

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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Website: www.ushartford.com

Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm,

or email/call for an appointment.

May 19, 2021

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



CB Beal (they/them) is a fat, white, queer and non-binary UU religious educator, storyteller, and speaker based in western Massachusetts. CB was the 2019 recipient of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

They make their home in a farmhouse library loft in western Massachusetts and consult with individuals and organizations to increase consent culture, equity, and justice in the world.

You can find them online at Justice and Peace Consulting.

May 23rd, 2021, 10:00am

"Bear Witness: Save Lives"

In order to tell our stories, it is vital that we are able to trust that people will be still and bear witness to us, acknowledge and accept what we share. We must be present with one another with an empathy that honors our different life experiences. CB will share about the spiritual practice of bearing witness, and trusting others to bear witness to us, with a particular focus on gender.

CB Beal, UU Religious Educator, Guest Pulpit Speaker
Rayla D. Mattson, DRE
Sam Moffett, DMM
Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate
Buffie, Coffee Hour Host

10:00am Worship Service - Join us HERE Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113 Passcode: 014277

11:00am - Fellowship Time will be immediately following services in Zoom. Coffee Hour will resume as usual next Sunday.

Rev Cathy's last USH Chomp-n-Chat

Meets every last Wednesday of the month. Please join us for the next chat with Rev Cathy on **May 26th, 12 noon here**.



Opportunities to say Goodbye to the Revs prior to May 30th:

May 23rd - Especially for Kids on the USH Playground, 3-5 pm

May 30th - Final Worship Service together, 10 am

Interim Minister Updates

Interim Minister Preferences Submitted to UUA:

The Interim Search Committee is following the UUA process, guidelines and timelines for the interim minister search process. Key dates are listed below for your reference.

As of May 3, Interim Search Committee received names of seven interested candidates in Interim ministry at USH. Over the following 2 weeks, the Interim Search Committee selected 4 people to move forward in the process and reviewed their materials, reached out to speak with references, viewed sermons online and conducted video interviews.

On May 16th we submitted our list of preferences to the UUA. All Interim Minister candidates submit their own list of preferencesThe matching process then takes place with the UUA based on the candidates' interest as well. Assuming there is a match, offers are made on May 19th!

Please watch e-News for more updates! We will share updates as they are available.

~Submitted by Lisa Galinski

The search for an interim minister takes place in April and May of each year for an August 1 start	
Date	Activity
March	UUA liaison conducted exit interview with the Board and a separate exi interview with the Revs.
April 20th	USH submitted our posting for an Interim Minister submitted to the UU/ Ministry system
May 3	Names of interested ministers released to Interim Search Committee
May 3-16	Internal process among Interim Search Committee to review submission interview candidates, check references
May 17	USH Interim Search Committee submits Yes/Nos/Maybes to UUA
May 19	Offer Day
May 24	(If needed) Round 2 names released to Interim Search Committee
June 9	(If needed) Round 2 - Offer Day

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

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

Story time with the DRE - https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianSocietyOfHartford

Please join us Sunday after service from 3:00-5:00pm at the church playground for a children's and youth goodbye to the ministers, Robin and Braden.

Sunday June 20th we will have talk back with the DRE. All children, youth, parents, caregivers and RE volunteers are encouraged to attend as we discuss plans for the upcoming church year.

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education 860-233-9897 ext. 104 | ctraylab@gmail.com I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Social Justice at USH

GHIAA ASSEMBLY: On Tuesday, June 15th there will be a GHIAA Delegate Assembly

DEADLINE IS THIS FRIDAY, May 21st - If you are interestesd in attending, please let Dana Donovan know as soon as possible.

- Location: The assembly will be held inside at Asylum Hill
 Congregational Church in Hartford AND it will be live streamed.
- Time: 7pm to 8:30pm
- Covid Capacity: We have the capacity to have 250 people inside the congregation, masked, and socially distanced.
- Turnout Commitment: To allow all congregations to be represented in person, we are inviting each congregation to commit to an in-person turnout commitment between 2-10 people per congregation.

This assembly is for clergy, core team members, and those from the congregation who are interested in learning more about GHIAA.

There is no limit on how may can watch the live stream but we are limited to 10 who can actually attend the meeting in person. If you are interested in attending please let Dana Donovan know as soon as possible.

My email is danadonovan@sbcglobal.com or my phone # is 860-754-7513.

Refugee Resettlement and Co-Sponsorship Training - May 25-27

As most of us know, USH has been helping with a Syrian family in refuge resettlement over the last several years. Richard Groothuis has been the lead person in this effort and continues to keep in contact with the family. While there has not been a lot of activity recently, there is still the possibility of more need in the future. It would be good if one or two more individuals could help Richard out in this effort.

One way to start would be to take the upcoming training being offered by IRIS, Integrated Refuge & Settlement Services. Please see the information and sign up dates **below**.

