



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

USH-Enews ~ April 5, 2017
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image: <http://alexgrey.com>

Worship Service: Sunday, April 9, 2017 ~ 10:30 AM ~ "Building and Living Your Own Theology" ~ Helen David, Tom Gervais, Julie Grace, Brian Harvey, Pulpit Guests Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Building [and Living] Your Own Theology is an intensive program for Unitarian Universalist seekers. Participants immerse themselves in faithful challenge and discovery. This Sunday, we'll hear from three of these seekers - Brian Harvey, Julie Grace, and Helen David - who will describe their journey, their foundation of

faith, and the manifestation of that faith in their daily lives. And, in so doing, they'll show us all the possibilities of active engagement in our own faith journeys.



Easter Sunday is April 16 this year! Unfortunately because that falls at the end of spring break, some families will be away, including our Director of Religious Education. If we are going to have a post-service Easter Egg Hunt this year, **WE NEED YOU** to help us make it happen! We need a Volunteer Coordinator and then we need you to help make, stuff, and hide eggs. Are you going to be here on April 16? **Please let Rayla Mattson know right away. (dre@ushartford.com, 860-839-5001 cell).**



RE News You Can Use! ~ This Sunday, April 9th, the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45 AM for morning worship service. There will be no RE due to Spring Break beginning. There will be activity packets for any children who attend the service with their parents. Please note that the DRE will be away for the next two Sundays. Please contact Sarah Cassidy, RE Assistant for any RE related matters at saracassidy27@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone supported the RE Saver's fundraiser. We raised \$315.55. This amount plus other monies raised over the last few weeks will go towards our 2017-2018 OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality education program for youth. We need to raise a total of \$2,500.00. The money will go towards program cost as well as the cost to have our facilitators trained. If you would like to donate towards these costs, we would most greatly appreciate any contributions.
Thanks, Rayla D. Mattson, DRE

Sermon Writing for Lay Preachers, May 20, 2017 ~ We are looking for 3-5 people to assist in hosting this event. If you are able to host, your registration is free. Please contact the DRE for more information or to sign up to host. For more information about the event click [HERE](#).

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.



E-News Contributors Please Take Note: The deadline for USH E-News 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:

RE News You Can Use

Sunday Service Recap

Church Business News

Performing Arts at USH

2017 Programs for Adults and Families

Focus: Resistance is Daily Practice

Upcoming Events and Other News at USH

Upcoming Events & News in the Larger Community

Hartford Stage "Absolute Brightness" Tickets Available!

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<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.

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events at the Unitarian Society of Hartford:

www.ushartford.com/events/

To submit a Calendar Request go [HERE](#).

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

Sunday Service Recap by Kayla Costenoble

April 2, 2017

“A Glint of Goodness”



Photos: Harriet Gardner

It's definitely not your usual Sunday at the Unitarian Society of Hartford when a minister or guest, invited to deliver the Time for All Ages message to the children (and, let's face it, to the entire congregation), begins with "Growing up queer, church was not always such a welcome place for me."

But that's exactly what Special Guest James Lecesne, novelist, actor, screenwriter and current star of his one-person show, *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* at the Hartford Stage, did in his talk here on April 2, 2017. So what brought this magnetic actor to us? According to the theater's Stage Notes for the production:

The Unitarian Society of Hartford is a justice-seeking inclusive community and a longtime friend of the arts in Hartford. The theme of “Absolute Brightness” by James Lecesne resonates with the congregation’s Co-Ministers and they initiated a partnership with Hartford Stage.

Or, as Rev. Heather blurted out in her opening words to James when she met him earlier this week, “Hi, nice to meet you. How do you do it all?”

Perched on a high stool on the Chancel, with the kids spread out in front of him on the steps and on the floor, James said he first considered doing some acting for us but instead wrote “a true story about himself” to read to us. He could do this, he said, knowing he would be “allowed to read it here without trouble.” He told us he grew up a gay boy in a New Jersey suburb but kept his identity a secret because he had no words to describe what he was to his parents. But he never believed he was evil, had a mental disease, was an animal, a criminal, a sinner, or was crazy.

