



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00
or call for appointment

USH-Enews ~ December 7, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Photo by Channel KARE 11, Minneapolis-St. Paul & Sign created by Rev. Laura Thompson, Unitarian Universalist Minister in Bloomington, Minnesota

Worship Service, Sunday, December 11, 2016 ` 10:30AM ~ Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister and Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate **“Disciplined Spirit”** ~ “You can’t be neutral on a moving train,” wrote and taught Howard Zinn, and this statement is now truer than ever in these United States of America. If you drink water, have children, are a person of color and/or a woman, are or know anyone who is Muslim, disabled, undocumented, GLBTQ, and/or relies

upon Medicare/Medicaid, we recognize that you are understandably feeling scared and anxious about the incoming Presidential administration. Well: so are we...and we are determined to work together to care for each other. Come organize with us. Come sing and strategize with us. We need one another more than ever.

The USH Regifting Sale is also on December 11th during coffee hour. Do your shopping here and support the work of this congregation!



Vespers Service, December 14th

A special candlelight contemplative service of chanting and silence on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00pm to provide an oasis of calm beauty. Contact RevCathy if you'd like to bring your instrument or voice to share.



Help Us Create Community at the Meeting House on Christmas Day

Christmas Day is a Sunday this year. Are you going to be here in the area on Christmas Day, without other morning plans or commitments? Would you be interested in helping create a simple worship service and community energy here on Christmas morning? Rebecca Pacuk, our Choir Director, is available to help with music. The morning could take many forms--meditation, story, singing, poetry sharing. Please let us know if you would like to be here and/or can help in any way on Christmas morning. Will you be coming? --RevHeather, revheather(at sign) ushartford.com, Rev. Cathy, revcathy(at sign) ushartford.com

Rayla Mattson is now also serving as our Rentals Manager. For new rental requests to use space at USH, please contact her at: dre@ushartford.com or 860-839-5001. For Rates and Rental Application, go [here](#).

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.

In This Week's Enews:

Sunday Service Recap | RE News You Can Use

Thank You's from Our Neighbors

Church Business News: Board Meeting Minutes

2016 Programs for Adults and Families: Check out the many offerings throughout the year - Looking for New Programs

Things You Can Do in response to the Election

RevHeather Launches "40 Days. Focus!" Effort

Upcoming Special Events and Other News: Speaking Up (PSN) to Meet Dec. 13th at USH

Upcoming Special Events & News in the Larger Community:

Next Waking Up White Discussion at Fern Street Dec. 11 | Holiday Message from UUA President

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Here:

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link on the USH Facebook Page Here.

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 look at the calendar the day you email a request to reserve space to make sure the space is available. This will help me to avoid double booking rooms. Thank you. Double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Email corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com. **Thank you! ~ Linda**

USH STAFF <http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

On November 12, many of you signed cards to our Muslim, GLBTQ, Black and other marginalized neighbors. Here are notes of appreciation from two of these groups.

From Imam Baykar Yurdakul:

To our brothers and Sisters at
the Unitarian Society of Hartford,

We have received your heartfelt
sympathy in the form of a beautiful
card with many messages. As the Muslim
Community in Bloomfield, we will
cherish that support forever.

At these times of uncertainty, we know
that, through the help of fellow citizens
like you, we will continue to lead our
lives without any fear. Your unforgettable
support reminds us, and reaffirms what
God teaches us in the Quran...
"Do not lose hope in the mercy of God"
(12:87)

May God bless you,
On behalf of Bloomfield Muslim
Community

Jumana Baykar YURDARUL

From True Colors: "Thank you so much for your donation (of \$50.00) to the True Colors. No, really, THANK YOU! As I am sure you have seen and felt since November 8th, our world has tipped onto its side. Everything feels more than a bit off-kilter. We moved from a regime that supported our lives and identities to one that we have reason to suspect will be far less kind, let alone inclusive.

We get calls and emails from kids, especially transgender kids, who fear for their futures and don't know what to do. It is hard to comfort them when they feel so hated.

At the same time, there are people like you in the world. People who have our backs. People who stand up, and stand out, against oppression. People who put their time, energy - and resources into helping us all survive.

We are very, very grateful.

With sincere regard and gratitude, Robin P. McHaelen, MSW, Executive Director, www.ourtruecolors.org

This Year's Festival of the Season was great fun: Click [HERE](#) for a video of the zany carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas"



Photos: Kathy Payne

Sunday Service Recap, December 4, 2016

“Winter Soul Food in Poetry & Music”

A Special Music Sunday

Combined Choirs, USH and Universalist Church of West Hartford

Rebecca Pacuk & Rev. Cathy Rion Starr



Photos: Kathy Payne



Photo: David Newton



RE News You Can Use! This week, Sunday, December 11th, the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45AM for morning worship.

