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

USH-Enews ~ June 1, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image: Provided by Sue Phillips <https://t.e2ma.net/click/ef6as/iizqvp/mtup9d>

Sunday Service 10:30 AM - June 5, 2016 - "Claiming or Being Claimed"
Rev. Sue Phillips, Pulpit Guest - Unitarian Universalism is so much more than a theological buffet. Our tradition makes claims on us, and it is our spiritual work to answer those claims. This sermon will explore the beautiful covenant at the heart of our faith.



Rev. Sue Phillips has been a congregational president, parish minister, seminary instructor, and now serves as our UUA's Regional Lead for New England.

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 | RE News You Can Use

Church Business News: How to Use the A/C at USH | Are You Going to the GA? | Memorial Garden: Please Help |

2016 Programs for Adults and Families

Next Book USH Book Club: June 2nd | Last Great Discussions Until Fall: June 5 | Last Dinner and a Movie Until Fall, Friday, June 10th | 20's 30's Gathering June 10th | Lunch Bunch To Meet June 21st |

USH Performing Arts Series 2016 - Special Event: A Little Jazz, A Little Broadway: Celebrate USH Going Solar June 4th

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

First Sunday Connections June 5t | USH Bake and Plant Sale: June 5th | Come Tour USH Member Gardens: June 5th | Meeting House Sing Along June 11th | USH Annual Picnic Sunday, June 12th - A Message from the Village | Sound System Training: June 14-Open to All | Meeting for a Pagan Spiritual Ritual June 7th | Update on the Al Asmi Famiy from Syria | Archives Update: Wrapping It Up | Spring is Sprung! USH Garden Garden Volunteers Sign Up Available

Events of Note in the Larger Community

Meet Your Muslim Neighbors | My Sister's Place 5K Event | Muslim Coalition Event: A Taste of Ramadan June 19 |

Check out our online Calendar for Upcoming Events:

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

To submit a Calendar Request, please cut and paste the FORM at the end of the E-News into an email and send to calendarchanges@ushartford.com

(Please double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Please email corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com -Thank you!)

Sunday Service Recap, Sunday, May 29, 2016 by Kayla Costenoble



Photos: Harriet Gardner

It's Not What You Think - Sunday's sermon title (above) could also be called "What Is UU Anyway?" and was given by Rev. Cathy in response to a request by UU members Patrice and Richard Leslie; they won the recent silent auction prize of choosing a sermon topic.

"For several years, I was a closeted churchgoer, so I hid it," Rev. Cathy confessed. But she has fully embraced her identity as a churchgoer and church lover. She reminded us that our co-ministers don't fit the usual minister profile, that we have chosen her, an agnostic minister, and Rev. Heather, an atheist minister, to lead us. We are "not what most people think of as a church. We don't fit the dominant cultural framework. Relationships are what define us. How we are in the world we call a covenant."

Even though we struggle to define what our religion is, beliefs do matter. One way to describe our faith is to agree together to explain life and affirm justice. According to Mark Twain, explaining faith, like explaining music, is beyond words; it is a place of splendor. Ritual and spiritual practices are important; they touch places beyond thought and are needed to feed our souls.

For Rev. Cathy, chants feed her soul. She listens to chants as she writes her sermons. This is a result of time she spent at a monastery in France, as she sat with closed eyes on the floor for hours and, by candlelight, listened to chants over and over again. Although the translated words were not hers, “the music soothed my soul...the memories warm me every time I think of them.” She wrote what she calls “my song” and uses it to explain to us as a piece of the truth. She closed her eyes and sang it for us.

“It’s a blessing each of us was born
It matters what we do with our lives.
What each of us knows about God is a piece of the truth
And we don’t have to do it all alone.”

