



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.**

APRIL 21, 2021

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



Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd, MEd, CRE-ML is a Master Credentialed Religious Educator and Aspirant for ministry. He serves on the Board of Trustees of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). In this time of physical distancing, Greg misses hugs and movie theaters. Greg also works as the Coordinator for More Than Sex-Ed, a Greater LA-based sexuality education collective that brings the UUA- and United Church of Christ comprehensive sexuality education curriculum, Our Whole Lives, to schools, home school groups and the greater community.

April 25th, 2021, 10:00am

"The Journey"

Despite the many hiccups that keep happening along the way, we've been on our way to the Beloved Community for some time now. In fact, we occasionally build bubbles of that justice-making space through our collective organizing as well as our policies and how we distribute our money and other resources. Gather with us for a service of practicing building the Beloved Community along each phase of the journey to get there.

Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd, MEd, CRE-ML, Guest Speaker

Rayla D. Mattson, DRE

Sam Moffett, DMM

Gretchen Spector, 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.

Stewardship Follow-up.

Thanks to all who have pledged. If you haven't yet but intend to, please let Peter Meny, pmeny9@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:

In these weird pandemic times, it often seems like things either a) aren't happening at all, or b) appear as if by magic. 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.
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 me and Sage for this week's story time. [\(20+\) Unitarian Society of Hartford | Facebook](#)

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

Dungeons and Dragons will meet on Friday at 7:00pm [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

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](#).



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.

To Register contact Buffie Pinney at hartforduusociety@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.

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.

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



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
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. Thank 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

A soft, slow opening

Though it hasn't felt that way, our Meeting House has in fact been open — to a very limited extent — since November 2020. Understandably, during a winter fraught with pandemic spikes as well as major drama on the national political scene, most of our attention has been directed elsewhere.

Vaccination rates are growing — more than half eligible adults (16+) in Connecticut have received their first shot, and close to one million are fully vaccinated. The state has lifted capacity restrictions for most establishments, provided masking and distancing practices are heeded. Last week USH's board voted to remove the 15-person limit we'd earlier set for groups meeting within our building or on the grounds.

Practically speaking, what does this mean? If you are participating in some small-group activity, your group can again meet here, without concern for group size. Rental activities can resume. There *may* be some experimentation with components of worship, though many variables are involved here and, thus, no guarantees.

What is *not* intended is large groups mingling without regard for safe practices, or casual drop-ins simply to "hang out". Purpose and planning are critical.

These protocols, many of which come directly from CDC and State of Connecticut specifications, are in effect until that time when they're not:

Masks are to be worn in the presence of others. Masks have been shown to be an effective way of preventing airborne spread of virus, and therefore an important safety measure.

Distancing — continue maintaining 6 feet between you and the person next to/across from you. This may require changing room arrangements if your group adds participants.

Coordinating/scheduling — all meetings or events **must** be arranged through “official channels” ... Buffie (internal groups) or Rayla (rentals) **and** noted on the calendar. We simply need to exert a higher degree of mindfulness, for our own safety and the safety of others.

As has previously been our position, individual and small family group visits to the memorial gardens can take place at any time.

This all may seem as if there’s not much progress. If, however, a few groups begin to venture in for their meetings... while arranging for virtual inclusion of those not yet willing or able to visit physically... we will again start visioning ourselves as a community **within**. Perhaps, over summer while nice weather prevails, a few more gatherings can take place in the memorial Garden or the parking lot. Then, come Ingathering in September, we may be ready for an experience which feels somewhat foreign — it will have been 18 months, after all — but for many of us, so welcome!

For now, we can proceed cautiously, slowly, **as we feel comfortable...** to open the door, peer into the stillness, and then, perhaps, enter.

~A big **thank-you** to the members of the AdHoc Covid Advisory Task Force: Greg Nickett (co-chair), Laurie Kelleher, Rayla Mattson, Stu Spence, and previously, Lisa Galinski.

Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Community Within~



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

More Personal News of the Congregation

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Diana Heyman's sister Martha who died suddenly and peacefully at 11:30 on Tuesday night, at the age of 86. Please feel free to send your sympathies to Diana at her home: 98 Caya Avenue, #C1, West Hartford, CT 06110.

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 hartforduusociety@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

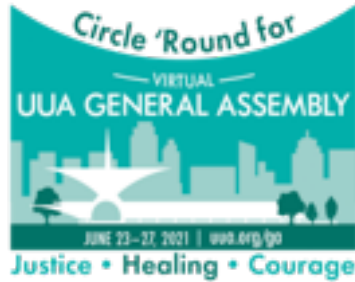
The motto of the Village is "Where Real Change Happens" - that goal has certainly been realized during the past year.

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](#)



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>



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
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

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/>.

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Image:blogs.brighton.ac.uk