

# **Unitarian Society of Hartford**



**September 14, 2022**

**Building Community Since 1830**

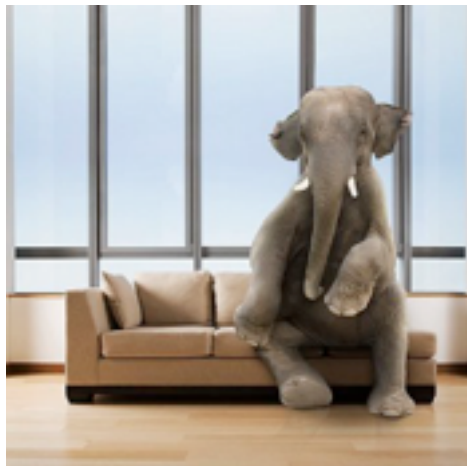
**Unitarian Society of Hartford**

**50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

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**[www.ushartford.org](http://www.ushartford.org)**

**Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to email/call for an appoi**



**September 18, 2022: 10:30 a.m.**

**“There’s An Elephant in the Church...Ahh...What’s An Elephant?”**

**Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest**

**Judy Robbins, Worship Associate**

**Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

**Chancel Art, Susan Hope**

**Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator, will meet with the children  
in the Chapel today.**

**Annie Witzler, Welcome Table**

**Ginny Hedrick, Greeter**

**Larry Lundene & Ginny Hedrick, Ushers**

**Matters of the Heart:**

Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email [HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com](mailto:HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com)

In person – use MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

**10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service**

**Join us in ZOOM [here](#)**

**See Order of Service [here](#)**

**Closed captions are available.**

**Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934**

**Passcode: 128493**

**11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour**

**Immediately following the service,  
in person and ZOOM**

**Question & Answer session pertaining to Governance Task  
Force Report, Noon, in the Sanctuary**

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



**Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest**

Rick is a Worship Associate, worked for Judy at Rowe Camp and Conference center, as well as a large animal veterinarian (just joking...).

**Judy Robbins, Worship Associate**

Judy Robbins is a Worship Associate, a UU for over 50 years and a former Director of Family Camp at Rowe Camp and Conference Center.



## *Worship News*

### **About Our Worship Associates**

All of our our current Worship Associates were new to the role when they started. I imagine not many of us envisioned that we would ever be crafting worship services or being pulpit guests when we started, either. That all evolved over time.



Ten years ago, then Interim Minister Rev. Dave Johnson often reminded us, "We have each other's backs". And we do, every Sunday and whenever needed.

There is a mentoring process for each Worship Associate. The initial role of a Worship Associate is in services with a settled minister. In our current situation this would be with one of our experienced Worship Associates as the pulpit guest. Our goal is for new Worship Associates to be comfortable and to grow into the role.

New Worship Associate Orientation Session will be held Sunday, October 2 from 12 – 1:30 p.m. in the library. Monthly WA meetings are held, usually on the third Thursday of the month.

Contact Sue Smolski at [Sue.smolski@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.smolski@gmail.com) if you would like to join this orientation session.

#### Upcoming services:

**September 25** – "Shanah Tovah" – Reverend Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest and Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

**October 2** – "Forum Format: To Seek The Truth in Love" – Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest and Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

**October 9** – "In Their Own Words: Lucy Stone and Olympia Brown" – Carol Simpson and Susan Barlow, Pulpit Guests and Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

**Come let us worship together in the light of our sanctuary and the warmth of this congregation.**

*Sue Smolski    **Worship Associate Coordinator***

### **Welcome Team Sign-Up**

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table this fall. Simple, rewarding short-term commitments helping extend hospitality to members and visitors.

Use the Sign-Up Genius app [here](#) to be part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team.



## ***Congregational Matters***

### ***Let There Be Light!***



***Spoken by Jim Venneman, Dedicating New Sanctuary Lights***

"Today begins not only a new church year, but also the dedication of these new lights in the USH Sanctuary. I will now give a brief history of

lighting in the sanctuary and why Ellie and I chose to help make these new lights possible.

