are not stolen and Black lives are respected? What is your piece of that work?

If you see the signs missing, please let Rev. Cathy know, and please do put up new ones!

Let us pray with our feet

Let us ponder with our minds

Let us build bridges with our hands

Let us strengthen our resolve to create the Beloved Community.

### **RE News You Can Use!**

This week, Sunday, April 3, the nursery will be available from 10:15AM-11:45AM for infants and toddlers. There will be extended childcare after service for any meetings, activities or just parents wanting to enjoy coffee hour. This will be from the end of service until 1:45PM.



There will be a Time For All Ages followed by age appropriate classes.

**The DRE will be away this Sunday. Please direct all RE related questions to Diana Heymann. 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 is Friday, April 15, 2016 but earlier is fine, too! This will enable us to have the reports available the Sunday before the meeting. Please email content to [ushlindaclark@gmail.com](mailto: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**



**Unitarian Society of Hartford Announces Solar Installation** - An array of 132 solar panels installed at the Unitarian Society of Hartford's iconic building in the city's west end began generating electricity on Thursday.

"This achievement is the culmination of a sustained effort by congregation members and friends over the last several months, including seeking a vendor, raising funds, and meeting the relevant Hartford building requirements," said Rev. Heather Rion Starr. "It represents our Unitarian Universalist commitment to significantly reduce the impact we have on our shared planet." Rev. Cathy Rion Starr added, "We call on all congregations to work together to protect the world's climate system for the benefit of future generations." The ground-mounted panels were installed behind the congregation's striking white, tent-like Meeting House. The array is expected to produce all of the electricity the Meeting House requires, approximately 46,000 kilowatt hours annually.

The array will prevent emission of as much as 42 tons of carbon dioxide annually. Carbon dioxide is an important contributor to global warming. The system was designed and installed by BeFree Solar of Madison, Connecticut. The initial work was completed in eight days, and the electrical work required seven additional days. According to David Newton, "The installation team was requested to perform the work during the winter-spring season and did an exemplary job of maintaining the desired schedule under at times adverse weather conditions."

Federal, state, and city laws encourage production of clean energy. Like other customers who generate solar power, the congregation will export excess electricity to the regional grid during much of the year, including hot, sunny days when the grid needs it most. Eversource will account for the exported energy and credit it against the congregation's electricity use in winter months.

Unitarian Universalist congregations 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; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

President Virginia de Lima (860-214-1006) or David Newton (860-335-3742). BeFree Solar may be reached at 888-596-2922.

You can see the current operation of the solar system here:

[https://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/pv/public\\_systems/xaxr860828/overview](https://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/pv/public_systems/xaxr860828/overview)

### **-Submitted by David Newton**

### **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.

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, 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/](http://www.ushartford.com/events/)**

Stop by the Programs Table to find out about the programs offered at USH: Tai Chi, Drum Circle, and the USH Book Club are some of the ongoing programs that you might be interested



in. You may also register for the next Friday Pizza and Movie, April 8 and a Green Sanctuary Movie and Discussion, Friday, April 22.

The 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:**

Family Friendly Small Group Ministry: 6 sessions, starting Friday, April 1, 6:00 PM.

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

Friday Pizza and Movie: April 8, 5:30 PM, featuring "A Serious Man".

Green Sanctuary Movie: "Cowspiracy! The Sustainability Secret!", Friday, April 22, 6:30 PM.

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

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

Great Decisions: First and Third Sundays (end date May 15), 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

USH Book Club: Thursday, April 7, 5:30 PM.

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

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM.

Emei Qigong Cultivation: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Contact Diana Heymann (860-461-0908).

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

Authentic Connection & Communication:

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



**Family Friendly Small Group Ministry (FFSGM)** will start on April 1st at 6:00 pm at the Meeting House. This group will meet for six sessions. What is FFSGM? It's a small group ministry for folks with small children - no need to find a babysitter because free childcare is provided.

Participants will meet at 6 pm on Friday, April 1st (the other 5 session dates will be agreed upon by group members with the availability of Fellowship Hall considered as well). There will be a simple supper, such as pizza with a salad. Cost of food may be shared by participants. After dinner, the group will meet for an hour and a half to discuss readings and questions. The meeting will end at 8:30 pm. Come sign up for this small group ministry to be facilitated by Paula Bleck.