[An aside: Rev. Cathy had intended to comment on a provocative article on why you may not feel comfortable in a UU congregation written by Rev. Meg Riley, senior minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Instead, chants won. You can read it by using this link: <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/candid-welcome-UU>]

Faith practice and sacred thought can help us hold on to what we know to be true, Rev. Cathy said. We are all full of contradictions and superstitions (Lifting her feet when crossing a state line is one of hers). Although we have rejected Christian theology, we still crave rituals, mystery and spirituality. These strengthen our community. We are aware of the profound questions to which we do not have answers. Rev. Cathy concluded, “Let us come out of the closet regarding our spiritual practices. Let us keep asking profound questions. Let us keep living our faith proudly and boldly.”

Other good stuff.

I really look forward to hearing what our expanding number of Worship Associates have to say beyond explaining where things are, announcing hymns and reminding us to silence the electronic gadgets. Rick Tsukada spoke meaningful words about Memorial Day and about the Good Neighbor Offering, which will go to Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), a network of local organizations working to erase racial imbalance. Rick, of Japanese origin, said “I always feel safer when white people show up.”

Applause is not often a part of our Sunday service, but after Richard Leslie sang “A Simple Song,” the beautiful opening number from Leonard Bernstein’s “Mass,” during the Offertory, it was impossible not to.

Rev. Cathy read “Pry Me Off Dead Center,” a poem by Ted Loder, a politically active minister of the First United Methodist Church in Germantown, PA. Some words:

O persistent God
 Let how much it all matters
 Pry me off dead center
 So if I am moved inside
 To tears, or sighs, or screams, or smiles or dreams
 They will be real and I will be in touch with who I am
 And who you are
 And who my sisters and brothers are

Pi-Hsun played Nirvana's "Come As You Are" beautifully (of course) for our always-anticipated musical interlude. Formed in 1987 by guitarist Kurt Cobain, Nirvana has come to be regarded as one of the most influential rock bands in the modern era. Some words:

Come as you are, as you were
 As I want you to be
 As a friend, as a friend
 As an old enemy.

RE News You Can Use!



This week, the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45AM for morning worship service. There will be childcare after service until 1:45AM for children under the age of 10 for parents who wish to attend meetings or enjoy coffee hour.

There will be a Children's Chapel this week followed by age appropriate classes.



Look at the picture and see if you can spot our children! They are standing being our section of the community garden. We took a walk there this past Sunday to check things out and we were all surprised at how fast and tall the weeds had grown. One student panicked for a moment as he thought I was taking them down there to weed! After we toured the gardens, we came back inside and planted seeds that will hopefully grow into herbs that will be part of our USH

garden. The children were excited to plant herbs and take their part in making our USH garden a beautiful place that will help nourish us with good food and nourish our sense of community.

I hope that you all will share their excitement and join them in tending to our garden. What another great way to bring us not only into community with one another, but with our larger community as well. Please make sure you pay

special attention in the e-news to the happenings in our garden so like our children, you can do your part as well. Thanks. **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.



Image: uufgp.org

Church Business News



Using the Air Conditioning in Fellowship Hall - If you have a meeting or event in Fellowship Hall this summer and wish to air-condition the space, you may do so as follows:

Using the thermostat on the east wall, simply arrow the temperature down to the desired setting 72 or so. Other settings should remain constant. In any event, on the left side you should see the word "cooling" and above it the setting should be on "auto." The "auto" setting is important because otherwise the large air circulating motors will run endlessly to no good purpose whether the air conditioning compressors are working or not. This costs money.

The air conditioning does not take long to bring the space to the desired temperature, so a long lead-time to cool the space is not necessary. It is desirable to close off the space by shutting various doors.

At the end of the event, it is important to arrow the setting up to 78 degrees so we will not waste electricity running the equipment without reason to the detriment of our budget and planet. **Thanks for your attention. -Submitted by David Newton**

ARE YOU GOING TO GA? = General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the UUA. It is 5 days of fabulous workshops, wonderful worship, and great conviviality. This year GA is being held in Columbus, Ohio from June 22-26.

In addition to all the programs, the "business" of the UUA is conducted at GA. USH has 4 official delegates to GA who vote on various items and help shape the future of the UUA. We need to know who's going so we can have people represent us for this important function. **PLEASE LET VIRGINIA DE LIMA KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND GA. (vadelima@yahoo.com)**

The Memorial Gardens Needs Loving Care - We are in desperate need for some folks who could give some time to weeding, etc. of the Memorial Gardens.