In Genesis 1, verse 3 we learn “God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” While God may have been able to install lighting that lit up the whole world in one day, it has taken USH many decades to do the same for this sanctuary.

David Newton will demonstrate the new lights. The two lights in front of the chancel are controlled separately from the eight over the pews. Also, the up, side, and down lights operate separately or together, as desired. Each component can also be individually dimmed or brightened through switches on the chancel and by the entrance that turn on and off set arrangements, as is being demonstrated now.

Per Robert Chapman’s summary on the USH website, Victor Lundy wanted the sanctuary to be lit indirectly by the clerestory windows around the center roof. He also envisioned a series of thin “eyebrow” skylights through the roof, with hidden light sources. Fortunately, they realized the building would cost more than originally expected, so these skylights were dropped from the final plans. Over time, they would have caused many leaks, with water coming through the roof everywhere.

This Sanctuary was dedicated on December 6, 1964. With no lights in the ceiling and it being December, it probably was pretty dark inside. The only light was from the clerestory windows, which of course did not help at night; plus any light that came from the lights in the outer ambulatory. And, since the ceiling is wood, far less light was reflected than would have been, had the ceiling been painted white. Per long-time members Marilyn Stockton, Louise Schmoll and Peter Meny, this sanctuary was dark for over twenty years.

When Jon Luopa came in 1986, he insisted there be an overhead light. Roy Cook came up with our “hockey puck.” It helped, but much of the light it generates is wasted, both because light reflects poorly from the dark wood slats and much light is lost through the dark spaces between those slats. Roy used a 1,000 watt bulb designed for outdoor use, which explains the color it emits. The ten new lights are LEDs. The maximum energy draw from all ten (if none are dimmed) is equivalent to 1,060

watts. Since some components will usually be dimmed, USH will get more usable light while using less electricity most of the time. Using less energy to light this sanctuary is consistent with the aim of our seventh principle, which calls for respecting “the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

Since there is no longer a need for the puck light, I will turn it off. You now see the natural color and tone of the woodwork for the first time.

About 10 years ago the “wash lights” were placed on the wall around the sanctuary. These do a wonderful job of lighting the banners and the walkway, but they were never intended to illuminate the central area.

Now to the present. When our son died, Ellie and I wanted to do something to honor the joy he brought to us. In May 2017, I asked Hugh Schweitzer if he thought it possible to get new lights in this sanctuary. He said yes, and he generously offered his architectural expertise and connections. From 2017 until this summer there were numerous hold ups, delays, and frustrations not to mention the novel task of putting lights in our spectacular and unique Sanctuary ceiling.

While God may have been able to light the whole world in one day, we are mere mortals. Today we dedicate these lights — 21,098 days since this Sanctuary was first dedicated in 1964.

I will end by saying that “As our son, David, brightened our world from 1985 to 2017, these Sanctuary lights will brighten USH for years to come.”



### *2022 Ingathering Cookout Images*



## **Governance Task Force Info/Q&A This Sunday**

We want to hear *your* ideas at this Sunday's informational session at noon (or soon thereafter). Members and friends are invited to share information and ideas about the USH Strategic Planning Governance Task Force recommendations:

1. Modify the role of the past president. The expertise of the outgoing president would be very helpful on the new board.



Chairing the nominating committee is not the best use of this expertise.

2. Add two new councils to the governance structure: a Stewardship & Finance Council and a Membership Council.

3. Create two additional Council Chairs, modifying the current Board structure to add these two Council Chairs (Membership and Stewardship), yielding a total of 6 Council Chairs, a President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

We look forward to your thoughts and suggestions about these propositions.

### ***Around the Grounds (and the Building)***

## **Really Good News: NO LEAKS!**

On September 6, 2022, we had continuous rain. According to the rain gauge at the MeetingHouse, we received at least 4 inches.

**AND THERE WAS NO LEAKING IN THE MEN'S ROOM OFF FELLOWSHIP HALL OR IN THE BACK OF SO-CALLED CLASSROOM A.**

Now, the rest of the story...

