

Unitarian Society of Hartford



Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice

**Unitarian Society of Hartford
Building Community Since 1830
Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartfordusociety@gmail.com
Website: www.ushartford.org
Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through
Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or email/call for an
appointment.
May 11, 2022**



May 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

"The Shared Ministry of Listening"

Listening is one of the most challenging practices for any of us. At the heart of ministry is listening. This is no less so with shared ministry. Ministry that is shared and how listening is essential to wholehearted shared ministry is the focus of Rev. Jan's message this Sunday morning and carries through in the songs that we sing together, the readings offered, and the time for all ages.

Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest
Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess

Susan Hope and Dana Donovan, Ushers
 Kathy Lee and Sue Smolski, Greeters
 Helen David, Welcome Table
 Chancel Art, Tina Davies

MATTERS OF THE HEART are shared from the pulpit each Sunday.

In person: Index cards and pencils are located at the entrance to the sanctuary. Online: Access MattersoftheheartUSH@gmail.com by 9 a.m. Sunday.

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service
Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

Closed captions are available.
Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
Passcode: 128493

11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time will be immediately following services both in person and ZOOM.

You can also watch the Sunday service
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>
or on the USH [Facebook](#) page.



Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull is a Unitarian Universalist minister, as of June 2019 retired, or “rechanneled”.

She has served congregations in Meriden, CT; Kingston, NY; Cohasset, MA; and New York City. During this time, she has held leadership positions in professional associations and community organizations, with a focus on racial and immigrant justice and trauma response. She continues to be active in the immigrant rights movement, advocacy initiatives for progressive voting and is a Good Officer in her UUMA chapter. Most recently, she has taught courses on Henry David Thoreau and on “Hope, Not Optimism, Hope” through Wesleyan University’s Institute for Lifelong Learning. Jan holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Colorado; an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, NYC; and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Yeshiva University, NYC. Her great loves include family, friends,

free-range reading, and ocean swimming. Jan resides in Middletown with her husband Dr. Daniel Bull, and their beloved mutt, Pablo. Their blended family includes three daughters and three adorable grandkids.

Notice of USH Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting: May 22, 2022

The Unitarian Society of Hartford's annual meeting will be held May 22, 2022. It will be an in-person gathering at the Meeting House, following our service that Sunday. Those choosing to view from home will be able to do so via Zoom. We will have a light catered lunch, including some gluten-free and vegetarian dishes. Also, Annie Witzler is planning family activities so childcare will be available.

A detailed agenda will be published closer to the date of the meeting. Board and council members will talk briefly about accomplishments during the past year. USH members will vote on the slate of officers and council chairs proposed for the 2022/23 year and also will vote to approve minutes from the 2021 annual meeting.

The slate is as follows:

President (One-Year Term): Eve Pech

President-Elect (One-Year Term): Dana Donovan

Treasurer (Two-Year Term): Jon Covault

Council Chair, Administration (2-Year Term): Paul Cipriano

Council Chair, Community Within (2-Year Term): Tina Davies

Council Chair, Social Justice (1-YearTerm*): Judy Sullivan

* To serve Year 2 of Dana Donovan's elected term

In addition to the above candidates, our Secretary, Sarah Harmon MacKenzie, and our Council Chair, Spiritual Life, Peter Meny, will be serving the second year of their two-year terms which began effective July, 2021.

~ Sarah Harmon McKenzie,

Secretary

We also hope to be able to share some findings from the personnel investigation, including steps to be taken, which will certainly be dictated by the contents of the report of our fact-finding team. We expect to receive that report this week. The report is confidential and will detail the tireless work of this fact-finding team over the past several weeks.

In the past two months, I have been so encouraged by the efforts of so many members of the congregation, who have stepped up to volunteer countless hours during this very difficult time. Please, all of you, take a moment to appreciate the strength of our congregation and how much we do to support each other.

I also have heard from some of you, expressing frustration with the process of addressing this confidential personnel matter. I *do* understand the frustration, yet caution you not to reach conclusions or express opinions based on what is necessarily a lack of information. The fact remains that this personnel matter is confidential.

We have a dedicated group of hardworking people with integrity and intelligence working to address this. I ask that you pause for a moment, approach this time with patience and grace, reflect on how hard these individuals are working for you and this church, and consider expressing, instead of anger or frustration, a sense of gratitude and kindness toward them.

~ Rob Spector, President

USH Community: Poetry of Mothers, Mamas, and Mothering

A Mother's Day Poetry Sampler

Last Sunday's pulpit guest Sue Smolski reflected on the power of poetry to convey sentiments which otherwise may elude our grasp. "Those deep feelings that being a Mother, a Mama, or Mothering can evoke lend themselves to poetic expression. In preparing this service I cast an electronic net, i.e., I sent an email, out to four women poets that are either members or friends of the congregation. All four women responded! We have another Box of Chocolates...the gift of another sampler."