The large Memorial Garden was established in 1991 and consisted of two small strips along the two Meeting House buttresses. When we and Bill and Louise Willett organized the expansion and planting of the Memorial Garden in 1999, we added the patio and benches in the large area to the south of the original area, added a plaque and wall tree sculpture, removed all the weeds, including poison ivy and wall-to-wall tenacious bamboo and established many plantings and trees. At that time the four of us "took care" of maintaining it. I



In the 17 years since, the Pet Memorial Garden has been added at the Meeting House, we have aged and our home gardens have greatly expanded and we are in need of additional helpers. We have a Building and Grounds work day in the Spring and Fall. On those two days several people join in to prepare the Garden for Spring and Summer and "put it to bed" for the winter. We are most grateful for this help!! In between the Spring and Fall work days, we try to keep the gardens in good shape. Last year we had two other folks volunteer to weed, trim, etc. We really need about one good weeding each month from May to October. The automatic watering system does a great job keeping the plantings in good shape (and also aids the weeds in their growth). It eliminates the need of watering with the hose or watering cans.

We have the ashes of 40 members/friends buried in the Garden. When the families decided to place the ashes of their loved ones in our Garden we made the promise to them that the USH Memorial Garden would be kept a beautiful and sacred place.

Can you give us some time? Bring a bucket and trowel and weed for an hour or so. The weeds can be dumped into the woods. We would be delighted to give you a tour of the gardens, and join you for orientation and weeding. Just give us a call or see us at the Meeting House on a Sunday! If you are a gardener, just go for it! Let us know so we can thank you and set up a schedule for the next few months! **Submitted by Janice and David Newton**



2016 Programs for Adults and Families

Sunday, plan to stop by the Programs Table during Fellowship Hour. The Ballroom Dance classes will feature the Tango during the month of June and will begin on the 2nd. Registrations will be taken for the following programs: A summer Small Group Ministry starting Tuesday, July 12, the Friday Pizza and Movie Night on June 10, and the Saturday Morning Salon: What moves us, June 11. If you're looking for a book about Unitarian Universalism, you might find it at the Book Cart located next to the Programs Table. 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:

Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves Us: Final Session: Saturday, June 11.
 10:00-1:30 PM

Small Group Ministry: 4 sessions starting Tuesday, July 12, 7:00 –9:00 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, June 2, 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

series. Be ready to "sell" your favorites to those who may not have heard of them. Voting will occur during the summer.

Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 PM.



On Friday, June 10, the last of our 2015-16 Dinner and Movie series will feature the recent "story of the Beach Boys' genius singer-songwriter Brian Wilson . . . filled with the best of his musical masterpieces."*
 "A dreamy and delirious ode to the troubled genius

behind the Beach Boys."*

It is rated PG-13; you can watch a trailer here

(http://www.imdb.com/rg/VIDEO_PLAY/LINK//video/imdb/vi157462809/).

Subtitles will be shown.

The focus of pre-dinner and dinner conversations will be nominations of movies for next year's

We will gather at 5:30 PM for socializing with popcorn and drinks, have dinner of pizza and salad at 6, and watch the film at 7, with optional discussion afterwards. If you can arrive earlier to help with set-up, your assistance will be appreciated.

You can reserve (\$10 each) (cash, check, or credit card) at the Sunday Fellowship Hour Programs Table.

You may also call Janice and leave a message (860-677-1121), then pay with cash or check the eve of the movie. Please indicate your choice of meat or veg pizza topping when reserving; **please reserve by Wednesday, June 8.**
***from DVD box cover -Submitted by Nita H.**



Summertime Small Group Ministry

For those looking for a place where deep sharing & listening happens, there will be a summertime SGM offered which will meet at the Meeting House (in Servetus). This will start on July 12, 2016; meetings will be in the evening from 7 to 9 pm. There will be a total of 4 sessions facilitated by Ron Friedman. If you are interested in signing up for this small group ministry series, please sign up at the programs table in fellowship hall or contact Janice Newton at 860-677-1121 or email her at Janicenewton(at)gmail.com. There will be a \$5 registration fee. Don't miss out on this SGM opportunity during the summer!-Submitted by Esther McKone Image: www.smallgroupministry.net

