



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduociety@gmail.com

Website: www.ushartford.com

**Office Administrator's Hours (adjusted for COVID-19): Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00am to 1:00pm, or
email/call for an appointment.**

APRIL 28, 2021

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



May 2nd, 2021, 10:00am

"Bloom Where You Are Planted - Research, Read and Act!"

Whatever your environment, wherever you find yourself planted, there are opportunities to grow and yes, even bloom right where you are. When you have the will and good information, it's possible to bloom in many areas of your life. Join us for strategies and tips to help you bloom this Spring, and throughout 2021

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister

Rayla D. Mattson, DRE

Sam Moffett, DMM

Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

Buffie, Coffee Hour Host

10:00am Worship Service - Join us [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113

Passcode: 014277

11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#) with USH immediately following services in Zoom.

May 15-16: Flower Communion & Annual Meeting

From You I Receive, To You I Give: Flower Communion

Celebrate nature's beauty and the interdependent web of giving and receiving at our annual Flower Communion. Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition begun nearly a hundred years ago in which we exchange flowers to celebrate community and reflect on the resilience of nature's beauty.

Part I: Saturday, May 15th, 12-1pm, Drive-Thru Flower Communion

Come to our Meeting House with a flower to share and receive a flower from our outside altar. You'll also get a chance to see Revs. Cathy & Heather off-Zoom and feed your ears with music by Sam Moffett.

Part II: Sunday, May 16th, 10am, Flower Communion Worship

Join us for worship at our regular time and Zoom link to appreciate this community where back in the fall we recommitted to creating community in a time of isolation, justice in a time of repression, and spiritual nourishment in a time of grief, isolation, and fear. **Are you ending a time in a leadership position at USH? Let Rev. Cathy know so we can appreciate you during worship!**

See more UUA info [HERE](#).

Please join us for the USH Annual Meeting on May 16th

We have all been through a lot in the last year, both individually and collectively. We are approaching the time when we can gather in person again, and life can proceed in "new normal" mode, even as we search for new ministerial leadership.

Transition can feel exciting, scary, uncomfortable, but always better together. There are important decisions to be made.

What have we learned that can guide us? How might what we have experienced influence our vision for the future of USH? How do we celebrate our achievements? How do we adjust our course?

On May 16 after the service, the Board will share the current status of our community, and hear your thoughts and reflections for our future together. As usual, members can vote for officers and council chairs to fill open positions – this year our new President and President Elect, and Social Justice Council Chair. Please plan to attend this important meeting. All are welcome.

Stewardship Follow-up.

Thanks to all who have pledged. If you haven't yet but intend to, please let Peter Meny, plmeny9@gmail.com, our pledge follow up lead, know your intentions re: pledging so he won't need to call.

As always, you can give by check, credit card, or automatic withdrawal from your checking account – either monthly or in a lump sum. Gifts are tax deductible. If you encounter difficulties or have questions, contact me or our accountant Brian Mullen. Please give as generously as you can to help to maintain USH as a vital and caring community for all of us. Thank you.

~Submitted By Martha Bradley, Board President

Update from the Interim Search Committee:

The Interim Search Committee is working diligently to find the best possible Interim Minister match for our congregation, and we hope to recommend a candidate to the Board by the end of May for an August 1st start date.

The Interim Search Committee will hold a listening session specifically about the Interim Minister search process at Fellowship Hour on May 2nd -- please join us!

This is a very exciting transitional time, and this is just the first step along our journey to a new Settled Ministry.

~Submitted by Sarah Harmon McKenzie, Secretary

RE News You Can Use: Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

Please join our DRE and Sage for this week's story here:

https://fb.watch/58n7aY_omP/

3rd-8th graders will meet on Friday at 6:00pm [HERE](#).

Dungeons and Dragons will meet Friday at 7:00pm [HERE](#).

Please join us if you have children and youth at the playground on May 23rd as we say goodbye to our ministers, Robin and Braden. This will be a "pop by" event and mask will be required. Hope to see you all there.