He first heard the word “homosexual” when he was 15, which made him feel that he had “found his tribe” and was no longer alone. At the age of 20, he was told by someone he “would never make it big in this business; you’re too gay. Gay will get you nowhere.” This goes on for years but, as he told us, “I went on to make it big. So there.” The New York Times has called him “among the most talented solo performers of his (or any) generation.”

James played a troubled young man named Trevor in his award-winning 1995 play “Word of Mouth” and also wrote the screenplay for his Academy Award winning film “Trevor.” This led to his 1998 founding, with producers Peggy Rajski and Randy Stone, of The Trevor Project, the first and still only national suicide prevention and crisis intervention lifeline for LGBTQ youth.

He spoke highly of Jazz Jennings, now a transgender teenager, whose reality TV show and children’s book “I Am Jazz” have made her an ambassador for transgender kids and for the HRC (Human Rights Campaign). On April 28, 2016, there was a nationwide reading of her book.

“All of us need all of us to make it,” was Rev. Heather’s repeated mantra during her sermon. She said when we don’t say anything when bad things happen, we are struggling against centuries of small-town thinking and our each-town-for-itself mentality.

She talked about the current diversity controversy in the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the resignation of Rev. Peter Morales, first Latino president of the UUA, which took place April 1, three months before his term was

to end. In his resignation letter Rev. Morales wrote, “It is past time for us to examine more deeply than we ever have the patterns of institutional racism that are embedded in our practices of leadership, including hiring.”

Rev. Heather said, “We can do better than that, and can rise up to a higher level of engagement” with what is going on in the rest of the world. Every action matters, she said and you “have to stretch yourself out of your comfort zone.” We must embrace our universal fragility to change the course of things, take a stand, find the courage to come forward to do the right thing, and “ask new questions of ourselves, each other, and our leaders.”

USH choir member Chrissy Whalen’s bold and beautiful singing of Sara Bareilles’ “Brave” fit in so perfectly (which is never a coincidence, of course) with the service. Some words from it:

...Nothing’s gonna hurt you the way that words do
And they settle ‘neath your skin
Kept on the inside and no sunlight
Sometimes a shadow wins
But I wonder what would happen if you
Say what you want to say
And let the words fall out
Honestly, I wanna see you be brave.
And since your history of silence
Won’t do any good
Did you think it would?
Let your words be anything but empty
Why don’t you tell them the truth?

Church Business News

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2017-2018 BOARD POSITIONS

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors for next church year. The Congregation will vote on these candidates at the annual meeting on May 21. The bios of the proposed new members, in bold, are included below.

Katharine Ann Anderson – President (term ends June, 2018)

Sherry Manetta – President-Elect (term ends June, 2018)

Phil Gardner – Treasurer (term ends June, 2018)

Sarah McKenzie – Secretary (term ends June, 2019)

Hank Murray – Chair, Administration (term ends June, 2018)

Chris Wilt – Chair, Community Within (term ends June, 2018)

Valerie Klokow – Chair, Social Justice (term ends June, 2019)

Stephanie Briggs – Chair, Spiritual Life (term ends June, 2019)

The USH constitution also allows for nominations for the Board of Directors by petition. Any nominations by petition shall be signed by at least five members and have the consent of the nominee(s). Such petitions shall be given to the Secretary at least fifteen days prior to the Annual Meeting (by May 6) for publication at least ten days prior to the meeting. Margaret Leicach is the secretary.