USH Book Club

We meet the 1st Thursday of the month

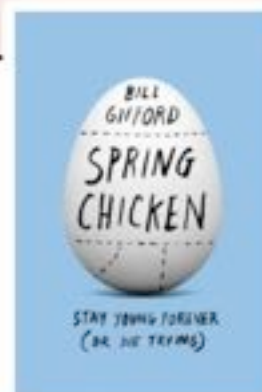
All are
welcome!

Thursday, June 2, 5:30 PM

at the home of Jean and Richard Groothuis.
58 Hitchcock Lane, Avon, CT 860-678-1030

Spring Chicken: Stay Young Forever (or Die Trying)

By Bill Gifford



Please let Richard or Jean know if you will attend: rgroopofus@me.com

GREAT DECISIONS Meetings – Final discussion June 5th

Topic: Mideast Alliances - Mike Winterfield, Discussant
Shifting Alliances in the Middle East

From a proxy war in Yemen to an ongoing civil war in Syria, a number of conflicts have shaken the traditional alignments in the Middle East to their core. As alliances between state and non-state actors in the region are constantly shifting, the U.S. has found itself between a rock and a hard place. In a series of disputes that are far from being black-and-white, what can the U.S. do to secure its interests in the region without causing further damage and disruption?

http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics

Unitarian Meeting House: www.ushartford.com - **Submitted by Ed Savage**



Friday, June 10th, 2016 – 7:00 PM
20s & 30s Gathering

We are pleased to announce the monthly informal gathering for young adults in their 20's and 30's at 7:00 pm on Friday, June 10th at the Unitarian Meeting House. Take this opportunity to enjoy appetizers and beverages in the relaxed atmosphere of David's Den, and get to better know others your age in our community. Rev. Cathy Rion Starr will be attending.

In David's Den
@ The Meeting House

RSVP to
bharvey@ushartford.com
or just drop in.

We look forward to seeing you!

Twenties-Thirties Sunday Brunch - The 20's/30's Group are hosting their new weekly brunch Sundays at noon. It's open to existing members, friends, newcomers, and visitors in their 20's and 30's. Food will be provided but guests are encouraged to bring something additional to share. *Please let me know by Friday afternoon if you plan to join us so that we can be sure to have enough food for everyone. - **Stephanie Briggs (stephanie.e.briggs@gmail.com / (860) 716-1920)**



Lunch Bunch to Meet: We will meet at La Trattoria in Canton at noon on Tuesday, June 21st. Please let me know by noon on Wednesday, June 15th if you will be joining us.

To register for the June Lunch Bunch, 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!

This will be our last gathering at LaTrattoria in Canton. We very much appreciate all the folks at LaTrattoria have done for us to make our gatherings there so pleasant. Please thank them when you see them on the 21st. It has been decided that next year we will be meeting at Concetta's Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Avenue, Bloomfield. We will still be able to order off the menu and have separate checks.

We will continue to meet at noon on the third Tuesday of the month ~ September through November and January through June. The December Women's Alliance/Lunch Bunch Christmas party will be at the Meeting House on Tuesday December 13th.

I am looking forward to having you with us on June 21st. **Submitted by Janice Newton**

**Unitarian Society of Hartford Performing Arts
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**



**Unitarian Society of Hartford Celebrates its Solar Installation
Saturday June 4**

An array of 132 solar panels installed at the Unitarian Society of Hartford's iconic building in Hartford's West End is now generating electricity sufficient to power the entire building.

Please join us to celebrate:

- The date is Saturday, June 4, at 7:30pm
- USH Fellowship Hall, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT.
- The singers are Patrice Fitzgerald and Richard Leslie. The music is cabaret.