If you would like to sign up for this, please contact Janice Newton, email: Janice Newton@gmail.com or call her at 860-677-1121. There is a small registration fee of \$5. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with families at the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

**GREAT DECISIONS Meetings – April 2016**  
**April 3 9:00 In Servetus ?The Future of Kurdistan – Jean and Richard Groothuis, Discussants**



Kurdistan, a mountainous region made up of parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, is home to one of the largest ethnic groups in West Asia: the Kurds. Now, most in the West know them for the small, oil-rich autonomous region in northern Iraq called Iraqi Kurdistan—one of the U.S.' closest allies in the Middle East, and a bulwark against the expansion of the so-called Islamic State. What does the success of Iraqi Kurdistan mean for Kurds in the surrounding region?

April – 17 - 9:00 In Servetus

Cuba and the U.S.- Paula Jones, Kevin Gough and Marianne Horn, a recent visitor to Cuba – Discussants

The U.S. announced on December 17, 2014, that, after decades of isolation, it would be 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.

Final discussion schedule:

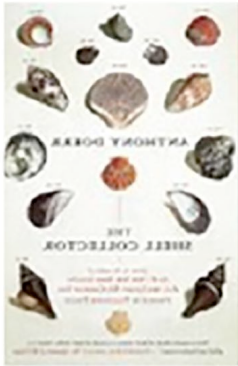
May 1: the Politics and Demographics of International Migration – Ed Savage, Discussant

May 15: The Koreas, Sherry Manetta and Brian Harvey, Discussants

June 5: Mideast Alliances, Mike Winterfield, Discussant

[http://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_topics](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics)

Unitarian Meeting House: [www.ushartford.com](http://www.ushartford.com) **-Submitted by Ed Savage**



**USH BOOK CLUB Thursday - APRIL 7  
5:30 PM**

**Hosted at Richard and Jean Groothuis' Home**

**THE SHELL COLLECTOR: STORIES** by Anthony Doerr The "perilously beautiful" (Boston Globe) first story collection by the author of the acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning #1 New York Times bestseller *All The Light We Cannot See*. The exquisitely crafted stories in Anthony Doerr's debut collection take readers from the African Coast to the pine forests of

Montana to the damp moors of Lapland, charting a vast physical and emotional landscape. Doerr explores the human condition in all its varieties—metamorphosis, grief, fractured relationships, and slowly mending hearts—conjuring nature in both its beautiful abundance and crushing power. Some of the characters in these stories contend with hardships; some discover unique gifts; all are united by their ultimate deference to the ravishing universe outside themselves. "If you have stopped reading short stories because they have turned pretentious, silly or meaningless," began Nancy Connors' review in the Plain Dealer, "The Shell Collector is good reason to come back to this most American of forms." The Boston Globe said the stories in the collection "don't so much blur or diminish our place in the scheme of things as they blow open one's perspective," the LA Times declared it a "show-stopping debut," and Library Journal called it a "tour-de-force".

The USH Book Club Meets on the first Thursday 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](mailto:rgroopofus@comcast.net)**

**Upcoming Books:**

May 5: The Little Friend- Donna Tartt

June 2: Spring Chicken: Stay Young Forever (or Die Trying) - Bill Gifford  
**Submitted by Richard Groothuis**



**"A Serious Man" on April 8, Dinner & Movie Series -** Hey, remember the '60s? See "A Serious Man", the "defiantly original"\* film by the Academy-Award winning Coen Brothers, on Friday, April 8, in our USH Dinner & Movies series. A "darkly humorous story about one ordinary man's quest to become a serious man"\*, "on a twisted journey of faith, family, delinquent behavior and mortality - in the film critics rave is 'seriously awesome!'"\*

You can watch the trailer at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7iggyFPis4w>. The film is rated R and set in 1967, so if you want to show up wearing the threads or hairstyle of that time, that'll be cool, man! (Except for one loyal attendee who volunteered that she was a nudist then.) English captions will be shown.

We'll gather that Friday at 5:30 for socializing with popcorn and drinks, have dinner of pizza and salad at 6, and watch the movie at 7, with optional discussion afterwards. Early arrivals to help set-up are always appreciated.

You can reserve (\$10 each ~ cash, check, or credit card) at the Programs Table during Sunday Fellowship Hour or call Janice and leave a message at 860-677-1121 (then pay with cash or check at the event). Be sure to indicate your choice of meat or vegetable pizza topping when reserving; please reserve by Wednesday, April 6.