We are also still looking for videos from you all with your beautiful flowers for our Flower Communion video. You can email them to dre@ushartford.com.

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education

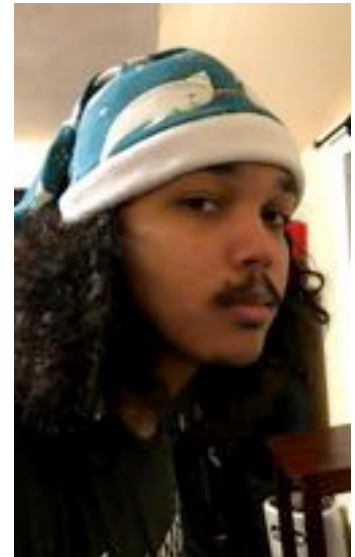
860-233-9897 ext. 104 | dre@ushartford.com

I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



**Please help me congratulate
Kennedy Mattson!**
She will be the youth participant at the
Sophia Fahs Lecture at GA this year June
25th at 5:00pm. She will be speaking along
with two college students as they center the
voices of BIPOC youth and young adults.

**We also congratulate
Bradshaw Mattson!**
He was hired to be one of the youth of color staff on
the GA planning team this year. I hope many of our
youth will attend and support him as he moved into a
national leadership role.



Programs for Adults and Families

Chomp-n-Chat

Meets every last Wednesday of the month. Please join our very own DRE, Rayla Mattson for the next chat on **April 28th at 12noon** [here](#).

Adult Programs:

Artist's Way Group: Meets on Mondays 6:30 – 8 p.m. via [Zoom](#) using Mira Kirschenbaum's book *The Gift of A Year* as the basis for our conversation. We focus on living creatively, with the appreciative eye of an artist; creative expression of all types and stripes is celebrated, though not required. If you're interested in joining us, mark your calendar now, and look for contact info here in early September. Contact Tina Davies for more info at [**daviesush@gmail.com**](mailto:daviesush@gmail.com).

The USH Book Club: Meets **monthly**, on the **2nd Thursday**, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, via Zoom. All adults in the USH community are welcome. Please contact Ginny Allen at [**fiddlenurse1@gmail.com**](mailto:fiddlenurse1@gmail.com) if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

MAY 13 – The Way of Gratitude: A New Spirituality for Today – Galen Guengerich
20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at [**tcote11@gmail.com**](mailto:tcote11@gmail.com).

Disability Support Group: This group has moved its gathering online. Please reach out to the facilitators for more info. In this group participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the room stays in the group. Email **Don Hope** for more information at [**donhope48@gmail.com**](mailto:donhope48@gmail.com) or call **at 860 463 7982**.



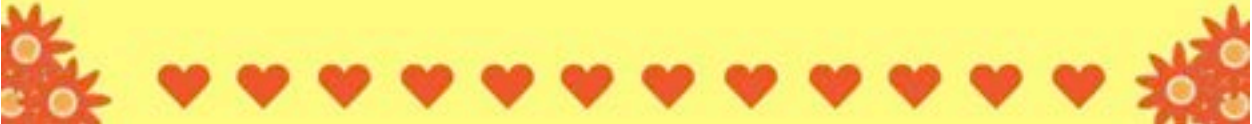
**HARTFORD DEPORTATION DEFENSE
STIMULUS CHECK REDISTRIBUTION**

**ARE YOU ABLE TO REDISTRIBUTE A PORTION OF YOUR
STIMULUS CHECK OR MAKE A GENERAL DONATION?**

**HDD IS TRYING TO RAISE \$4,000 TO SUPPORT:
-\$2,000 TO HELP A FAMILY APPLY FOR GREEN CARDS
-\$2,000 FOR HEALTHCARE COSTS FOR MEMBERS**

**IF 15 PEOPLE DONATE 1/4 OF THEIR CHECK
WE WILL REACH OUR GOAL!**

DONATE AT: bit.ly/donatehdd (all lower-case)



**For anyone interested in becoming more involved with GHIAA, The Greater
Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance**

They are offering a 6-week Leadership Training Institute this spring via zoom. Please note that participating in an Orientation session is REQUIRED. They are offering two orientation options below.