Some of the fun:

- A reception with wine and cheese
- Eat a sun cake.
- Wear sunhats, bring sunny parasols, wear sunglasses or even wear a bathing suit.
- Patrice and Richard will sing "Come Rain or Come Shine," "Summertime," "Stormy Weather" and "Sunny Side of the Street" and invite the whole audience

to sing "You Are My Sunshine" at the end of the concert. The words will have a whole different meaning!



A Little Jazz, A Little Broadway – A Cabaret

Please don't forget to put Saturday, June 4th, 7:30 PM, on your calendar for a concert that John Clapp and his wife bought at the auction. Jazz pianist Alex Nakhimovsky will tickle the (electronic) ivories downstairs in Fellowship Hall and Richard and Patrice will sing. It's already paid for, but any contributions for the USH General Fund are welcome. This is the final moment to get your donation matched after five years of beneficence

from our anonymous donor.

We're also honoring the folks who brought us the Solar Panel Project with a bit of melodic sunshine. It's going to be fun, and you'll get a chance to sing too! Refreshments and adult beverages served. Contact Person: Patrice Fitzgerald

<http://www.ushartford.com/event/little-jazz-little-broadway-cabaret/>

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

USH Annual New Member-Newcomer Potluck was a Big Success - Over 70 people attended the Annual Newcomer & New Member Potluck this past Friday evening, and a marvelous time was had by all. One of the annual traditions of this gathering is a trivia contest call "Who Is It?" involving surprise factoids from the true lives of people in the room.

We would like to announce that the dedicated, enthusiastic, persevering, collaborative team of Lilyana Harrer, Kennedy Mattson, and Zoe Slap -- fourth graders, mind you-- easily won the contest with a perfect score.

In the Adult Division of the Trivia Contest there were honorable mentions for Mike Sereda, Virginia de Lima and Bill Simmons.

Congratulations to Lilyana, Kennedy, Zoe (and Maggie Slap who helped), enormous thanks to all of you who organized, volunteered at, and cleaned up from our marvelous feast. Special thanks to the food handlers: Ginny Allen, Esther McKone and Yakhonda Mwenelupembe and to Richard Groothuis who put in a great deal of time collecting all the facts, interests and what folks were bringing. This event is for members who have joined USH in the prior 5 years, newcomers, Board members, and is hosted by the Membership Sub-Council. You can also be a part of this fun evening by helping to host it next May. Contact Brian Harvey if you are interested.



Photos: Patrice Fitzgerald

1st Sunday CONNECTIONS

For Visitors & Newcomers

Each month we host an informal gathering for visitors and newcomers to learn more about UU, USH, our mission, education program and membership. Ask questions, share your concerns, and meet others.

We meet "Under the Stairs" (Lower Lobby) 15 minutes after the end of the service.

Attend as many times as you wish.

Upcoming Meetings

June 5, 2016

Free Childcare Provided

USH Bake & Plant Sale

Sunday, June 5th, 2015

During Fellowship Hour after the Worship Service

Don't miss this year's Bake & Plant Sale. All profits will go to the Society fund raising account, so get your kids busy helping you and bring the results to Fellowship Hall before the service. With your help we can add a goodly sum to the coffers. - Lousie Schmoll



**Next Meeting House Sing Along
June 11, 2016, 2 to 5 pm**

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along! Maggie Greene, Fred Louis, 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. 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 or Fred Louis 860-223-2407
turtlepoem@yahoo.com or
Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) edsavage@ushartford.com if you have
any questions. Go
to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MeetingHouseSings/> for more info.**

Also remember ---

PMN SUMMER GATHERING, June 3-5, 2016 (Tolland, MA)

- Does music inspire you to dream that a better world is possible?
- Do you want your children to experience musical traditions that carry this message?
- Are you looking for a musical community where singers, listeners, songwriters, fans, are all welcome in the same place?

If you answered "yes" to any of these, you'll find much to be excited about at the the 40th annual Summer Gathering of People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle, which takes place June 3-5 2016 at a new location: Camp Kinderland in Tolland, MA. Go to Peoples' Music Network for more information.



USH Annual Picnic
Sunday, June 12, 2016 - 11:45 am

**Food.
Games.
Fun for All Ages.**

Mark Your Calendar.