If you find on the day of the movie that you cannot attend, please leave a message on my cell phone (860-380-7062 - no texting) by noon, so the pizza order can be adjusted. \* from the DVD box **-Submitted by Nita H**

### **Unitarian Society of Hartford Performing Arts**

**50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**



**JACQUES LAMARRE HAS DONE IT AGAIN!  
WORLD PREMIERE PLAY READING ON  
SATURDAY, APRIL 16th AT 7:30**

**BETTY JO'S FAN CLUB**

A new comedy by Jacques Lamarre

Starring Virginia Wolf

Poor Betty Jo! She has no job. Her husband has left her. Her kids hate her. What is a woman to do? Curl up and die?! Shucks, no! She starts a fan club -- dedicated to herself. When her fans' devotion starts to get a little too fervent, can Betty Jo maintain control over the masses? A world premiere reading of a new one-woman comedy from the extraordinarily successful Connecticut playwright

behind I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti starring Herstory Theatre founder and Spotlight Radio host Virginia Wolf.

Reception to follow the reading... A goodwill offering of \$15 is suggested, with all proceeds going to the USH General Fund and matched by an anonymous donor.

**The final event of the 2015-2016 Performing Arts season! Don't miss it. Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Sub-Council**

### Upcoming Special Events and Other News



**Roy E. Cook** - Roy E. Cook, 76, of East Granby, beloved husband of Marion (Miller) Cook, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 15, 2016 at UCONN Medical Center. It should be noted that if he were in charge of his obituary, rather than his family, it would have been published in a timely fashion. Born in Center, NE to the late Joseph and Dena (Helmhout) Cook, he was raised in Nebraska and has been an East Granby resident for over 50 years. Roy was a graduate of the University of Nebraska where he played with the Cornhuskers marching band. He continued to root for the Cornhuskers football team

throughout his life. He was an Eagle Scout and served his country proudly with the US Air Force at Langley Air Force Base during the Vietnam War. Roy was an active member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford where he served on the building and grounds committee. He worked as an architect and was proud to have designed schools for most of his career. He also had an artistic side writing poetry and painting watercolors. He loved the community and beauty of Star Island off the coast of New Hampshire. He was a very disciplined man who valued his integrity and meticulously documented his life, and attempted to keep his family and loved ones organized in spite of their best efforts. An exceptional man, husband, father and grandfather, he will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Besides his wife Marion of East Granby he is survived by his son David Cook and his wife Suzanne of Suwanee, GA; his daughter Jennifer Cook of East Granby; his brother Jim Cook and his wife Connie of Lincoln, NE; his granddaughter Annabelle Cook; and close family friend, Jennifer Pike of Berlin, MA. **Memorial service will be held at 11 AM Saturday, April 2 at the Unitarian Society Bloomfield Ave Hartford. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.** For online condolences please visit

[www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com) - Obituary

from: <http://m.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=roy-e-cook&pid=179381298&referrer=0&preview=True>



### **Moral Monday CT Week of Holy Action**

Moral Monday is holding events every day in this week after Easter to draw attention to the many forms of state violence. Check out the whole schedule here: <https://moralmondayct.wordpress.com/>

In particular, we want to encourage you to participate in the following actions:

1) A Moral Monday CT Week of Holy Action Opportunity for USH to give to our Hartford Neighbors

As you probably know, Hartford is a Food Desert. What that means is that for most of its residents, fresh groceries are not available. They have little neighborhood markets (bodegas) that sell stuff like you find at Cumberland Farms with prices that are out of sight and lots of fast food joints...and that's it for our poorest citizens!

This is unacceptable and ungodly!!!

If you agree and are able, drop off a bag of Fresh Groceries with Diana H. on this Friday, April 1st, 12:30-3 PM. (Just hail me in the USH church office and I'll open my car for you to deposit your bag directly)

Or drop your bag of fresh groceries off on Saturday between 10-2PM at the Catholic Worker House, 18 Clark Street, Hartford

Moral Monday is so grateful for your contribution

Signed, Rev. Cathy, Rev. Heather, Diana H., Rachel D.

2) March for Jobs and Fairness on Monday

Moral Monday CT, Hartford Rising, local unions, and more are planning a March for Fairness on Monday, April 4th, the 48th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's Assassination. Gather at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 5pm, March begins at 6pm. Moral Monday CT asks us to wear black.

Join in a sign making party at USH Sunday, April 3 at 7:30pm. For more info, or to help organize the USH contingent, contact Diana Heyman or Rev. Cathy.

