



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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**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 7, 2021

**Building Community Since 1830
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers**



www.iloveqatar.net

April 11th, 2021, 10:00am

"Not Yet"

Ramadan begins~

As we continue to move into resplendent Spring and look forward to post-pandemic life and the summer months ahead, still, we are continually reminded: we are *not there yet*.

Join us in this service reflecting on being present in all the mud and wonder of this moment, just as it is.

**Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister
Rayla D. Mattson, DRE
Sam Moffett, DMM
Margaret Leicach, 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.**

March is Stewardship month at USH.

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



Personal News of the Congregation

Bonita "Nita" Hansen

With heavy hearts, we write to USH members to share with you that longtime member Nita Hansen passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and friends. Nita's obituary can be viewed [HERE](#).

**We send our love to Nita's family at this time. Cards for the family can be sent to Bonnie Dell, 21224 Lakeland St. Claire Shores, MI 48081. Thoughtfully,
Revs. Heather & Cathy Rion Starr**

Personal News of the Congregation

Jane (Moseley) Bronk

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Jane Bronk on Sunday, March 21st, 2021. There will be a memorial service at Loomis Chaffee in the Fall according to COVID protocols. Those wishing to make a donation in lieu of flowers may do so to the Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Road S.W., Lilburn, GA 30047 or by visiting www.lbda.org. **Her full obituary can be found [HERE](#).**



We are sad to inform you of the death of USH member Paul Christie. Please look for updates in the Enews as we gather information. 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

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

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

Here is this week's story with our DRE: [\(20+\) Unitarian Society of Hartford | Facebook](#)

This week the middle school and high school will have a combined game night with several other churches in New England. Please join us for a fun filled evening on Friday from 7:00-8:30pm [HERE](#).

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

Chomp-n-Chat with Rayla
April 28th at 12noon, please join in [here](#).



Unitarian Society of Hartford
Inquirer Series
 An Introductory Program for Newcomers and
 Friends and Interested Members
 Spring 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.

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](#).

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.

APRIL 8's Book – *The Gone Dead* – Chanelle Benz

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**.

Social Justice at USH

**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.

Orientation Dates/Times:

- Wednesday April 7th - 12:00pm to 1:30pm
- Tuesday April 13th - 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Leadership Institute Training Dates/Times: Six Tuesday Evenings from 7:00pm – 9:00pm: **1.** April 27, 2021

- 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

Community Within, Even When Virtual~

Our coffee hour break-out room conversation last Sunday took a sober turn. Of the nine little Zoom box inhabitants present, three of us admitted to carrying weight of recent losses in our lives. These losses involve physical changes, causing (currently, at least) an inability to function as we previously had done. Contemplating a radically different — and presumably limited — future is a frightening prospect. Talking openly about the feelings accompanying such changes does not often happen out in the wild.

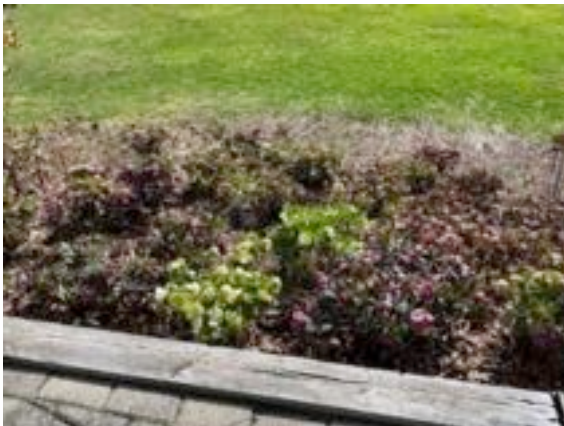
Yet there we were, in a confessional of sorts, with folks we know fairly well, kinda well, or not well at all, speaking of things personal and challenging. Everyone listened attentively. No one suggested “fixes”, or attempted to gloss over the pain and grief inherent in each person’s situation. Only support and encouragement were offered.

Where else does this happen?? Perhaps with particularly close friends, or a partner, or perhaps a therapist. But we have this special place here — we can come, whoever and however we are, and find caring and acceptance. How rare this is, in today’s often-fractured society.

This is the kind of personal connection people value. During those January listening sessions, when we asked “what helps you feel connected to USH?”, the response most often cited was “each other”. We look forward to seeing one another, whether in person or virtually; we care about one

another; we want to shake hands and hug again, when we can. Individually and collectively, we've incurred great losses this year. Coming together to remember, grieve, and celebrate the good — all at the same time — is an integral part of community. *Thank YOU for creating and supporting our rare, precious community here.*

Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Community Within~



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE MEETING HOUSE:

Here are a few notes about developments around our Meeting House home:

Recently spring arrived and the Memorial Garden was cleaned up by the efforts of Paul and Laura Cipriano. It looks terrific! The Hellebores are especially beautiful at this time of year.

Stop by and take a look at the emerging signs of spring. **Thanks to the Ciprianos~**

The Building and Grounds project to provide streaming capability for services moved forward with selection of equipment. The camera was set up in the Sanctuary and a connection arranged to a TV to show how it would function in reduced light conditions as well as changing focus and direction. Here is the demonstration in progress.



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.

News from the USH Board of Directors

The Board is pleased to announce the members of the Interim Minister search team. They are; Tara Cote, Lisa Galinski, Jim Venneman, and Board members Dana Donovan and Sarah McKenzie. Our thanks to them for volunteering to do this important work.

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 hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

News in the Larger Community

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](https://www.uua.org/ga)



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>


THE MUSLIM COALITION OF CONNECTICUT PRESENTS

A TASTE OF
RAMADAN
FASTING
 IN
 ISLAM

ONLINE EVENT



SATURDAY APRIL 17TH, 5:00-6:30PM
 REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED VIA WWW.MCCT.US
 FOR INFORMATION EMAIL US AT INFO@MCCT.US

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

**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.



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



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/>.