Volunteers needed: Contact bharvey@ushartford.com



Our friends next door, the children from The Village for Families and Children, have been invited to the USH Annual Picnic on June 12th. As summer has finally arrived the chance to play classic picnic games and eat good food is always fun. Welcome our buddies with the usual support and love of the USH community.



-Submitted by Joanne Orlando



USH MEMBERS OPEN GARDEN DAY

A few USH congregants who are avid gardeners are opening our gardens to any and all visitors on Sunday, June 5, after the service. We're inviting you to stop by any time that afternoon, have a cool drink, and take a look at the gardens, which should be at a peak of loveliness at that time. Participating gardeners are:

Diane Cadrain and Joe Rubin,
West Hartford, CT

Toni Gold, Hartford, CT

Jean and Richard Groothuis, Avon, CT

Susan and Don Hope, West Hartford, CT

These members addresses are in the latest USH Directory, please contact Diane Cadrain if you are unable to find an address.

Thank you! If you have any questions about this, please contact me. Thanks again! - **Submitted by Diane Cadrain**



Tuesday evening June 14 6-7pm in the Chapel and Sanctuary: Sound System Training (or ReTraining)

For old hands or newbies, this is a chance to familiarize yourself with the USH Sound Systems (Sanctuary and Portable) so that you are able to run the sound system for an event, worship service, or program. RevHeather and Stu Spence are coordinating. All USH Members and Friends are welcome.

Nature worshipers and those who wish to express their spirituality in connection with the earth:

Please come to a planning meeting to facilitate pagan ritual spirituality at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. The meeting is open to all persons and will begin to plan for a series of ancient rituals, of which there are eight in a calendar year. Please join Diane Cadrain and Kit Northup on Tuesday, June 7. Call or e-mail one of us to let us know you're coming and whether day or evening works for you.

Reach Diane at diane.cadrain@snet.net or 860 233 8766 and Kit at

kitnorth@aol.com or 860 965 4431. -**Submitted by Diane Cadrain.**

Image:activerain.com



Update on Al Asmi Family from Syria as of May 30, 2016 - Nineteen days have passed since the arrival of the Al Asmi family. Endless volunteers have played support roles in their settling. They are well settled in their new home and thanks to all who have donated furniture and household goods. They have a

computer and printer and are able to watch TV via the internet. Fadi has an I-phone (a gift from his brother who resides in southern USA) and it has been a huge boon. The sense of isolation of those early days is beginning to pass.

Many things have been accomplished regarding helping the family get settled. The team of ESL teachers who go to the apartment have taught them many practical and conversational words. We have benefited from several volunteers and friends who have served as translators.

In the past week they have received Social Security numbers, Husky insurance and they can use a debit card to access food and necessities. They have gone for physical exams and have been on a few shopping outings. They have been to Elizabeth park for recreation and they have attended the local mosque where they prepare for the month of Ramadan starting in less than two weeks. They are all exceptionally grateful for all the kind help but it is clear that they are ready for some independence.

Fadi, the father, is highly motivated to improve his English and to get a job. He made candy in Syria and we are beginning to work with him to find a job, probably in the food service business. Any contacts are welcome.

For now, the basic household needs have been met. We still need people who want to assist with driving. We will let you know about additional needs as they arise. In the meantime, thank you for all your support thus far. **For questions or offers please contact Richard Groothuis; rgroopofus@icloud.com and Carolyn Carlson; carlsoncjc@gmail.com -Submitted by Carolyn Carlson**

Archives Update: Wrapping It Up - Oh, the weather outside was delightful, but the work inside was frightful (not really) as your USH Archives Team worked on the beautiful May 25 summer day wrestling with the tons of material that has not been appropriately sorted or filed since Archivist Extraordinaire, the late Margaret Sax, spent so many years doing just that.