Aficionados of the Meeting House, book storage folks and many others who use Classroom A for storage of things know puddles in the back of the room creep out from the corners after every rain; they have been doing so since any of us can remember. Many of us have engaged with the wet vac, collecting gallons of water leaking in after every rain and requiring

various blocks to elevate stored items above the periodic floods.

Earlier this summer we dug up the drain under the overhang for the Classroom A Bay and rearranged all the piping with what might be called the polyethylene sheeting installation of drainage piping.

After this considerable labor, we awaited a test of the new installation. An inch of rain was the established criterion to see if the efforts were successful. Nature promptly parched the state of Connecticut until Labor Day; thus the delay in seeing any results.

It worked! Thanks to the installation crew digging, moving gravel, reinstalling pipe, connecting to the old tile drain for the area and all the rest of it. They are Kevin Giouard, Bill Simmons, Ron Sexton, and David Newton.

## *Social Justice*



Connecticut Institute for  
Refugees and Immigrants  
*Strengthening Communities Since 1918*

## **CIRI is September's GNO**

*by Sherry Manetta*

Our Good Neighbor Offering (GNO) for September will go to CIRI — Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. CIRI provides a compassionate array of high-quality legal, social, and

educational programming for refugees, immigrants, and survivors of human trafficking and torture. Operating since 1918, CIRI has assisted refugees and immigrants in becoming self-sufficient, integrated, and contributing members of their communities.

CIRI is a statewide leader and collaborator in delivering services and training, with offices in Hartford, Bridgeport, Stamford, and Waterbury.

Included among CIRI's many current programs are:

- ° Resettlement for Ukrainian refugees (one of CT's three primary resettlement agencies)
- ° A Rental Assistance Program for undocumented immigrants and others not eligible for federal assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic (operated with the CT Department of Housing)
- ° A comprehensive workforce readiness and employment support program.

For more information about CIRI you can follow this link:

<https://cirict.org/what-we-do/>

Susan Schnitzer, CIRI's CEO, will join us at our service on September 25.

You can donate to CIRI throughout the entire month of September. In accordance with our new approach to Good Neighbor Offerings (voted on at the annual meeting), the general collection every Sunday in September will be split 50/50 between USH and CIRI.

There are several ways to donate:

- Donate in person via the offering plate during service (unless otherwise designated, 50% of your offering will go to USH and 50% will go to CIRI).
- Mail a check to USH.
- Donate online at the USH website.

Please be as generous as you can every Sunday in September to support the good work that CIRI does.



The late Congressman John Lewis said “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to *do* something.”

We know that being a Unitarian Universalist isn’t

just about believing in justice, equity, and compassion, but what we do to make those values come alive.

USH has been asked to join the UU congregations in our state to work to pass the **Early Voting Referendum** on the ballot this November. Connecticut is one of only four states that have no form of early voting, and we will work together to raise awareness and encourage voting.

### **Invitation from The Unitarian Society of New Haven:**

- **CT Side with Love/UU the Vote Rally**
- **Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. on**

### **Zoom**

Join Jazahn Hicks, UU the Vote National Campaign Manager, and the USNH UU the Vote team! Get to know folks from other Connecticut UU congregations who are working on electoral justice. We will share successes and challenges, discuss our role in helping pass the CT Early Voting Referendum, and explore

ways we may wish to work together on issues like reproductive rights and LGBTIQ+.

I hope as many folks as possible will join us to get inspired and organize!

Registration link for the upcoming rally, which I hope you'll share widely:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYKHKodAQ9fXpH89SmpUIRbAWva-vNvvd9ERaMS\\_ASN8pRow/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYKHKodAQ9fXpH89SmpUIRbAWva-vNvvd9ERaMS_ASN8pRow/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Those who register will receive the Zoom link closer to the time of the rally. All are welcome!