Bios:

Sherry Manetta (President-Elect, Term: 07.01.2017 – 06.30,2018) has been a member of USH for 6 years. She is currently a member of the Strategic Planning team, is active with the Welcome Volunteers, and is a regular volunteer at pancake breakfasts and picnics. In her nonprofit board service, she has focused on education and social justice, having served as board chair and chair of finance, audit, strategic planning and executive committees for various organizations over multiple decades in Chicago, New York and Hartford. She currently serves on the boards of Misericordia University in Dallas, PA and the Greater Hartford YMCA. In her business career, she recently retired as head of global operations for Conning's Risk Solutions business and has worked in financial, technology and operational management positions in the insurance industry and in public accounting and consulting roles. She is a board member

and chair of the audit committee of Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company in Neenah, WI. Sherry and her husband Brian Harvey reside in Avon.

Sarah McKenzie (Secretary, Term: 07.01.2017 – 06.30.2019) first began attending services at USH in August of 2014 to check out the new ministers (although she had been here as a teen for YRUU conferences). Prior to then, she had been attending the Universalist Church of West Hartford sporadically, since she was in sixth grade (with a long break when she lived in Vermont). Since coming here to USH, she has been involved with the choir, Meeting House Folk, and a couple of ad hoc committees. Along with her husband Owen, she is thrilled to have such a warm and supportive community here at USH for their family to be a part of, and appreciates the opportunity to serve the congregation as a member of the board.

Valerie Klokow (Chair, Social Justice, Term: 07.01.2017 – 06.30.2019) is a nonprofit professional who studied philosophy at Yale and earned a J.D. at The University of Connecticut School of Law. Committed to the arts, creative expression and integrity, Valerie is a writer and a strong proponent of voice.

Valerie's story (Homeless to Yale) was featured on the Oprah show in a 2002 "Graduates Overcoming Obstacles" episode. Valerie dropped out of school in the 7th grade, eventually living as a homeless person in California before finally, in her 30's, she made her way to Cabrillo Community College's campus – and later transferred to Yale.

Valerie is committed to helping make traditionally silenced voices be heard and she looks forward to doing what she can to support social justice issues at USH.

Stephanie Briggs (Chair, Spiritual Life, Term: 07.01.2017 – 06.30.2019) has been an enthusiastic USH-er ever since she first came to the meetinghouse in 2014. She has been extensively involved in leadership of the 20s/30s Group, and is especially proud to have established the group's weekly brunch program. Additionally, Stephanie serves as a member of the Stewardship committee, and she delights in sharing the gift of music as part of the Meeting House Folk singing group.



You're all invited to the party! Oh boy! It's SATURDAY, APRIL 8! - Our Building-and-Grounds Spring Work Party, that is. We will be spring cleaning outside for the most part. The Memorial Garden tops the short list with the usual weeding effort needed. Besides that we will play pickup sticks throughout the grounds and continue to open up the area behind the chapel. The latter effort could use a pickup truck or two. We'll also be sprucing up the approaches to the main entrances. Starting time is 9 am. Ending time is noon or earlier. Please come for an hour or three. **Thank you! -Peter Magistri**



THANK YOU!! and UPDATE FROM OUR 2017-2018 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE ~ USH Members & Friends, thank you so much to all of you, newer to the congregation and long-time, who have gotten your 2017-2018 pledges in already and gotten our Pledge Drive off

to an awesome start. Our Bookkeeper, Brian Mullen, reports that "So far we have received 94 pledges totaling \$218,542.00. This represents a 8% increase for these pledges over last fiscal year." Huzzah! We particularly want to thank the many among you who have pledged to USH for the first-time or, as you are able, have increased your pledges from prior years. Our goal is \$327,000 so we still have a ways to go--can those of you who have not yet pledged please help us reach this goal?

The specific Board-affirmed goals for the 2017-2018 budget are to:

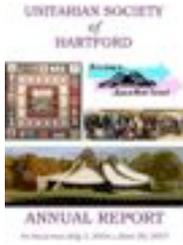
- Fill the Gap: We have a projected \$25,000 income shortfall for 2017-2018 due to the end of a matching grant, decreased fundraising income and event organizers. Help us make up this crucial difference!
- Fair Wages for Our Staff: We continue to struggle to bring our staff wages up to Fair Compensation Guidelines. Help us leap this hurdle!
- Increase Our Social Justice Efforts: In response to many calls, increase our social justice budget to \$2500/year.
- Ongoing Improvements to the 1964 Meeting House: You name it, we need to do it.

