



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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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.

March 17, 2021

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



Image: courtesy of Rev. Heather Rion-Starr

March 21st, 2021, 10:00am

"525,600 Minutes: How Do We Measure This Past Year?"

It's been a year of many chapters. What are some of the learnings you want to hang on to? We'll join together in reflection, wonderment, grief and relief.

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

Rayla D. Mattson, DRE

Sam Moffett, DMM

Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate & 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.**

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

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

**Please join us for our next several get togethers~
Join our DRE for this week's story-time. [\(20+\) Unitarian Society of
Hartford | Facebook](#)**

**3rd-8th grades will meet Friday for another fun game
night. <https://zoom.us/j/98321054802?pwd=VnYrYVNoWVh4SjRNNnUxWUNXWGdGUT09>**

There will be no D&D this week

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.



Hello USH People!!

**We are looking to finalize our Easter plans but we
need volunteers to make it happen. Please
contact me if you would like to assist in Easter by
this Friday. Thanks**

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.

Programs for Adults and Families

**March's Chomp n Chat will include a special Class Experience - you'll be able to
sit in on Dianne Daniels' JotItDown Journaling course at 12 noon!**

If you've been interested in, or just plain curious about journaling and how it

can help you, but you didn't get a chance to sign up for the course, send Dianne Daniels an email at ushinterndd@gmail.com and let her know you'd like to attend the class on Wednesday, March 24th, at noon EST. The class discussion will be covering tips for how to get the most out of journaling, including how to start, focusing on emotion, going easy on yourself, and using writing prompts. Whether you've enrolled in the class or not, you'll get a LOT from this session. Let Dianne know you're interested, and she'll get the Zoom link to you before class on Wednesday, March 24th.



Intern Minister Dianne M. Daniels is offering a 6-week e-course on Journaling. Live class sessions will be conducted over [Zoom](#), and the Teachable platform will hold the course content, lectures, and audios.

The course starts Wednesday, March 10 - let me know if you would be interested in attending. I have two times: a 12-noon course for those who can make it, and an evening course (let Dianne know if 6 pm or 7 pm would be better) for those who need it. USH Members in good standing are eligible to enroll at no cost - part of my "Thank You" for giving me the opportunity to serve as

your Intern Minister. Questions? Contact Dianne at ushinterndd@gmail.com. Enrollment will close on Monday, March 8, to give Dianne time to prepare.

Please note that Dianne will be hosting Chomp-n-Chat issues within this [link](#) so please join in!

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.

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 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.

20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at 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** or call at **860 463 7982**.



Unitarian Society of Hartford
Inquirer Series
An Introductory Program for Newcomers and
Friends and Interested Members
Spring 2021
Updated March 16, 2021

The purpose of the Inquirer Series is to welcome newcomers into the Unitarian Society of

Hartford community. The goals of the Inquirer Series are as follows:

- Make our church values and culture transparent and known to newcomers so that they may make an informed decision about membership in our church.
- Introduce newcomers to church ministers and lay leaders.
- Establish a "safe space" for newcomers to learn more about Unitarian Society of Hartford in the form of a regularly scheduled small group designed for their needs.

Welcome, Introductions and About Unitarian Universalism

Sunday, March 21: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

- Host: Rev. Heather Starr
- Unitarian Universalism History, Principles and Sources: Laurie Kelliher
- Questions and Answers with the Minister: Rev. Heather Rion Starr

Worship and Spirituality

Sunday, March 28: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

- Host: Peter Meny
- Worship and the Liturgical Year: Sue Smolski
- Adult Spiritual Programs: Peter Meny

Community Partnerships

Sunday, April 11: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

- Host: Rev. Cathy Rion Starr
- Social Justice: Rev. Cathy Rion Starr
- Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Agency: Dana Donovan

Education and Faith Development for All

Sunday, April 18: 11:15 – 12:15 p.m.

- Host: Rev. Heather Rion Starr
- Life-Long Learning and Adult Programs: Dianne Daniels
- Faith Development for Children and Youth: Rayla Mattson
- On becoming a Member: Rev. Heather Rion Starr

To Register contact Buffie Pinney at hartfordusociety@gmail.com and log in [HERE](#).

Social Justice at USH



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

Dear GHIAA
members and
allies,
A more detailed
update with

specific alerts on GHIAA's three legislative campaigns (and more) will be coming out next week, but here are some items we wanted to get out before the end of this week.

Welfare lien legislation (HB6516) was passed by the House of Representatives last week and the Senate on Monday! We encourage you to spend some time watching the debate that happened in the House of Representatives on this bill. View debate on this bill by clicking here. It will give you a feel for how legislation moves and the way the legislature conducts business. Great work, everyone!