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

The DRE is looking for additional nursery help, paid and volunteer. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact her. **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:

Board News ~ Your USH Board of Directors had a long but productive meeting this week. We share these highlights.

The Board voted to endorse the Stewardship Goals put forth by the Stewardship Committee for the 2017 Annual Budget Drive. These goals include closing the budget gap resulting from the end of the multiyear matching grant and loss of organized fundraising events; providing more funding to support the work of the Social Justice committee; continuing our multiyear effort to increase staff pay toward UUA “fair compensation” levels; and maintaining current levels of support for the Building and Grounds Committee for both building maintenance and improvements.

The Board voted to support the efforts of the AIM (Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry) Taskforce to gain our accreditation from the UUA as an Accessible and Inclusive Congregation with the understanding that major funding for some

specific components of the plan will require further review and approval by the Board.

The Board voted to approve the hire of Sarah Cassidy as RE Assistant. It also approved an increase in the compensation of our childcare workers from \$11 to \$13 per hour and an increase in the RE Assistant pay from \$13 to \$15 per hour. As we are halfway through the current budget year, this change will have little effect on this year's budget but is in line with our goal of fair compensation and will help address the increased RE needs of our growing congregation.

The Board voted to gratefully accept the unrestricted donations from the family of Janice Williams and the estate of Sid and Betty Garvais. We are thankful for the thoughtful input received from several dozen Society members who attended the two open meetings with Board members on 11/20 and 12/4. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to accept the recommendations of the Finance Team with regard to the dispensation of these donations. Three quarters of the total (\$89,000) will go directly into the congregational Endowment; \$13,000 will be put into a fund designated for the building of a children's playground on USH grounds; \$10,000 will be used to create a specific General Assembly Scholarship Fund; \$5,000 will be put into the Petty Fund (for social justice work) and \$1,000 will be set aside for the tuning and maintenance of a soon-to-be donated newer piano for Fellowship Hall.

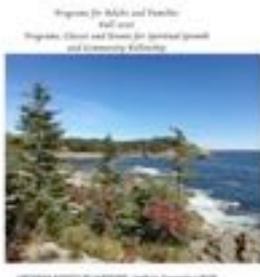
The Board voted to graciously accept the restricted donation of \$100,000 from an anonymous family in the congregation with the goal of providing a 'sound buffer' (or separate space) between RE activities and worship in the Sanctuary.

The Board voted to approve the petitioning of the UUA to consider a change in the wording of second of the six Unitarian Universalist sources. The current wording reads, "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." If the change is approved at the 2017 General Assembly, the wording would be changed to "Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us...", acknowledging the non-binary nature of gender identification.

Please note that a Semi-Annual Congregational meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 8, 2017. The upcoming stewardship campaign and strategic planning for the Society will be among the agenda items. As always, the Board welcomes questions and comments. ~ **Respectfully**

submitted, John Brancato, President

2016 Programs for Adults and Families



Stop by the Programs Table on Sunday if you are interested in registering for the Foreign Policy Association's 2017 Great Decisions program. The discussion group will start on Sunday, January 29 and will be held twice monthly.

See the article in this week's Enews for more information or get in touch with Ed Savage. Also, there will be a sign up sheet for the Holiday Lunch to be held on Tuesday, December 13.

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

We'd like to include your program, workshop, or event in the listing of the 2017 Winter/Spring Programs for Adults and Families.

On Sundays, there will be handouts for your course, event, etc. at the Programs Table for visitors as well as for members and friends. Registration for your program, course, etc. and any required payment can also be done at the Programs Table.

To obtain a Program Proposal form, you may go to <http://www.ushartford.com/> From the Building Community pull down menu at the top of the home page, click on Adult Programs. In the lower right corner, click on Propose a Program Form. The form is also available at the USH office. Please attach a detailed paragraph in Microsoft Word (if possible) about the program to the completed Proposal Form that can be used for promotion. Please email the completed Proposal to Janice Newton at [janicecnewton\(at\)sign@gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at)sign@gmail.com).

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

Programs

Friday Pizza and Movie Night: December 9, 5:30 PM, featuring "Eye In The Sky".

USH Book Club: Thursday, December 8, 5:30 PM.

Great Decisions: Sundays, starting January 29, twice monthly at 9:00 AM.

Ballroom Dance: Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 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 DharmaGathering: Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 PM.

Authentic Connection & Communication: An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:15 PM.