Please e-mail or call our Bookkeeper, Brian Mullen, directly if you would like to let him know of your pledge intention, set up monthly payments or automatic debits. Brian can be reached at bmullen@ushartford.com or 860-233-9897, ext 102. Peter Meny, Stewardship Committee Chair, would be happy to mail you a Pledge Card if you need one, or you can pick up one from Linda Clark in the USH Office on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Sunday. If you would like to have a

confidential conversation with our Co-Ministers about your finances and/or your support of the congregation, or anything else weighing on your heart, please reach out to RevHeather at revheather@ushartford.com or 541-390-6052. We are all here trying to create a lively, healthy, sustainable community along with you. Please be in touch!

Denominational News

A Note from Rev. Heather: In news of our larger denomination, I need to share with you that the President of our Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Peter Morales, resigned this past week. There is a concise overview of recent events in this Washington Post article. However, in the wise words of Rev. Meg Riley, "The current crisis about racism in the UUA is not that someone resigned. It is that many precious people of color are poised at the edge of a precipice, trying to discern if the ground of Unitarian Universalism is safe to traverse or if they will hit exploding landmines and then be blamed for the explosions--trying to decide if they can stay Unitarian Universalist or need to go elsewhere. To my white UU friends [writes Meg], it's up to us to defuse... those landmines as we see them, knowing that we will never see them all and relying on the wisdom of people of color, who can identify them with much greater skill than we have." In the wise words of another colleague, Rev. Erika Hewitt: "[This] crisis has been unfolding quietly in our Unitarian Universalist Association for about two weeks: across the country, our faith leaders have been coming to grips with the painful reality of how racism (and sexism, and other -isms) have thwarted fair hiring practices in our Association, and -- more to the point -- how we as a faith devalue, discount, and push aside UUs of Color. This is their truth: it's not ours to assess, to "but...but-but," or to disclaim. It's a truth that demands white UUs to listen, to examine ourselves for how we perpetuate these patterns, and to atone." I'm available to talk with you more about it all if you'd like. In response to a call to all UU congregations to wrestle together with these issues and events, we as a congregation will be focusing our May 7 worship service on how white supremacy shows up in our own congregation, larger community, region, and denominational experiences. **If you have stories or reflections you'd like to share, please write to RevHeather at the Meeting House or revheather@ushartford.com. In the words of Rev. Theresa Ines Soto and Rev. Megan Foley: "All of Us Need All of Us to Make It!"**



2017 Annual Report Submissions: Hello all, I sent email reminders to everyone who will be submitting a report this year. If you did not receive this reminder but will be sending a report, please contact Linda Clark at ushlindaclark(at sign)gmail.com or call 860-233-9897. Below is an excerpt from the email reminder:

The 2016-2017 Annual Report will be distributed prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017

. *The deadline for submissions is Sunday, April 23, 2017. This will enable us to have the reports available the Sunday before the meeting on May 14. Earlier is greatly appreciated. Please send in a separate email with 'Annual Report -the Title of Report-' in the Subject."-Thank you, Linda Clark, Office Administrator



THE POWER OF A FREE PRESS Dinner & Movie Friday, April 14

On Friday, April 14 the award-winning 2015 film "Spotlight" will be featured at the USH Dinner & Movie series. You may have already seen it, but now we

will use this meaningful perspective: ". . . a potent reminder that investigative journalism is critical to a just society, and that we need it now more than ever." * "It's not a stretch to suggest that "Spotlight" is the finest newspaper movie of its era, joining "Citizen Kane" and "All the President's Men" in the pantheon of classics of the genre." * ". . . but mostly it's a love letter to investigative journalism." * "At its heart, Spotlight is an argument against deference to authority, which informs so much great journalism."*