Thank you, Dana Donovan

Dear Co-Sponsors,

We'll be offering our Virtual Co-Sponsorship Training again May 25-27. As with the April training, it will be in 3 sessions, from 10am-12pm, on three consecutive days. It's fine for people to attend one or two days if they can't make all three days. We can make recordings of these trainings available, but we encourage all who haven't done our training, or all who need a refresher, to attend, for the benefit of live Q&A with IRIS staff. I've listed the session dates & times, with the agenda for each day below. Just click on the blue link to register. Please spread the word among all of your volunteers. We are so glad

& grateful to be partnering with you in the joyful, challenging mission of refugee resettlement!

Tuesday, May 25, 10am-12pm

Update on Refugee Resettlement & Community Co-Sponsorship Putting Co-Sponsorship in Perspective Case Management

Wednesday, May 26, 10am-12pm

Problems & Conflicts
Boundaries & Cross-Cultural Communication
Education
Employment

Thursday, May 27, 10am-12pm

Healthcare/Mental Health Moving Towards Self-Sufficiency Immigration Legal Services Co-Sponsor Roles & Responsibilities Going Forward

Just a note of clarification: This is our virtual adaptation of the day-long training we used to do at IRIS, which we have revised in response to feedback from participants. This is separate from the brand-NEW "deep-dive" sessions Greg is offering with veteran cosponsorship leaders. (You should have received an invitation to those sessions from Greg.)

Warm Regards,
Ashley Makar & the IRIS Community Co-Sponsorship Team
Ashley Makar
Community Liaison
IRIS — Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services www.irisct.org

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 **Completed**
- **3.** May 11, 2021 **Completed**
- **4.** May 18, 2021 **Completed**
- **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 and we will send you the link to sign up.

Church Community & Business News

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

Summer Worship - "Embracing and Releasing"

Summer worship at USH is lay-led by thoughtful, observant, caring and committed members of our congregation. This year the theme of "Embracing and Releasing" will bring sermons opening us to contemplation of the array of emotions and insights we have encountered in the many months since March 2020. So much has happened; our lives, our sleep, our families and friends, the very structure of our days have been affected yet we keep on keeping on.

We will open with General Assembly on June 27 and on the 4th of July we are welcomed to All Souls UU, New London. The calendar for the lay services is currently a scaffold; titles will change and more information will develop as sermons and worship are written and revised but most importantly, take a look at our wonderful speakers and anticipate a summer of embracing and releasing.

June 27 - General Assembly: Live-streamed country-wide UU worship

July 4 - All Souls New London with Rev Carolyn Patierno
July 11 - Judy Robbins "A Summer's Day with Mary Oliver"
July 18 - Rick Tsukada "A Requiem: We are Sorrow, We are Beauty,
We are Love"

July 25 - John Bengston "How to have hard conversations" August 1 - Lisa Galinski "Crossing the Edge"

August 8 - Sue Spaniol/Artists' Way "The Gift of a Year"

August - Out interim minister will join us for a two year exploration

All services will remain on-line until Ingathering September 12th when, fingers crossed, we will resume in-person worship at the Meeting House with a live feed to your home.

~ Submitted by Laurie Kelliher, WA Liason



Meetings at the Meeting House!

It was a delight to see so many faces — some fully-vaccinated souls unmasked, even! — at our flower communion drive-through. There was a sense of emerging from a dark, lonely cave into sunlight and laughter, and a promise of more bright days to come.

Some of you have asked about whether in-person gatherings are happening at the Meeting House, and the answer is yes!

A few guidelines are in order, none of which are new. If you're like me, though, you might notice that some of the personal software-which allows functioning as a civilized person--has been overwritten during the pandemic. I, for one, have gone rather feral. Thus, I need some gentle reminders when it comes to real human interactions. Here's what to do if your group wants to meet in person at USH. The list isn't exhaustive... someone always comes up with some additions... but it'll get us started:

Check the events calendar on the website. The calendar is your friend. Any planned usage of space should be included here. Assuming you see no conflicts for day, time, and space, contact Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com to schedule the space and get your event onto the calendar. Copy Rayla in as well at

<u>ctraylab@gmail.com</u>; she may be dealing with a rental prospect, and needs to know how our space is being utilized.

If your gathering includes some people participating from home, arrange for one of USH's Zoom links to be reserved. One of the benefits (?) of this pandemic comes from broadening virtual connections; let's take advantage of this to continue including those unable to be here in person.

When you do meet, at the end of your gathering please take a few minutes to tidy up and leave things organized for the next group. (You know... re-set the thermostat; turn lights out; don't leave dirty dishes, etc.)

These basic acts of courtesy and consideration once were second nature and will be so again once we reacclimate. Be gentle with yourselves and with each other, and enjoy being together again.

<u>Dear Friend of USH: Are YOU Interested in Becoming a</u> <u>Member of USH?</u>

We will be hosting a New Member Ceremony during the first week of June. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we will have a small, safe, and simple in-person gathering outside at the Unitarian Society of Hartford (USH) Meeting House. At this time, you sign the USH Membership Book which means that you are making a conscious choice to join our congregation with all the rights and responsibilities that come with membership. Once you officially become a new member, we will announce it in the E-news and during a Sunday service. We will also post a short biography and photo introducing you to the congregation.