For several minutes, Sue presented a reading of works — most by our members and friends, one found serendipitously on the UUA's WorshipWeb site by an anonymous poet. Each of these gems reveals a facet of being a mother, or a mama, or mothering, or accepting loss of real or hoped-for mother or mother figure. The gamut runs from humor to heartache, and these guest poets touch the full range.

This week and next, we give you another chance to savor these poetic reflections. *Moon For Mom*, Marye Gail Harrison's memoir of her mom's final days, is introduced below and continued in full on our website. And poems by member Beverly Spence and friend of USH Heidi McCloskey (the pseudonymous H. Victoria

Morgan to whom Sue alluded) are presented in their entirety here, for you to savor.

MOON FOR MOM

My 92 year old mom was lying in the hospital bed, rubbing her hands around her distended belly, enormous in her 95 pound body.

"What's in there?" she said.

"I think you swallowed the moon."

"Looks like it," she chuckled.

(Marye Gail's poetry continues [here](#))

MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

*My mother taught me not to envy.
There is always someone
smarter, prettier, richer she said.*

HANDS

*Yet I once saw a small child—
say four or five or perhaps six—
standing with her father
and leaning into him so close
Butter.
that their shadow was one entity.
And an envy I could not control
rose within me for the kind of father
I never had, and I would have traded
every bit of smart, pretty or rich
for such fatherly love.*

Many times I saw my grown son

MY GRANDMOTHER'S

*Wooden, the tub,
Rhythmic, the pace,
We are churning Milk into*

*Stove warms my back.
Crackle of Fire,
Aroma of Warm Bread,
Hint of Barn
Saturates the Kitchen.*

Sunlight, filtered through

*Leaves,
hold his newborn baby daughter
in the crook of his bent arm
as he sat rich as a king who had
everything he ever wanted
and I felt that some minus within me
had turned into some plus within him.
I give thanks for whatever gods
taught me how to raise a father.*

~ Beverly Spence

yearning.

*Dimly enters
Dusty, musty space:
Her Silence thickens the Air.*

*Salt & Pepper Crown of Hair
Circles her Face.
Cerulean eyes gaze
At nothing in particular.*

*Up & Down; Up & Down.
My Hands next to hers,
Her Strength, my*

Now, her Hands are mine.

~ Heidi McCloskey

Did UU Know?



An Illustrated Tale of Our Sanctuary Roof

by David Newton, B&G

Much of the history of our remarkable Meeting House is interwoven with the history of the now infamous Sanctuary Roof. Come with me for an entertaining journey of discovery and improvements to our shared Meeting House home since about 1964.

After attending Unitarian churches and fellowships elsewhere, Janice and I joined the Unitarian Society of Hartford in the 1990s during the ministry of Jon Luopa. Not long thereafter, I joined the Building and Grounds Sub-Council, soon becoming Secretary Pro Tem of the group, something which continues into 2022!

Early on it was apparent something was unique about the Sanctuary roof, as whenever it rained, we needed to fetch out buckets that were placed strategically among the pews. Some individual pews were delaminating from becoming wet so frequently.

Here, above, is a photo of the roof, circa 2005. If you look carefully, you will see a lake on the left side.

The story I was told went something like this:

When Victor Lundy designed the Meeting House, his vision was of the vaulted ceiling we now enjoy in the Sanctuary. The method of creating the vaulted space was by suspending the entire structure, with cables emanating from individual buttresses rising above sloping peripheral roof segments. Incidentally, these buttresses are of different height — thus symbolizing separate paths to truth as visioned by Unitarians on their spiritual journeys.

The cables supported a kind of inverted tent or bowl shape. As rain fell on the inverted “bowl”, it flowed toward four peripheral drains. In keeping with the aesthetics, these four roof drains conducted water inside the buttresses, thereby avoiding pipes and other plumbing items in view. The internal pipes emerged above the roof line about halfway down the

sweeping lower roofs. No one realized at the time exiting water would first pass into the buttress surrounded by warm sanctuary air only to exit above the roof line in freezing conditions. More about that later.

Remember the inverted bowl shape.

As soon as the building was populated in its mostly finished status, the roof began to leak.

Continue [here](#) for more exciting photos and history...

Social Justice



GHIAA invites you to participate in a racial justice training on May 24 and 25, via [Zoom](#). A daytime training will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon, and then the training will be repeated in the evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The training explores a framework to help unmask and dismantle racism wherever it appears. The training is designed for both BIPOC and white individuals looking to explore the ways our multiple identities and experiences inform how we show up in multi-racial spaces with compassion and a commitment to anti-oppression.

Please register [HERE](#). Any questions, please contact me.

Judy Sullivan
860-719-9886
jasullivan57@gmail.com



USH
Calendar of
Events
for May 2022
can be

viewed **HERE**.

Please contact **Buffie** with any questions or concerns.