Teach ins scheduled on GHIAA's current legislative issues: The Unitarian Universalist Society: East (a GHIAA congregation) is hosting two teach ins on current GHIAA campaigns. Click here to learn more. Join one of these to get the latest updates on where things stand and what you can do! These are scheduled for March 4th at 7pm and an identical workshop is scheduled for March 5th at noon. Email ghiaa@cljct.org for the zoom link.

Church Community & Business News

Looking Ahead

Remember — just two months ago — when the USH board sponsored congregational listening sessions in order to hear your thoughts and desires? At the time, we were thinking, primarily, about when we gather in person. How might our experiences during pandemic restrictions have shifted? What are our hopes and expectations of life in our USH community when we come back? Many insights were captured; we're still sorting and bundling comments. More information about that in coming weeks.

For the rest of this article please view [HERE](#).

Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Community Within

Building & Grounds: Moving Forward and Keeping the Congregation Well Informed

In our 2/24 USH-Enews, Building and Grounds sought comments and

suggestions on a proposal. The proposal responds to Board Listening Session, in which USH members and friends stressed the desirability of having streaming services from the Sanctuary and/or Fellowship Hall. This streaming capability would be valuable particularly now, but also in the future when we return to full attendance.

In the session attended by 19 individuals, Jon Covault and Paul Cipriano explained the proposed plan to upgrade our electronic ability to stream services and related content from the Sanctuary. Thoughtful reactions, comments, and observations then informed the Zoom discussion for the next 75 (or so) minutes.

There was unanimous agreement on two general principles.

First, during this time of accelerated change in the life of USH, the project should go forward both to prepare for what the future **will** deliver (think, make our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall well equipped for current and future inhabitants of our landmark Meeting House). In addition, we will both symbolically and actually be making desirable electronic improvement to our historic building.

Second, keep the congregation members fully informed as the project moves forward. This is especially important as what might be termed "informational inclusion" is both essential to the collective feeling of belonging to "Team USH", and a challenging goal when, dispersed under Covid conditions, we meet by electronic means.

On specific issues, we learned the chancel audio system was upgraded just about when Covid arrived a year ago. Consequently, it is ready to feed audio to parts of the streaming apparatus. Participants also noted the contemplated electronic items are not aesthetically prominent, so the degree of member concern does not reach that for the pending upgrade to Sanctuary lighting. (Yes, that project is still in progress).

Questions revealed the equipment acquisition will make possible transmission of services to those at home when installed, both before we return to full attendance at the Meeting House and after, but will also be more responsive to the needs of challenged individuals not otherwise able to participate in USH activities, always an important concern. There will be associated ability to participate in meeting and similar events.

Worship Associates present, Laurie Kelliher, Margaret Leicach and Sue Smolski expressed enthusiasm for the potential of the new equipment as existing arrangements have been, shall we say, a bit of a challenge from within the Sanctuary. Producing future streaming services with the backdrop of the Chancel will be a wonderful improvement both under Covid requirements when only the "actors" are present and in the future with full attendance.

Parlour Session: Abbie Gardner

Friday Mar 26th, 2021 @ 07:00 PM

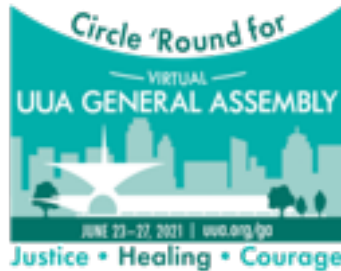
Join us for a live-stream series, concert and conversation, hosted by Dina Hall. Presented over [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

The live-stream is free to watch, but we encourage you to Pay What You Will through the artist's link. All proceeds will benefit the artist. Visit the artist's website at [Abbie Gardner](#).

**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/>



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



The Unitarian Society of Hartford honored La Bodequita de la Gente with the Courageous Love award during the worship service on February 14th.

La Bodequita operates a pop-up food pantry every Tuesday afternoon on Park Street in Hartford. It's also the place that receives the paper shopping bags that USH members bring to the church.

The need is great. When I arrived to drop off bags 15 minutes before La Bodequita opened, the line of people waiting stretched an entire block.

Xiomy de la Cruz and Ingmar Riveros accept the USH Courageous Love award.



Congratulations to our Courageous Love 2021 Awardees:

[La Bodeguita de la Gente](#) and [Mutual Aid Hartford/ Apoyo Mutuo](#)

Connect with them here:

[La Bodeguita de la Gente](#) & [MutualAidHartford.com](#) and [@MutualAidHartford](#) on Venmo

How to support:

Contribute to our Good Neighbor Offering to these two groups - send your check to USH (put "Share the Love" in the memo of your check or **[donate online](#)**)

Bring your paper grocery bags to USH, and Virginia DeLima will continue to get them to La Bodeguita

Donate directly or get involved: [@MutualAidHartford](#) on

Venmo, **[MutualAidHartford.com](#)** or **[La Bodeguita de la Gente](#)**

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.