Attention Visitors and New Members ==> TIME FOR GREAT DECISIONS --



This FPA/World Affairs Council community discussion program has been held at the Meeting House for more than 30 years. We have met at 9:00 am on Sundays during the spring. This is a difficult year for canned discussion materials because of the international political changes, so we are asking for a show of interest in the 2017 program. More info. is available at Foreign Policy Association.

GREAT DECISIONS 2017 TOPICS -We're pleased to announce the topics for Great Decisions 2017! This year's topics are as follows: The Future of Europe; Trade and Politics; Conflict in the South China Sea; Saudi Arabia in Transition; U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum; Latin America's Political Pendulum; Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan; Nuclear Security

If you are interested in the discussions, we will order a \$25.00 briefing book in December, with delivery in January. The twice-monthly Sunday meetings would begin on the last Sunday in January and last until May. **For more information, you may contact Ed Savage (edsavage(at)sign)ushartford.com or cell: 860-966-8155 and also register at the Programs Table. -Submitted by Ed Savage**

2nd Principle Things You Can Do ~ Rev. Heather Launches "40 Days. Focus!" effort ~ In the wake of the 2016 Presidential Election, I wake up every morning feeling too-easily overwhelmed. I know I can't let myself slip into numbness and people I care about can't afford for me to tune out. Recognizing my own need to not get overwhelmed, scattered, or be constantly in reactive mode, I thought of using the 40 Days leading up to the January 20 Presidential Inauguration as Days for Focusing: shoring up our energy and resources, building resilience and deepening relationships that will enable us to better defend and protect all the marginalized communities we know that are now at greater risk. Will you join me, inspire me, connect with me, and help us all get stronger and be more fiercely loving as we move into the months ahead?

If you are on Facebook, type this Group name into your Search box at the top left: Focus / 40 Days to Focus...and Beyond and ask to Join.

If you'd like to be added by e-mail, e-mail Rev. Heather at revheather@ushartford.com.

If you'd like to simply stay connected via the E-news, stay tuned and keep your eyes on this spot!

And for all of us: we are in this mess together. Here at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, we've had over sixty (60!) individual first-time visitors since the Election.

People are seeking out this congregation as a basecamp for connection, direction, relationship-building, solace, and clear ways to organize action. Your support for the work of this congregation is crucial right now. Perhaps more than ever, and certainly more than in recent years, people need this congregation as a conduit--a way to respond, make sense out of things, find community, build resilience and strength during difficult times. Let us support one another more than ever, now and in the days ahead. #40Focus Days starts this Saturday, December 10. Join me. ~ **Warmly—Rev. Heather,**
revheather@ushartford.com, cell/text: 541-390-6052, on Facebook & Twitter

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

Speaking Up - PSN Hartford County (formerly known as Pantsuit Nation-Hartford), will be meeting in our sanctuary on Tuesday, December 13th from 6:00-7:30 to discuss local, state, and Federal political and social activism. This is a big group that got its start on Facebook before the recent election and met for the first time in November at the Universalist Church of West Hartford, where more than 100 people attended.

All are welcome. Contact: PatriceFitzgerald(at sign)gmail.com -Submitted by Patrice Fitzgerald

★ USH ReGifting Sale ★

Drop-off Dates: Nov 20 & 27, 2016

Sale Dates: Dec. 4, 11 and 18 (after worship)



Find a new home for all your unwanted items (New, or like new, preferably smaller than a breadbox. ★ Do your holiday shopping. ★ Delight someone else who may love your item. ★ Clean out your closet. ★ Help the environment / conserve resources. ★ Make money for USH

★ Look for new environmentally friendly products you can give as gifts this year.

★ **Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Sub-council**



A Note on Cyber Security ~ When you receive email from people you know, and more importantly, when you see presumed email from people you know in your spam filter, be very careful to check the entire email address.

What we have been recently seeing is the names of members of USH showing up with the correct email address for the part of the email address before the @ sign, and after the @ sign is a foreign (unknown to you) email service provider's address.