Leadership Institute Training Dates/Times: Six Tuesday Evenings from 7:00pm – 9:00pm:

1. April 27, 2021 **Completed**
2. May 4, 2021
3. May 11, 2021
4. May 18, 2021
5. May 25, 2021
6. June 1, 2021

This is an excellent training for anyone interested in social justice work, not just related to GHIAA. If you are interested in taking this Core training please contact Dana Donovan, danadonovan@sbcglobal.net, or Rev Cathy, revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com and we will send you the link to sign up.

Church Community & Business News



USH Green Solar Power Helps Lower Global Warming

At its last Board Meeting, April 12, 2021 the USH Board voted to purchase the solar equipment producing electricity at the rear of the Meeting House.

This was the culmination of an effort begun in 2015 to use solar panels to meet the electrical needs of the Meeting House thus contributing to a reduction in global warming of our planet through production of clean power while reducing the cost of electricity used by the Meeting House for years to come.

The dedicated and talented group undertaking this project included Stuart Spence, Jean and Richard Groothuis, Virginia de Lima, Jim Venneman, Jeff Howard and Janice and David Newton. Realizing the 30 percent Federal Incentive for such a project was available as an income tax deduction, they immediately realized USH, with no such tax payment, could not receive this incentive to solarize.

After exploring various alternatives, they determined to use what has come to be termed the Sole Proprietor model. USH would raise funds for the construction through the Endowment, these funds were loaned to a Sole Proprietor, who turned

out to be David Newton, who, in turn, contracted for the construction of the system while paying USH for a lease for the land under the panels and interest on the loaned funds. Through this complex arrangement (this is a simplified version) USH ultimately received the 30 percent incentive for the equipment, the ZREC (Zero emissions Renewable Energy Credits) incentive from the State of Connecticut, and significant immediate reduction in electrical costs.

None of this would have happened had not many of you reading this article contributed to the Endowment Fund earmarked for the construction of the solar installation. hank you!

USH and Sole Proprietor governed by a series of legal agreements essentially managed to build a system for about \$150,000 which CTEC Solar appraised as worth \$82,325 five years later. Meanwhile, the 30% incentive was captured and used to reduce the outstanding loan to USH after the first year, leaving an outstanding loan of \$73,422 to be paid off on or about June 30 this year. During the past five years, Eversource has paid about \$3,500 in ZREC payments to USH reducing total electrical costs. These payments will continue for another 10 years.

In the new fiscal year 21-22, as official owner of the equipment, USH will essentially have its electrical costs reduced to a fee for connection to the grid, and the cost of one streetlight found on the corner of our north driveway. If our electrical consumption remains about the same as the past, it will be entirely covered by the solar energy converted by the panels to electricity for our use.

Shine on. – David Newton



Personal News of the Congregation

We are sad to inform you of the death of USH member Paul Christie on March 26, 2021. Please see obituary [HERE](#).

There will be a USH Zoom memorial service on June 15th at 10am so please join us [HERE](#).

Notes of sympathy can be sent to his children, Cara Christie 75 Randolph Pl N, Washington DC 20001 and Kysa Christie 4349 Tuller Ave, Culver City, CA 90230



Unitarian Society of Hartford <https://www.ushartford.com>
 50 Bloomfield Avenue
 Hartford, CT 06105



<https://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/>

MEETING HOUSE PRESENTS

Days are lengthening and we are remembering the

wonderful music-filled nights of other years. We are still waiting to hear about when we can reopen for in-person concerts. In the meantime, here are links to some concerts by performers we plan to feature when we reopen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIUgGAOa-gQ&fbclid=IwAR2pxqwDinKQD_10X5akC5-9QzdB_tZAPnD5HGgWXmtxJYe86Mb1JVrDPUC

Join us for another Maestro Bistro followed by a presentation on New England Barn Dances, part of the Winter VMFC weekend! This month's bistro features Chris Brinn, Julia Plumb, and Mark Roberts & Andrea Cooper. Donations welcome to [paypal.me/MaineFiddleCamp](https://www.paypal.me/MaineFiddleCamp)

Scott Cook https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSOPgrXf_X8 (online on demand) <https://www.scottcook.net/> "As good a modern folkie as we have these days. A voice perfect for the genre. An understanding beyond the norm."