Rev. Heather, the awesome organizer who started this whole effort, took notes, sent emails, took pictures, arranged the next meeting and urged team members Larry Lunden and Kayla Costenoble to concentrate on the project for the day - which was to inspect and organize the dozens of long and heavy rolls of yellowing architectural drawings that is the history of the Meeting House. These were donated to us by their creator Roy Cook and have been exhibited several times on the Fellowship Hall walls. Next on the list is ordering special archival boxes in which to preserve these treasures.

More helping hands are always needed and welcome to help us safeguard and keep the USH's amazing history. Our next meeting is 10:00am on Wednesday, June 29. Join Us! **Submitted by Kayla Costenoble**



USH Community Garden Plot:

YOU can now SIGN UP for a day or two or twenty of gardening! Please get some gardening time in your summer calendar, now!

Just go here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094cafa92ba1f49-ushgardeners>

If you are uncomfortable using SignUpGenius or just having trouble with it, you can also e-mail RevHeather to add you on the days you choose. --RevHeather

SPRING IS SPRINGING! And we are so excited to get a better head-start on our USH Garden Plot in the Watkinson Community Garden (at the base of our parking lot) this year. Our plot is right at the front-and-center of the Garden--you can see it just by walking into the Garden from the parking lot. This year we have asked our neighbor, Landscaper and Labyrinth Designer Cynthia Dodd, to help us create a "growing labyrinth" that will incorporate plants and give us a spiritual path to walk together as a community. The idea is that we will use Cynthia's design and then divide that up into 8 sections that groups within the congregation can each take responsibility for. If you would enjoy helping with this wonderfully earthy project, as a Gardener, Coordinator, or Labyrinth Keeper, will you please let RevHeather know? We need You to get this dream from paper into plantings! revheather@ushartford.com or 541-390-6052



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>



The USH Wish List

Hello Everyone!

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

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

- Donated - Thank you!

2 Floor Length Mirrors

New collapsible functional easels

1 Coat rack tree - Donated -Thank you!

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.



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!

Events of Note in Our Larger Community



Meet Your Muslim Neighbor event - June 11th - In the Love Letters to politicians that many of you signed on Flower Communion Sunday, we asked our legislative leadership to attend this event hosted by our neighbors at the Bloomfield Muslim Community Center, with whom we have worked on the refugee resettlement project. Rev. Cathy will be there, and we hope some of you will attend as well!

Meet and Greet Program for Saturday, June 11th

1pm – Meet Imam Sammy Aziz & Senior Imam Ahmet Baykar

1:15pm – Presentation on Islam 101 by Imam Sammy Aziz while drinking Turkish Tea

3:00pm – Tour of Building

RSVP and More Info. Here.

Please RSVP at <http://lh4h.org/2016/04/19/meet-muslims/> or email sammyaziz@gmail.com

MY SISTERS' PLACE
5k Run 2 Mile Walk & Free Kids Fun Run
Presented by Hartford Toyota Superstore

Join us for a race to create
**A SAFE RIDE TO
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Sunday, June 12 | 9:00 am
University of Hartford Campus
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford

The funds raised at this event will provide children living at MSP safe places to learn and play such as summer camp, after school programs, sporting events and more!

MY SISTERS' PLACE
REGISTER ONLINE
www.mysistersplace5k.com

THE MUSLIM COALITION OF CONNECTICUT IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE FARMINGTON VALLEY AMERICAN MUSLIM CENTER

PRESENTS

A TASTE OF
RAMADAN
FASTING
WITHIN THE
ABRAHAMIC FAITHS



DATE & VENUE

SUNDAY JUNE 19TH 2016, 6PM TO 9:30PM

AVON SENIOR CENTER
635 WEST AVON ROAD, AVON, CT

FREE ADMISSION - DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 8:30 PM

TO RSVP, GO TO: WWW.MUSLIMCOALITIONCT.ORG/TOR2016.HTML
FOR INFORMATION EMAIL US AT TASTEORAMADAN@MCCT.US
OR CALL US AT 860-242-1707



The Muslim Coalition of Connecticut is a not-for-profit organization working to build bridges in community. Check out our website on www.muslimcoalitionct.org

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 will be provided you must arrange it with the DRE.)

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

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

Email to: 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 to 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.