Thus, it is not the address of person you know and probably is an attempt to trick you into opening the email for nefarious purposes. Delete such incoming email without opening it. – **David Newton**



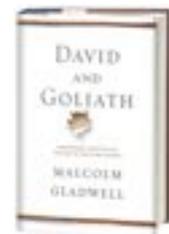
12th Annual Holiday Piano Concert presented by Benjamin Dix, Piano Soloist
December 10 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at USH

Free Admission

Featuring Mozart-Piano Sonata KV. 570, Shostakovich Andante from Piano Concerto # 2 in F, Pachelbel-Canon in D, Chopin Grande Valse Brillante Op. 18, "Heroic" Polonaise, Op. 53, Etude Op. 10 # 3, and Nocturne Op. 9 #2, Handel "The Harmonious Blacksmith"—as well as Holiday Favorites: Variations on I Saw Three Ships, Hanukkah and Christmas Medley, Fantasia on Angels We Have Heard on High & Silent Night, A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief and "Send in the Clowns" from A Little Night Music. -**Submitted by Benjamin Dix**

USH Book Club Meeting: David and Goliath, by Malcolm Gladwell

Thursday December 8- 5:30 PM at USH in David's Den



Gladwell examines and challenges our concepts of "advantage" and "disadvantage" in a way that may seem intuitive to some and surprising to others. Beginning with the classic tale of David and Goliath and moving through history with figures such as Lawrence of Arabia and Martin Luther King Jr., Gladwell shows how, time and again, players labeled "underdog" use that status to their advantage and prevail through the elements of cunning and surprise. **Contact Richard Groothuis at [rgroopofus\(at sign\)me.com](mailto:rgroopofus@sign)me.com) for more information**



HOLIDAY LUNCH TUESDAY DEC. 13

The LUNCH BUNCH and WOMEN'S ALLIANCE invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall at noon on Tuesday, December 13 for a potluck luncheon.

Everyone is welcome, but sign up at the program table telling us how many will come and what you plan to bring. Cost is \$1 per person

payable at the lunch.

We encourage you to brighten the holiday for someone else by bringing holiday gifts for Interval House or The Open Hearth. Gift Cards are always a good choice or you can go on line and check the wish list for these organizations.

Alternatively, you can support Meeting House friends with checks made out to the USH, Ministers' Discretionary Fund.

We will hear our traditional "A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS TO A LIBERATED HOUSEHOLD", which we have shared for over 30 years, and ask you to bring a short reading to share, if you wish.

If you can help set and decorate tables at 10:30, to RSVP or help with clean up after lunch, please contact Louise Schmoll at 860-242-2953.

Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community



Waking Up White Book Discussion Series

The series of Waking Up White dialogues has been a rich sharing of ideas and reflections. The next session will be held as follows:

* December 11 at noon at UU Fern Street in the Program Center. A light lunch will be available prior to the dialogues. Read pages 157-255.

Any questions contact Gloria Francesca Mengual @ gloriafmengual@gmail.com. Thank you for the great response and interest **thus far. See you on December 11th!** - Submitted by Gloria Francesca Mengual

Weekly Reminders



Do you love music? Theater?

USH is looking for someone to head an Arts and Entertainment Committee.

I receive many requests from performers asking if USH would be interested in hosting them. We have recently had one person volunteer to help with this but would love to have a team. **Please contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark\(at\)sign\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark(at)sign)gmail.com) if you are interested in bringing many talented performers to USH. Thank you!**

Would You Like to be Part of a Great Team?

How about the USH Sunday Welcome Team? Please contact Linda Clark (at: [ushlindaclark \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:ushlindaclark[at]gmail[dot]com)) or phone the office at 860-233-9897 or talk to Brian Harvey if you are interested



in being part of this wonderful group of volunteers. It's what makes USH outstanding in its open and friendly atmosphere to help first-time and newcomers feel welcome, find their way around our Meeting House, and want to return.

(If you'd like to help out in the office during the week, please contact Linda Clark).

Do you love to sing? Have you ever thought about joining the USH Choir? Well now is the year to turn that thought into a reality! The USH Choir is an incredibly fun way to make beautiful music with some truly incredible people. Best of all, this year we will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 9 am before church with only one weeknight rehearsal per month, drastically limiting the time commitment needed to participate. If you have ever considered joining our group, we would love to see you now to laugh and sing together! If you have any questions or would simply like more information, please feel free to contact our Choir Director Rebecca Pacuk at rgpacuk@gmail.com. (Formal music training is not required).



The USH Wish List

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

A Folding Lightweight Table to use at various events

A Vacuum Cleaner for general clean up

2 Floor Length Mirrors

New collapsible functional easels

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.**

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

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.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

Email: revheather@ushartford.com | Phone: 541-390-6052

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister

Email: revcathy@ushartford.com | Phone: 541-390-7553

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager

Email: dre@ushartford.com | Phone: 860-839-5001

Linda Clark, Office Administrator

860-233-9897 x 100 | Email: ushlindaclark@gmail.com

Rebecca Pacuk, Choir Director

rgpacuk@gmail.com

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper

Office Hours by Appointment

Email: bmullen@ushartford.com

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.