SUSIE ON SUNDAY! Susan Werner every Sunday eve 7 PM Eastern watch with [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) or [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/...)

**We hope to see you soon,
 Laura and Paul Cipriano**

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member experiencing some difficulty, please contact Eve Pech or any member of the Caring Network so we can provide some assistance. A wide range of community services is also available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at 211.

From the USH Caring Network:

Valerie Klokow would like some help with meals. Standing and cooking have become very difficult for her. She does not feel it is safe for any of us to bring meals to her home. She would welcome gift cards from GRUB HUB, or from restaurants that deliver meals. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE RESTAURANTS DELIVER THE MEALS.** Thank you for any help you can give. ~Janice Newton

News from the USH Board of Directors**Your 2020-2021 USH Board**

Martha Bradley: President
Rob Spector: President-Elect
Bob Hewey: Treasurer
Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary
Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Jon Covault: Administration Council Chair
Dana Donovan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair
Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)
Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

The latest financial reports for **Nov-Dec 2020 & Jan-Feb 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **Oct 2020** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at hartfordusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

News in the Larger Community**News from The Village for Families and Children**

The pandemic has turned our world upside down. Our next-door neighbor, The Village for Families and Children, has continued to support families in Greater Hartford. In addition to its comprehensive behavioral health services some programs developed by The

Village in response to COVID-19 include:

- * Telehealth Platforms for individuals and group counseling, family and parenting support, treatment for addiction and recovery and financial and career coaching
- * "Ask a Doc" – non-emergency conversations with a Village staff psychologist
- * COVID-19 on-line resource center with print and video information
- * School-based staff for students at 5 Hartford schools to support food and technology distribution and distance learning
- * Virtual Home Visits
- * Short-term emergency basic needs assistance
- * The Village and CEO Galo Rodriguez have been passionate advocates for vaccinations in Hartford's underserved communities

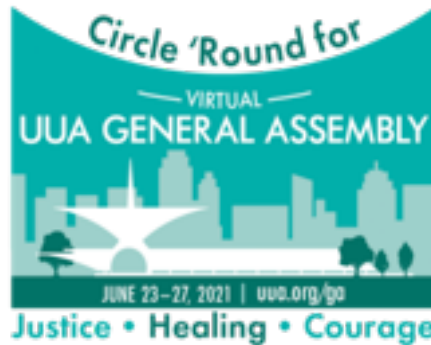
The motto of the Village is "Where Real Change Happens" - that goal has certainly been realized during the past year.

Unitarian Universalists everywhere: it's that time again!

Mark your calendars for the annual national denominational conference of Unitarian Universalists, June 23-27, 2021. It will again be all-online this year which means that everyone will be online together. Participating online makes it more affordable and accessible for everyone. Please consider whether this is the year you can join in!

"General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable."

**All information, including registration, is here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>
I look forward to "seeing" you at General Assembly 2021!
Warmly -- Rev. Heather**



Here is the link for GA information and registration: General Assembly: [The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting](#)



CommunityNOW: Please see this online calendar compiling what other UU churches and organizations are doing during this pandemic. Check out some new programs [here!](#)

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 to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the

Unitarian Society of Hartford: www.ushartford.com/events/

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

To read the USH Blog click [HERE](#).

E-News Contributors please take note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be included in the 'Subject' field.

USH Staff:

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

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revheatherionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)
USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager
dre@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffett@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper
Office or Phone by Appointment | bmullen@ushartford.com



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.
As of May 1st, 2021, Buffie is working Sunday through Thursday from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at [**hartforduusociety@gmail.com**](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com).
Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

*The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is **Tuesday at 12 Noon**.
Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.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. Consider the proposed 8th Principle as well! <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.