Watch a trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56jw6tasomc&sns=em>

Note ~ the movie is just over 2 hours long, so we will follow our early time schedule of 5:15 popcorn and socializing, 5:45 pizza and salad dinner, 6:30 film with optional discussion afterwards. You may reserve (\$10 each) at the Programs Table during Sunday Coffee Hour or call Janice (leave a message at 860-677-1121) by Wednesday, April 12. Please indicate your choice of meat or veg pizza toppings. *from Rotten Tomatoes website -**Submitted by Nita H.**



2017 Programs for Adults and Families

Stop by the Programs Table Sunday to register for the Friday Pizza and Movie Night April 14 and the Women's Retreat at the Senexet House rescheduled to May 5-7. The Green Sanctuary Sub Council will have a sign up sheet for those interested in attending the

Peoples Climate March on the National Mall Saturday, April 29. There will also be a sign up sheet for the Lunch Bunch Tuesday, April 18. Information for other programs at USH will be available including Meditation and the USH Book Club. The Winter Spring 2017 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 Current Adult Programs Catalog. 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

USH Book Club: Thursday, April 6, 5:30.

Friday Pizza and Movie Night: April 14, 5:30 PM, featuring "Spotlight".

Faith and Living – An Interfaith Journey: Contact Tom Gervais at tom.j.gervais@gmail.com or 860-558-3000 for dates; time: 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

Ballroom Dance: Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. "Samba" featured in April.

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.

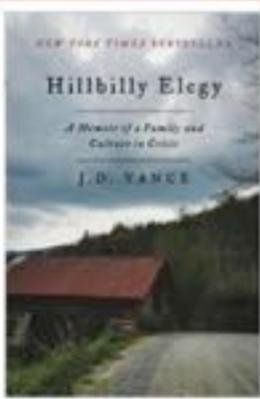
Meditation and Dharma Gathering: Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 PM. Any questions please contact Jan Bennett, chair2clinic@juno.com

Authentic Connection & Communication: An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:15 PM. Any questions please contact Jan Bennett, chair2clinic@juno.com

USH Book Club

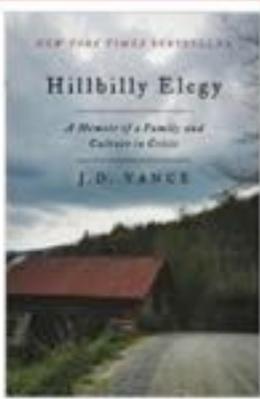
Thursday, Apr 6, 2017 – 5:30 PM @ USH

All are
welcome!



Hillbilly Elegy by *J. D. Vance*

At this time in our nation's history, it is important for all of us to understand some of the critical issues driving large segments of our citizenry. Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside.



Please let Richard or Jean know if you will attend: rgroopofus@me.com or 860-678-1030

2nd Principle Things You Can Do ~ "Focus: Resistance is Daily Practice" Each day we must choose to focus our energies. Each day we must take actions of resistance to tyranny & oppression; we must engage in acts of self-care & perseverance; we must reach out and connect with other human beings in building meaningful relationships. If you use Facebook, type the group name: "Focus: Resistance..." into your Search box and ask to join the group. For all of us: we are in this mess together. 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 earnestly, now and in the days ahead. **Warmly ~ Rev. Heather, revheather@ushartford.com, cell/text: 541-390-6052, on Facebook & Twitter**



Join the Spirit & Action ministry meeting every month on the first and third Thursdays, in Emerson/Meditation Sanctuary, 6:30-8:30pm. Our gatherings are open to anyone seeking spiritual sustenance and ideas for taking action during this time of chaos and change. **For more info. contact Julie Grace: jgbuko(at sign)yahoo.com For all dates for this event click [HERE](#).**



The signs are here!