In solidarity,  
Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Unitarian Society of New Haven

(USH folks: contact Judy Sullivan with questions: [jasullivan57@gmail.com](mailto:jasullivan57@gmail.com))



### **The Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser 2022: a Decade of Support**

Since 2013 The Unitarian Society of Hartford has had a supportive and caring relationship with The Village for Families and Children. During that time children from The Village have attended activities at USH (pre-Covid), The Village has been the recipient of our Good Neighbor

Offering, we have responded to needs as they have arisen, USH has become a special Friend of The Village and every summer USH has donated to the Uniform Fundraiser for The Village.

In this, our tenth year of giving to The Uniform Fundraiser, we donated \$2,260, the largest amount ever! The congregation demonstrated its unwavering support of The Village. The Worship Associates helped by announcing the Fundraiser from the pulpit — this was a shared effort.

Thank you for your support of The Village for Families and Children and for taking the children into your heart.

**Let's continue our tradition for another ten years by contributing to the Uniform Fundraiser in 2023.**

### ***RE and Chalice Clubhouse***



A new year of RE is here!

We hope to see you this Sunday, September 18th, for the kickoff of our RE programming for 2022-2023! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18! Signup online [here](#) or on Sundays in-person at the welcome table!



The USH Youth Group is making soup this Sunday, and it will be available for purchase after the service during coffee hour. Chicken Veggie and Hearty Veggie varieties will be available. All proceeds go to support the USH Youth Group. All leftovers will be delivered to local soup kitchens around the city of Hartford. Come hungry!





The Chalice Clubhouse will be meeting downstairs in Fellowship Hall, along with the USH Sprouts Nursery from 10:30 am to 11:30 am during the main worship service.

**Please note that there will be no Time for All Ages this weekend, so youth and children who wish to participate in RE programming should be in Fellowship Hall (which is located directly downstairs from the main sanctuary) when service begins at 10:30 am, or be dropped off there when their family arrives for service.**

## ***Programs & Events***

### **Creative Connection Circle**

The USH Artist Way group and Connection Circles are combining to offer a new program on Living More Creatively. The 7 weekly sessions will use materials specifically created for this Creative Connection Circle (CCC)!

The sessions will be held Thursdays, beginning October 27 and ending December 15 (with a break for Thanksgiving). The time is 6 – 7:30 p.m.

All sessions will be held on Zoom and will be facilitated by Marye Gail Harrison and hosted by Diana Heymann.

We hope some newer members and friends will use this as a way of getting to know us better.

To register as one of 6 participants contact Diana Heymann at:  
[heydiana42@gmail.com](mailto:heydiana42@gmail.com) with "CCC" on the subject line.



### ***UU SpiritLife***

Good News! *UU SpiritLife Conversations* now happen every other Saturday morning starting September 24, 9-10:30 a.m. on Zoom. You read an article first and then drop-in to a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no

registration required.

Fall spiritual authors include Anne Lamott, Thomas Merton, Lao Tsu, Rabbi Rami Shapiro and even a session on spiritual aging. Go to [UUSpiritLife.org](http://UUSpiritLife.org) for the complete fall schedule and log-in instructions.

Note the dates on your calendar: 9/24; 10/8 & 22; 11/5 & 19; and 12/10 (in person). One of last year's participants said: "Wow, what an interesting, heartfelt opportunity to go deeper with other UUs!"

## Autumn Gatherings (and Possibilities...)

Coming up: new and revived occasions to gather for shared conversation, fellowship, and camaraderie. Here are some opportunities —

**Pizza and Movie Nights** – The movies are returning, starting **Friday October 14** and continuing on the 2nd Friday each month through June.

We have a couple of people interested in planning and organizing **Small Group Ministry Connection Circles...** if you'd like to join this endeavor, let us know by emailing [enewsush@gmail.com](mailto:enewsush@gmail.com) with "SGM" in the subject line.

And, the USH Artist Way group is offering a new program, ***Living More Creatively***. The 7 weekly sessions will use materials specifically created for this Creative Connection Circle (CCC).