Prior to joining, we hope you will have been attending some of our Sunday services, participated in the "Inquirers Series" and explored Unitarian Universalism through reading and other activities. We also ask potential members to meet with one of our ministers or other lay leadership. When you feel you have all the information you need to make an informed decision, you are ready to sign the Membership Book.

Here are some things you can receive by being a member of the USH community:

A supportive community, open to meeting your spiritual, social, and emotional needs

- A place to continue your spiritual journey in safety
- A place to be renewed and inspired each week in the company of friends
- A place where you may join with others to do good works in the larger community.

Here are some things YOU can give to the USH community, as you are able:

- Your presence in our worshipping community
- Your participation in small group activities where you can meet other members and continue your spiritual journey.
 - Your commitment to some form of service within and beyond our society
 - · Your gifts of money, time, and talents.

Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a member in June or if you have questions. The deadline for joining in June is May 24, 2021. We will have a small in-person gathering on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at the Meetinghouse. We will follow appropriate social distancing methods and will honor your special requests if possible. We will welcome the new members at the June 6 Sunday service.

Some of you have expressed an interest in waiting until USH opens for regular services. We are hoping to open in September 2021 and will probably hold a new member ceremony live, in front of the congregation in late fall.

~Carolyn Carlson, carlsoncjc@gmail.com 860-462-9757

<u>Making Progress: Upgrading Tech to Stream Services from the Sanctuary</u>

A small group of Buildings & Grounds folks and friend spent a full morning at the Meeting House, helping our incipient live-streaming project move further along. At this time, all the mounted camera feeds are hardwired into a digital mixer, and we now can select among fourvideo images from the sanctuary. There's yet much to be

done: audio synch, graphics, learning the system. But we've taken the leap from idea/concept to real time video, and it looks amazingly good! Even with low lighting, details are clear.

At USH's Annual Meeting this Sunday, you can see an extremely brief clip, thanks to the combined talents of the Covaults, of what's been

accomplished. It looks simple, but it wasn't all that easy. Please take the

opportunity to thank our B&G/Video team for fast-tracking this project and following through on countless details in its birth.

Here are a few candid shots from Saturday below:

- 1. Who are these masked men? (Paul Cipriano, Stu Spence, and Kevin Girouard, running cables into the office)
- 2. Jon Covault painstakingly attaching cable terminals
- 3. Each cable houses 8 color-coded wires; each wire has a specific function
- 4. Hooked up, and trouble-shooting on the montor **Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Community Within~**









Programs for Adults and Families

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.**

Meeting House Presents



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

ttps://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepre

<u>MEETING HOUSE PRESENTS - STAY TUNED FOR IN PERSON</u> <u>DATES!</u>

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 months bistro features Chris Brinn, Julia Plumb, and Mark Roberts & Andrea Cooper. Donations welcome to 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 <u>YouTube</u> or Facebook Live

We hope to see you soon,
Laura and Paul Cipriano
Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

http://www.ushartford.com/nourishingspirit/music/meetinghousepresents/

Caring Network

From the USH Caring Network:

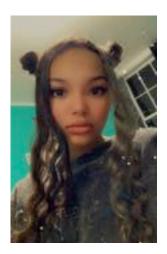
Valerie Klokow would like some help with meals. Standing and cooking have become very difficult for her. She does not feel it is safe for any of us to bring meals to her home. She would welcome gift cards from GRUB HUB, or from restaurants that deliver meals. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE RESTAURANTS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

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.

Church Community Celebrations and Memorials



Our very special Sunday Sexton, Jaz Perez-Acevedo, graduated from St. Joseph Universary on Saturday, May 15 with a degree in Public Policy. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and successful future, Jaz.



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.





Hispanic Women Leaders Award

Please join us in congratulating USH Member, Doris Maldonado for receiving this prestigious award.



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.

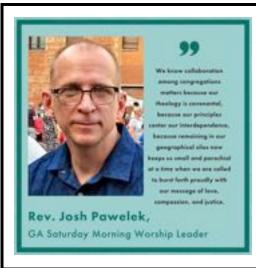
Notes of sympathy can be sent to his children, Cara Christie 75 Randolph Pl N, Washington DC 20001 and Kysa Christie 4349 Tuller Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

News in the Larger Community

UUA General Assembly & Conference Services

We are pleased to announce that our Saturday Morning Worship will be led by a collaborative team from three congregations in the Greater Hartford, CT area. The congregations have been growing in collaboration and covenant for years. A huge welcome to our worship leaders: Rev. Adam Robersmith, Dianne Daniels, Rev. Dr. Josh Pawelek, and Rayla D. Mattson, DRE of USH. In their intergenerational service, that share with you how they learn, practice, pray and dream. #UUConnect # UUAGA







<u>Unitarian Universalists everywhere: it's that time again!</u>

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





Here is the link for GA information and

registration: General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist

Association's Annual Meeting

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 **March & April 2021** have been posted, click <u>HERE</u> 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.

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 <u>HERE</u>.

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



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. **Buffie's always** happy to hear from you!

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon.

<u>Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com</u>
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/.