3) Debrief these actions and help build more: Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), is holding an open Member Meeting here at USH on Friday, April 8th from 5:30-8pm. If you are interested in organizing White people to be active in the struggle to dismantle racism & white supremacy, please come! Childcare will be provided. For more info and to RSVP:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/726494984153695/>



### MEALS FOR KRISTEN

Wonderful News -Kristen Pildis, a Pre-Kindergarten teacher and member of the Religious Education sub-council, and her husband Jeff's twin girls were born on Friday, March 25! During this very busy time for the family, we would like to offer our support and provide some meals for them. The following website has been

set up for them and their daughter Avery. The website is <http://www.takethemameal.com/> with Recipient Last Name: Pildis and Password: 9849. **If you prefer not to use the website and would like to be added to the meal schedule, please call Nancy Reed at 860 521-1082 or email [ndreed\(at sign\)comcast.net](mailto:ndreed@signcomcast.net).**



### Meeting House Sing-Along,

April 9, 2016, 2-5 PM at the Unitarian Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT. Contact: Ed Savage 860-966-8155 or [edsavage@ushartford.com](mailto:edsavage@ushartford.com)

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 meetinghouse 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](mailto:turtlepoem@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) [edsavage@ushartford.com](mailto:edsavage@ushartford.com) if you have any questions?? Our next singing date is Saturday, May 14, same time and place.

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.??If you know someone who likes to sing, forward this message! Sign Up for this Email List [HERE](#) - **Submitted by Ed Savage**



**APRIL 10, 2016 12:30PM-5:00PM**  
**REFUGEE CULTURAL  
COMPETENCY TRAINING &  
MEET THE MUSLIM  
LEADERSHIP & POTLUCK**

**Syrian, Iraqi, Afghani, Muslim cultural training**

As we ramp up to bring multiple refugee family's to the Greater Hartford area it is imperative we understand the culture of the people we are hosting. Imam Sami Abdul Aziz (Lighthouse for Humanity: Bloomfield Muslim Community Center) and Chaplain Aida Mansoor (Muslim Coalition of CT) will lead the training.



PLEASE BRING  
FOOD! POTLUCK  
RSVP  
[WWW.MEETUP.COM  
/LIGHTHOUSE4](http://WWW.MEETUP.COM/LIGHTHOUSE4)  
LEARN ABOUT  
ISLAM-MUSLIMS-  
ARABS-CULTURE  
CONNECT WITH  
MUSLIM LEADERS  
FROM THE AREA  
BE INFORMED &  
READY FOR  
REFUGEES  
COME READY TO  
LEARN!

**UNITARIAN SOCIETY  
OF HARTFORD**

50 Bloomfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06105

For more info please email  
[SamiAbdulAziz@gmail.com](mailto:SamiAbdulAziz@gmail.com)

April 10, 2016  
12:30pm-5:30pm





**Lunch Bunch to Meet:** We will meet at La Trattoria in Canton at noon on Tuesday, April 19th. Our speaker will be Fred Louis. Please let me (Janice) know by noon on Wednesday, April 13th if you will be joining us. To register for the April 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 April 19th. **Janice Newton**

**Help the Refugees** - We are collecting clean, functional, used household items for the IRIS sponsored refugees who will be settled in the Hartford area sometime in the next 2 months. If you have some items to donate, please contact Ed Savage, e-mail [edsavage\(at\)sign.ushartford.com](mailto:edsavage(at)sign.ushartford.com) or phone/text his cell- 860-966-8155 . He is keeping a checklist of items needed and being donated and will work with you for picking up larger items or bringing your items to church next Sunday.



Your donation can be dropped off at First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, where volunteers are available on Tuesdays 9 am - 11 am and Wednesdays 5pm - 7 pm. IF you are going to deliver, it would be best to check with Ed Savage so that you can be certain a volunteer will be at First Church to help you. Enter the church parking lot from Tunxis Ave (Bloomfield Ave from the Meeting House changes name). The door in the corner has a sign on it directing you to the entry.

Currently, here are some of the categories needed: Highest priority needs are CAPITALIZED.

BEDROOM: bed frames, blankets/comforters, BUREAUS etc.

KITCHEN : DRINKING GLASSES, POTS & PANS, kitchen table & chairs, CUTLERY, etc.

LIVING ROOM: Side tables, TV STAND, tv,

OTHER: Floor lamps, table lamps, computer(With monitor or Laptop )- recent models only (Windows XP to 10, Apple OS 8-10 (Mountain Lion), computer printer.

**-Submitted by Ed Savage**



### The USH Wish List

Hello Everyone!

There are 4 items that we could really use at USH:

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](mailto: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.**

### 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](mailto: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.



### 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.

### **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 April 27th 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>

**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 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!



**Dear Friends,**

Happy Spring! I just want to let you know that I have several concerts coming up. The concerts that are open to the public are listed below. The May 1st concert is available for live streaming even though it is in D.C. I hope to see you there. Thank you!!