**A member of
USH
successfully
sold their car by
posting it here
on E-News!!
Thanks to USH
members for
spreading the
word~**

News from the USH Board of Directors



The Board is very pleased to welcome Rob Spector as USH President Elect. The Nominating Committee recommended Rob to fill the position for the remainder of the 2020-21 church year. He will be the nominee for President on the 2021-22 slate of officers up for congregational vote at the Annual Meeting on May 16th. A lifelong, UU, Rob has been a member of USH since 1997, and has been very active in RE and as a worship associate. His Bio is attached [HERE](#) for your convenience.

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 **Sept-Oct 2020** 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 hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

News in the Larger Community



I hope you are all doing well. Since public concerts are hard to come by, I made this home video with my sister Yu-Chen and the two nieces. It is joined together from CT and CA. I hope you enjoy it. Thank you!
Sincerely,
Pi-Hsun

Mother Goose Suite by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) - YouTube. I. Pavane for a

Sleeping Beauty II. Little Thumb III. Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas IV. Conversations of Beauty and the Beast V. The Fairy Garden Piano Pr...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTtXbR9H-9U&t=725s>

AIM Alert: Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Resources from EqUUal

We want to bring to your attention these resources and connections now regularly available for Unitarian Universalists who self-identify as living with disability. If you are a person with a disability, you can go to the EA website to find the weekly theme and the active links to join all

connections by Zoom: <http://www.equualaccess.org/connect-online/>

- **Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm** Eastern Time: Theme Chat (with an EqUUal Access facilitator)
- **Thursdays @ 8:00 pm** Eastern Time: Oasis (worship service/spiritual gathering by/for disabled UUs led by EqUUal Access volunteers, ministers, seminarians)
- **Fridays @ 1:00 pm** Eastern Time: Craft & Chat (bring your latest craft project/idea and join in relaxed conversation-- with an EqUUal Access facilitator)
- Individual Pastoral Conversation with a UU minister (by appointment)

Pastoral Conversation appointments are available with Rev. Helen McFadyen or Rev. Barbara Meyers. Please email hmfadyen@uuma.org or bfkmeyers@gmail.com to arrange a private Zoom or telephone call.

Thank You,
Shelly & Helen (AIM Administrative Director Duo)
AIM Alert by Rev. Helen McFadyen, Administrative Director



Annual Taste of Ramadan Event

You are invited to join us for this years MCCT Virtual Taste of Ramadan

Date: Saturday, April 17

Time: 5:00-6:30 pm

Event is free and open to all!

Registration is required

Zoom link will be emailed closer to the date

REGISTER **HERE**

Register by noon 4/17/21

A panel of Muslims from diverse backgrounds will share what Ramadan and fasting means to them.

Panel presentations will be followed by Q and A session

For questions email us at info@mcct.us or call 860-242-1707.



**You're invited to the Universalist Church of West Hartford's next Virtual Cabaret!
Friday, March 19, 7:00 - 8:30**

Would you like to perform as part of the next Universalist Church Virtual Cabaret on

Zoom? Join in as one of the acts, or come hang out with us in the audience for the entertainment and a chance to see and chat with friends afterward. It's not just music—you could read a poem, tell a joke, or juggle. We're always looking for new performers, and it's very relaxed. Children and families are welcome to entertain us, too!

Please reserve your spot by Friday, March 12, a week before the Cabaret, so we'll know how many folks are performing. If you're going to watch, no need to reserve—just join us! Contact Patrice Fitzgerald through MusicArts@westhartforduu.org. Click the link below to watch our February cabaret Zoom, featuring What A Wonderful World, Crazy Love, When Will I Be Loved, Fly Me to the Moon, Oh, You Beautiful Doll, Who Can I Turn To, A Whiter Shade of Pale, Yesterday, and two original songs. Thanks to all who performed!

<https://youtu.be/OAfTN9jCDm4>

Here are the dates for future Virtual Cabarets:

Monthly on Fridays at 7:00 pm

3/19, 4/16, 5/21, 6/18

Sign in to watch live at those times [here](#). Please contact Patrice at patricefitzgerald@gmail.com for more passcode info.



We're celebrating our un-fur-gettable friends with two online gatherings.

We'll introduce our pets and share what we love about them.

All area UU's are welcome to Come, Sit, and Stay!



**FAMILY PET PAW-TY!
Friday March 26 at 7 PM**

Let's celebrate our un-fur-gettable friends with an online party just for pets, kids & parents.

We'll introduce our pets and share what we love about them.

This is an **inter-congregational online gathering** for UU's from USH, UCWH and UUSE.

REGISTER BY MARCH 20 to get the Zoom link: tom.j.gervais@gmail.com



new programs [here!](#)

CommunityNOW: Please see this online calendar compiling what other UU churches and organizations are doing during this pandemic. Check out some



Please contact our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie is working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at

hartforduusociety@gmail.com.

Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

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
revheatherrionstarr@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

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/>.



Image: "Gertrude" our newest possible member here at USH ~