Available in 3 sizes:
 Lawn sign - 18" x 24" (2 sided)
 Window sign – 11" x 17"
 Car sign – 5.5" x 8.5"

On sale Sunday during Fellowship Hour (11:30-12:15)

Suggested donation: Lawn sign - \$20
 Window sign – \$5 - Car sign – \$2





People's Climate March, Saturday, April 29th, Washington, DC

It is time to lace up your marching shoes and whip out your Sharpies. We need to deliver an emphatic message to all our elected representatives in DC, both Republican and Democrat.

And you don't want to be driving or flying to deliver this message. You want to be in the convoy of buses arriving from New England as the sun is coming up over frost-bitten cherry blossoms. You want to put some mass in your transit. So buy a bus ticket. Do it today. Better yet,

buy two or three or ten-- and line up your friends and family members.

* Tickets for charter buses to/from Hartford's Union Station are available here. For info on tickets to/from other Connecticut locations, contact Jeff Howard. If you want to travel with USH folks, be sure to communicate with Jeff Howard, Peter Magistri, or Mary Sherwin.

* The round-trip price is \$55 for students and people of limited means, \$65 for everyone else. A bargain. Thanks to a generous donation from a USH member, free tickets are available for two people who otherwise could not go. If that is you, please contact Jeff Howard.

* Deadline for tickets is April 27, but please buy ASAP so we can be sure to have plenty of buses for everyone.

* **Spread the word!**

-Submitted by Jeff Howard

Upcoming Performing Arts Series at the Meeting House



Please note that everyone is welcome to attend these events at no charge! The donation amounts are simply suggestions.



Many Voices One Songs ~ It was a thrill to see the Meeting House packed full on Sunday, April 2, as we hosted a concert brought to us by the Women Composers Festival of Hartford, now in its 17th year. More than 150 voices came together from the Hartford, New Haven, and Springfield, Massachusetts

areas, ranging in age from 5 years old to 80 years young. Four new compositions were presented along with familiar pieces by Hartt-trained composer Gwyneth Walker and the renowned Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell from Sweet Honey in the Rock. Members of the USH Choir participated with a lovely Walker setting of the traditional Scottish "Hebrides Lullaby." Our own Sarah Harmon McKenzie was the soloist, with Isaac Reguera accompanying. (If you missed it last week, come hear it on Sunday, April 9 at our service!) We hope to host this lively concert again next year. Thanks to all who helped and all who attended! **-Submitted by Patrice Fitzgerald for the Performing Arts Committee**

Sunday, May 7 - 12:30 p.m.

BENEFIT CONCERT by Isaac Reguera for the Friends of Music Fund

Our own USH Accompanist Isaac Reguera will play piano solos from his final Hartt recital for a Masters of Music degree. Expect to hear gorgeous classical and modern pieces along with Isaac's delightful improvisational skills. This concert is Isaac's gift to the congregation as he finishes up his year with us, and is designed to replenish the Friends of Music Fund which will in turn help pay for next year's Choral Scholars and Accompanist. \$15 suggested donation which will go to the Friends of Music Fund.

Saturday, May 20 - 7:30 p.m.

The Bill of Rights

A rousing choral presentation, accompanied by orchestra, of this nationally-recognized composition by Wesleyan Professor Neely Bruce. The ten Amendments which make up the Bill of Rights will be proclaimed aloud before being sung. This piece has been performed repeatedly around the country to great acclaim... and we need it more than ever these days. \$15 suggested donation to go to a non-profit organization to be identified.

Sunday, June 4 - Immediately after the service

Family Share Talent/No Talent Show

Everyone with or without talent is invited to... sing, dance, play instruments, tell jokes, recite poetry, create drama, or otherwise entertain our very easily entertained USH family downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Be brave! The full title is "USH Family Share Talent/No Talent Show" -- remember, no talent necessary. (But please give us a heads-up so that we can put the performers in order.) ALWAYS FREE!