**Best, Pi-Hsun**

With cellist Tanya Anisimova

Sunday, April 3, 2016; 3pm-4pm

Avon Free Public Library

281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT 06001 | 860-673-9712

program: Beethoven, Schubert, and Fa-Re-La

With CitySingers of Hartford

<http://citysingers.org/>

Turning the Key: Songs of Heart and Home

Saturday, April 23, 2016; 4:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church; 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford; 860-523-5201

Sunday, April 24, 2016; 4:00 pm

Trinity College Chapel; 300 Summit Street, Hartford; 860-297-2012

With Cellist Tanya Anisimova

Sunday Live at the Studio/Live Streaming

Blue House Production, Kensington Soundstage, MD

Sunday, May 1, 2016; 2:00pm

Program: Beethoven, Schubert, Fa-Re-La and Japanese-French-American Masatoshi Mitsumoto's Pierre et Luce will receive its first performance.

Tickets for the live event are \$40.00 per person.

The cost to purchase the live stream is \$10.00

DVDs of the Concert will be available for \$20.00 each

Location:

4213c Howard Avenue, Kensington MD.

Checks can be made payable to Blue House Productions and mailed to  
2201 Westview Drive, Silver Spring Md 20910.

If you wish to use a credit card please call 301-589-1001

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/237723853233063/>

Photo: hartweb hartford edu

**AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY**  
United States of America  
Follow @CTMuslims4Peace

**True Islam is a religion that**

wholly **Rejects** all forms of **Terrorism**

believes in **Loyalty** to your **Country** of residence

believes in **Non-Violent Jihad** of the self and of the pen

believes in the **Equality** education and empowerment **of Women**

**CC IU**

*Lets unite to take on the **EXTREMISTS** and their twisted idea of Islam! Please join us for a thought provoking exhibition and interactive session!*

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Imam Azhar Haneef:** Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslims Community, USA.

**Dr. Mohammed Qureshi:** President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of CT.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3PM-5PM**

**True Islam AND THE EXTREMISTS Symposium**

**Location:**

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community  
Baitul Aman Mosque  
410 Main Street  
Meriden (South Meriden), CT 06451

Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP @ [www.trueislam.com](http://www.trueislam.com) (Events) or [Wajid.Ahmed@Ahmadiyya.us](mailto:Wajid.Ahmed@Ahmadiyya.us)/ 860-538-3221

Contact for Questions: Adnan Virk - [virkadnan@hotmail.com](mailto:virkadnan@hotmail.com) - 860-839-1326

Press & Media Contact: Wajid Ahmed - [Wajid.ahmed@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:Wajid.ahmed@ahmadiyya.us) - 860-538-3221

Brought to you by the Ahmadiyya Muslims Community of CT and CT Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU)



**All are invited to join the next Hartford/Ocotol Sister City Project and Hartford Public Library reading group to discuss Jeffrey L. Gould's *To Die in This Way: Nicaraguan Indians and the Myth of Mestizaje, 1880-1965* in the Seminar Room of the library, on Wed., April 20, from 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. The Introduction**

and Chapters 1-3 (up to p. 133) will be the focus of this meeting. The second half of the book will be discussed on May 18. Both programs are free and are part of the library's Bridging Cultures Series.

Published in 1998, the book has been widely acclaimed for its revelations about the continuing existence of indigenous communities and culture in western Nicaragua. Prior to publication, many had believed that Nicaragua had been a homogenous, mestizo culture since the 19th century. Gould bases his study on a variety of historical documents and oral interviews. He shows that ethnic erasure met the needs of developers and politicians across the political spectrum. It is easy to see parallels in this and other countries.

The book is available from online booksellers and many local college libraries. Also, some copies of the book are available for loan by contacting [kganderson@snet.net](mailto:kganderson@snet.net) or [sanderson03@snet.net](mailto:sanderson03@snet.net).

Please feel free to bring a lunch and to invite others to the reading group.

#### **-Submitted by Kathleen Anderson**



You are invited to join the Spring Gathering of Womensphere, a Sacred Circle Gathering for Women through the New England region of The Unitarian Universalist Association.

#### **This year's event is: Nurturing the Creativity in You**

In this workshop we will explore writing as a practice towards self-knowing, compassion and love. We will experiment with physical movement as writing's sister, engaging with

our bodies to understand, document and translate our external and internal worlds.

Saturday May 7, 2016 9:30am – 3:30pm

The First Universalist Society of Franklin (FUSF)

262 Chestnut Street, Franklin Ma 02038

For details and registration go to [www.uuwomensphere.com](http://www.uuwomensphere.com)

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

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

Thank you! Linda Clark, Office Administrator

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

(Cut and Paste from the E news will work)

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

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

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

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

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

**Please note in the subject line, USH-Enews. Thank you for your submission!**

**Peace – as we come to the close of the USH-Enews week.**

**Be kind to others – and to yourself.**

**Nuts and Bolts:** The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement 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.