Meeting House Presents

Magic and Myth: Music from the Old World and the New
Seán Heely duo with bouzouki player Beth Patterson
Friday May 13, 2022

50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

website <https://www.seanheely.com/>

tickets: <https://seanheelyduo.bpt.me>

Experience the magic music of Scotland and Ireland with Seán Heely and Beth Patterson. Along with his accolades in Traditional Music, Seán made his Classical solo debut with the Virginia Symphony in 2012 performing Mozart's 5th Violin Concerto. A composer and arranger, Seán has won national awards including the 2016 Scottish Fiddling Revival's Tune writing competition. Seán was a featured soloist with the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, VA in April 2017 and 2019. Recently, Sean was named the recipient of the first annual Claude Martin Memorial Life Membership Award from the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, an honor granted in recognition of his significant contributions to the local folk scene while still under age 30.

U.S National Scottish Fiddle champion Seán Heely and bouzouki player Beth Patterson perform fiery dance tunes and ancient, soaring melodies from Scotland and Ireland. Original compositions abound and they have rich vocal harmonies in their solid song repertoire that features ballads, sea shanties, and songs in Irish and Scottish folk tradition. Seán plays fiddle, mandocello, shruti box, and sings in English, Irish, and Scots Gaelic.

Multi-Genre violinist/fiddler Seán Heely is one of the most creatively versatile and captivating young artists of his generation. He is a [U.S National Scottish Fiddle Champion](#) as well as an award-winning Irish Fiddler and singer in the folk traditions of Scotland and Ireland. Seán holds a degree from University of South Carolina in Classical Violin Performance and was a 2019 [Artist in Residence at Strathmore Music Center](#) in Maryland. An educator in demand, Seán is an [Adjunct Instructor at American University](#), he has also been on the faculty at several summer camps such as [Acadia Traditional School of Music and Arts](#), [Upper Potomac Fiddle Retreat](#), and [Fiddle Hell Festival](#). He was selected to compete in the prestigious Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann All-Ireland Senior Fiddle competition in Aug 2017. He has performed in Scotland, Ireland, and at venues in the U.S such as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Seán has performed with traditional music icons such as Liz Carroll, Bonnie Rideout, Natalie Haas, Cathy Jordan, Eamon O'Leary, Zan McLeod, and Paddy Keenan.

\$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID.

tickets: <https://seanheelyduo.bpt.me>

[Irish Jigs ~ Sean Heely & Beth Patterson - YouTube](#)

[Oran eile don Phrionnsa - Sean Heely & Beth Patterson - YouTube](#)

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford

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

Programs & Events for Adults and Families



May Lunch Bunch

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Join Us For Lunch!

We will gather on Tuesday, MAY 17 at 12 noon. Fred Louis will share Part 2 of his story. If you

plan to attend, please let me know by noon on Thursday, MAY 12. Call me at 860-212-6923 (leave a message if I don't answer) or email me at janicecnewton@gmail.com.

The Lunch Bunch meets at Concetta's, Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Ave., Bloomfield. You will be able to order off the menu. Separate checks will be provided. There is convenient parking. We will meet at Concetta's on the third Tuesday of the month, 5/17/22, and 6//21/22. We are looking for speakers. Are you interested, or do you know someone who would be interested, in speaking to the group? If so, please contact me. **Reservations are necessary.** Hope to see you on the 17th!



Meeting House Sing-Along Saturday, May 14

We are still Singing!

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along: Fred Louis and Ed Savage offer an opportunity to CT Singing families, singers, song-writers, and audience members to join in song on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 PM.

Meetings, Events, Programs

HARTFORD GAY MEN'S CHORUS presents Singing From the Heart of Hartford, Saturday June 4, 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, 3 p.m. AEtna Theater at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Tickets: \$45 and \$30. Purchase tickets online at: HGMC.ORG/EVENTS-TICKETS

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.

Book Selections 2022

May 12 – *The Extended Mind: Thinking Outside Your Brain* – Anne Murphy Paul

June 9 – *The Hellfire Club* – Jake Tapper

July 14 – *Hamnet* – Maggie O'Farrell

August 11 – *The Vanishing Half* – Brit Bennett

20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at tcote11@gmail.com.

Disability Support Group:

This group meets online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. A zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. 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 group stays in the group. Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call at **860-904-7768**.

Caring Network

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member or friend experiencing some difficulty, please contact **Janice Newton** at janicecnewton@gmail.com 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.

Your 2021-2022 USH Board of Directors

Rob Spector: President
Eve Pech: 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. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister (ex-officio)

The next board meeting is Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

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

The Board Meeting minutes for **April 2022** 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.

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.org/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.org/events/

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) 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. Announcements about upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>

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revterryush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

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smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Bob Hewey, acting Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartfordusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

News from Buffie's Desk



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.

Buffie works Sunday through Thursday from 9 am – 2 pm. Please email her

at hartfordusociety@gmail.com.

Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



Sunday Welcome Volunteers

See Sign Up Genius Link [HERE](#). Please contact Buffie

at hartfordusociety@gmail.com for any assistance or additional questions.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

Email to: hartfordusociety@gmail.com OR
enewsush@gmail.com

Please note in the subject line "USH Enews." Thank you for your submission!