Please be in touch with PatriceFitzgerald@gmail.com if you'd like to be part of the new Performing Arts Group Events which is now forming and is full of ideas. We want to have a lively slate of events for the 2017- 2018 church year. -Submitted by Patrice Fitzgerald

**Meeting House Performing Arts presents:
Allan Carr and Janie Rothfield, Scottish Songs,
Tunes, and Stories at The Meeting House**

Friday April 7th, 2017 at 7:30pm

Donation: \$20, Children under 12 Free

For tickets: www.BrownPaperTickets.com

Info: www.AllanCarrMusic.com

E-mail: celtic2wwuh@gmail.com

Call Ed Savage, 860-966-8155 for more information



**A benefit concert for the Unitarian Society of Hartford. For more info. click
HERE. -Submitted by Ed Savage**

Upcoming Special Events and Other News



**AIM Workshop: Negotiating the
Minefield of Language
Sunday, April 30th 12-1:30**

Meditation Room

Facilitated by Katharine Ann Buck

What this workshop is about: "People with disabilities frequently encounter language that robs them of their humanity. This workshop seeks to raise awareness and encourage more thoughtful language choices...There is no consensus across disabilities on a single standard for preferred language. Most allies and some disability constituencies have embraced People First language, but there are cogent reasons why some communities and individuals with disabilities have not. This workshop encourages allies to adopt People First language generally, and to pay attention to how people self-identify. It also holds up the discomfort allies feel about the lack of a "right" answer."

(uua.org/accessibility/aim/workshops) -**Submitted by Katharine Ann Buck**

Lunch Bunch to Meet: We will meet at Concetta's in Bloomfield at noon on Tuesday, April 18th. Our speaker will be former Congresswoman, Nancy Johnson. Please let me know by noon on Wednesday, April 12th if you will be joining us. Would you be interested in sharing your life's adventures with us? If so, please contact Tina Davies or me. To register for the March lunch, contact me at 860/677-1121 or [janicecnewton\(at\)sign@gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at)sign@gmail.com) You may also sign up at the Programs Table during Fellowship Hour.



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! We will gather at Concetta's Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Avenue, Bloomfield. We will continue to meet at noon on the third Tuesday of the month ~ through June. I hope you will be able to join us on April 18th. ~ **Janice Newton**

Weekly Reminders

USH Website Maintenance ~ As Office Administrator, Linda Clark is our primary in-house contact for website maintenance. Please contact her first with any website issues you encounter. There is a team of USH members (USH Editors) who are sometimes able to address issues that she e-mails them about. If neither Linda or the USH Editors are able to resolve or address the issue, we have an outside website consultant who handles our ongoing website maintenance and updates on a monthly contractual basis. Linda will e-mail our consultant about things that are beyond her or our congregational capability. Thanks so much for your concern and attention to the USH website and our current process.

Rayla Mattson is 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.



Every Sunday after worship – 12:00 PM
20s/30s Sunday Brunch

The 20's/30's Group is hosting a weekly potluck brunch Sundays at noon. It's open to existing members, friends, newcomers, and visitors in their 20's and 30's. Members and guests are encouraged to bring something to share. - Adam Brown (860) 817-0940

In The Library
 @ The Meeting House

RSVP to
 adambrown6@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!

Would You Like to be Part of a Great Team?

Join the USH Sunday Welcome Team! Please contact Linda Clark at ushlindaclark(at sign)gmail.com, 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. The Welcome Team makes USH outstanding in its open and friendly atmosphere, and helps newcomers find their way around our Meeting House.



Office volunteers are also welcome. If you'd like to help out in the office during the week for an hour or two, please contact Linda Clark. Pictured above: Phil and Harriet Gardner with their son Bruce, helping out with the Order of Service. (Thank you!)

Do you love to sing? Have you ever thought about joining the USH Choir? The USH Choir is a fun way to make beautiful music with some truly incredible people. We are rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 9 am before church. If you have ever considered joining our group, we would love to have you come 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! We mostly need People--those who are tech savvy, social media gurus, or Millennials, who would help us record, upload and podcast services. There are also some physical items that we could really use at USH:

A Folding Lightweight Table to use at various events

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.