The sessions will be held on Thursdays, beginning October 27 and running through December 15 (with a break for Thanksgiving). The time is 6 – 7:30 p.m.

**ATTENTION, LUNCH BUNCHERS:** Our lunch venue, Concetta's, is **UNABLE TO SERVE LARGE GROUPS** while contending with staff shortages. Until further notice, then, the Lunch Bunch is on hiatus. We're hoping for a quick resolution, but who knows??

## ***In Hartford's West End Today***

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Looking for something to do after the Governance Q&A session? Head on over to the 3rd West End Porchfest for music and food from 1 – 6. Pick up a map at the Noah Webster School (on Cone Street) (or see [westendporchfest.org](http://westendporchfest.org)) and follow the music. You might see some familiar faces among the performers...



### **INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP**

***Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our October selection – Tasha: A Son's Memoir by Brian Morton (see preview\* below).***

***Enjoy the reading.***

***If you want to participate in (or listen to) a discussion of the book and related issues, join us on Thursday, September 8 at 2:30, by Zoom or a hybrid meeting.***

***Please contact Ginny Allen at [fiddlenurse1@gmail.com](mailto: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 2022/23***

***Second Thursday of each month***

***October 13 – Tasha: A Son's Memoir by Brian Morton (see preview\* below)***

***November 10 – Girls of Tender Age by Mary-Ann Tyrone Smith***

***December. 8 – Midnight Library by Matt Haig***

***January 12 – Things We Lost in the Water by Eric Nguyen***

***February 9 – The Premonition by Michael Lewis***

***March 9 – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles***

***April 13 – Power: The limits and prospects for human survival***

*by Richard Heinberg*

*May 11 – Beloved by Toni Morrison*

*June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate*

*July 13 – Matrix by Lauren Groff*

*August 10 – Mismeasure of Man by Stephen J Gould*

**\* Our October selection: Tasha, A Son's Memoir**

***Tasha Morton is a force of nature: a brilliant educator who's left her mark on generations of students — and also a whirlwind of a mother, intrusive, chaotic, oppressively devoted, and irrepressible.***

***For decades, her son Brian has kept her at a self-protective distance, but when her health begins to fail, he knows it's time to assume responsibility for her care. Even so, he's not prepared for what awaits him, as her refusal to accept her own fragility leads to a series of epic outbursts and altercations that are sometimes frightening, sometimes wildly comic, and sometimes both.***

***Clear-eyed, “deeply stirring” (Dani Shapiro, The New York Times Book Review), and brimming with dark humor, Tasha is both a vivid account of an unforgettable woman and a stark look at the impossible task of caring for an elderly parent in a country whose unofficial motto is “you’re on your own.”***

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#### **Disability Support Group:**

This group meets online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. The Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988** to talk with a counselor.

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

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting minutes for **May and June 2022** 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](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for the username and password.

### **2022-2023 USH Board of Directors**

**Eve Pech: President**  
**Dana Donovan: President-Elect**  
**Jon Covault: Treasurer**  
**Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary**  
**Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair**  
**Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair**  
**Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair**  
**Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair**

The October board meeting will be 10/11, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom link [HERE](#) and in the USH calendar via this [LINK](#)

**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/](http://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. Articles should be sent as email file attachments, and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thanks for cooperating.**

**USH Staff:**

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

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Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator  
[re4ush@gmail.com](mailto:re4ush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

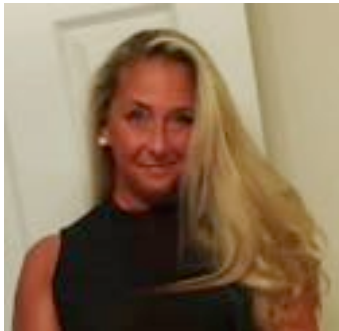
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Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals  
[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 100





*From Buffie's Desk*



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie works Sunday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.. Please email her at [hartforduussociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduussociety@gmail.com)

**Buffie is *always* happy to hear**

**from you!**



USH Calendar of Events

**The calendar for September 2022 can be viewed HERE.**

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