The Archives Team is hard at work and has added this to the USH Wish List: Shelving for Worship Arts and Archives for organizing the materials stored in the Fuller room. Our materials in there are overflowing the available shelving and cabinets. This will allow us to better use the limited floor space that is available. We are looking for two more metal units just like the six foot, six-shelf one in there now. No casters. Brand HDX, model 6T60184872C, stock number 100655787, or equivalent. **~Thank You, Larry Lunden, on behalf of the Archives Team.**

Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community



**Photography by Ruedi Hofmann
at The Bushnell**

April 27 – May 25, 2017

**Opening Event Thursday, April 27,
6:00 – 8:30pm**

**Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr are
included in this multi-media project.**

The Golden Thread Gallery and photographer Ruedi Hofmann created an innovative and meaningful community art project titled “Pivotal Hartford: Faces of Change.” This multi-media project includes photography, film, and spoken word, combined in an exciting way that has yet to be seen in our region, creating an outstanding artistic experience. Pivotal Hartford celebrates a diverse collection of people that make an effort to create a strong and vibrant Hartford. Pivotal Hartford began pre-production in March of 2016 with an opening in April 2017. The opening will be held at The Bushnell in Hartford, with the ultimate goal of rotating the exhibit to new sites throughout Hartford. **Join Rev. Heather at the opening April 27th! For entire article click [HERE](#).**



New England Regional Assembly:

Gather this month in Woburn, Massachusetts with Unitarian Universalists across New England to celebrate our faith. Come for inspired worship, engaged learning, community singing, UUA Presidential Candidates Forum, regional workshops, fellowship and fun. Awaken your spirit! Click [HERE](#) for more info. **Please let John Brancato, USH President, and Revs. Cathy and Heather know if you are able to attend.**

General Assembly 2017, June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

Planning is well underway for General Assembly 2017 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130. [Google Map](#). By going to New Orleans, we can both celebrate our successes and recommit to the relationships that have been forged with this

community. For more info. go [HERE](#). **Please let John Brancato, USH President, and Revs. Cathy and Heather know if you are able to attend, either in person or as an off-site delegate, at home online.**



USH Members & Friends, all of you who are reading this--we have a special opportunity right now to attend a Hartford Stage production at a discount. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get into Hartford and enjoy some theater! Call the Hartford Stage Box Office now, at 860-527-5151, to book your seats, using the coupon code below.

Absolute Brightness is about the disappearance of Leonard Pelkey, a flamboyant 14-year-old who has been bullied by his peers. Critically-acclaimed actor and writer James Lecesne (*I Am My Own Wife* at Hartford Stage, the writer of the Academy Award-winning *Trevor*) portrays a tough New Jersey detective, a withdrawn teenage girl, a brusque yet gentle hairdresser and a dozen other intriguing characters as they join forces to solve a mystery that will forever change their lives. *The New Yorker* called it "A whodunit with a heart of gold." Enjoy this "sneak peek": <https://youtu.be/8dPCzrM3gRQ>

Use code USH20 to purchase tickets online or by calling the box office. When you select a seat, you will have 3 price options to choose from (adult, college or youth 18 and under only). A standard \$2 facility fee will be added to each ticket price (but not the handling fee). Please note that this coupon code does not guarantee that there will be tickets available--they can still sell out, so call now!

The valid dates and times for using our USH20 code are:

April 7 (8:00 pm performance only)

April 8 (2 pm performance only)

April 9 (2 pm performance only)

Enjoy this special opportunity to see a Hartford Stage production. Building resilience is a collective, community-deepening effort. Join us in deepening our Hartford collaborations!

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

To submit a Calendar Event Request please cut and paste the text below into an email and send to: calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Please look at the calendar the day you email a request to make sure the space is available. This will help to avoid double booking rooms. Double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Email any corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Thank you! ~Linda

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.)

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 (on parental leave until May 9)

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.

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles: 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.