

Unitarian Society of Hartford



Building Community Since 1830

Unitarian Society of Hartford

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduussociety@gmail.com

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 appointment

NOVEMBER 16, 2022



November 20, 2022: 10:30 a.m.

"Gratitude"

Diane Cadrain, Pulpit Guest
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Chancel Arts Sub-Council, Chancel Art
Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

TBD, Welcome Table
Deb Meny & Zean Gassmann, Greeters
Dana Donovan & Peter Meny, Ushers

Matters of the Heart:
Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email 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](#)

**Along with Coffee Hour this Sunday please join
the Information/Discussion session on Proposed UUA By-
Laws Changes [HERE](#).**

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

11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour and discussion on UUA's

proposed Article II revision, immediately following the service, in person and ZOOM.

If you attend through ZOOM, you will need to log out of the service and then log back in with the separate link provided above.

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



Pulpit Guest, Diane Cadrain

Diane Cadrain comes from a Catholic background, but she and her husband Joe raised their three daughters in the Unitarian Society and have been active leaders and participants in congregational life.

Worship Associate, Maragret Leicach

Margaret was baptized Methodist, raised Moravian, spent a few years as a Congregationalist, and then abstained for a few years. She discovered USH by sheer accident in the 80's and immediately knew she was 'home'. Her adult children and 2 grandchildren, agnostics all, happily attend USH with her when they are in the area.



Please note: This issue of USH-Enews provides meeting and activity information for the next TWO weeks. The 11/22 issue will be an abbreviated edition including the week's worship information along with any pressing news which may have developed.

Sunday Worship

Upcoming Sunday Services: Join us, in person or online.

November 27 – Title pending – Rev. Aaron Payson, Pulpit Guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

December 4 – Forum: Title pending/Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest/ Margaret Leicach and Michael Michaud, Worship Associates

December 11 – Music Sunday: Sam Moffett and Laurie Kelliher, Worship Leaders

December 18 – Title pending/ Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

December 21 – Wednesday, 7 p.m., Winter Solstice Service: Michael Michaud and Margaret Leicach, Worship Leaders

December 24 – Saturday, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Service, Peter Meny, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate



December 25 – Sunday, "So Many Gifts..." Sue Smolski and Ron Friedman, Worship Leaders

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.



Denominational Concerns

Let Your Voice Be Heard About Sweeping Changes to UUA Bylaws *Judy Robbins*

The UUA is radically revising the Unitarian Universalist Bylaws this year. The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association has always been to support member congregations. The proposed new purpose of the UUA will be to “equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders...to heal historic inequities...” There is no mention of support for congregations. The familiar Principles and Sources are gone in

this proposal. Take a look at our current Principles and Sources here: [Principles and Sources | Faith like a River | Faith Like a River | Tapestry of Faith | UUA.org](#)

Then compare that with the proposed replacement. It seems that there have been several published drafts of this wording. The latest wording is [here](#):

You have until November 28 to share your opinions online here: [Article II November Draft Feedback](#)

Judy Robbins and Laura Stewart Cipriano will co-facilitate an information/discussion session on these proposed changes to Article II following the service this Sunday in Fellowship Hall. This session will be open to virtual attendees via Zoom; please come, educate yourself, and then register your comments on the changes through the feedback form link above.

Congregational Matters



To the Congregation

It is with great sadness that we inform you regarding the passing of longtime USH member Richard Groothuis on Tuesday November 15th. Details will follow.

Concerning Needs for Pastoral Care...

The Caring Network has had a number of requests for Pastoral Care during the past few months. Generally, we have been able to reach out to the individuals and meet their needs.

However, there are situations when contact with a minister is preferred. If you wish to speak to a minister, please contact me and I will give you the contact information. You can reach me by phone (860/212-6923), by email ([janicecnewton\(at\)sign@gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at)sign@gmail.com)) or see me on Sunday. I will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

~ Janice Newton, Chair

NEWCOMERS**Are you UU-curious?**

Join an informal gathering Under the Stairs on December 4, 2022 following our service. Bring your coffee or tea for conversation about Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Society of Hartford and most of all to consider the wondering question...What brought you here today?

Whether it is your first time or you've been coming and curious for a while, join us. Members and friends are always welcome and broaden the insights to our very special faith.

Cookies and fruit and conversation...and you...join us Under the Stairs.

~ Laurie Kelliher

Banner Project Update (and a request) —

- *All the banners and fabric wall hangings in the church have been inventoried.
- *Refurbishing of the banners by Evan Williams is close to completion.
- *Some oral history and Archival Information about individual banners have been collected.
- *Decisions about the format of the paper documentation are being finalized.
- * There are seven banners with little or no information... see photos below.

YOU may know about the origins of these items. We are seeking basic information: Who created

them? When? For what occasion?

Finally, does anyone know when the United Nations flag was purchased?

Any information will be gratefully received. Please email Evan Williams at evanwilliams.ms@gmail.com or to Sue Smolski at Sue.smolski@gmail.com by December 9.



Meeting House Presents

Friday, November 18, 2022 at 7:00 \$20 donation Two shows, one night!

Van Manakas on Jazz Guitar with Rave Tesar on Piano

and Cosmic Legends, featuring Sylvie Degiez and Wayne Lopes



Van Manakas – jazz guitar

Van Manakas has toured 5 continents and all 50 US states with jazz greats such as the Gil Evans Orchestra, Paul Bley and Miroslav Vitous. He is acclaimed as one of the most versatile and respected guitarist in the country. Known for his expertise in indigenous guitar styles, he has tour with such artists as Gil Evans Orchstra, Paul Bley, Scott Cossu, Miraslav Vitous, The Nashville Mandolin Ensemble and Butch Baldassari across 5 continents.

Video link <https://youtu.be/owdlu-XV6Qs>



Rave Tesar – piano <https://www.ravetesar.com/>

Rave is a New York area keyboardist, composer, producer and recording engineer. Growing up in a musical household, Rave began playing piano at an early age, and developed an affinity for all styles of music. He began his career working on the Jazz scene in and around New York with numerous groups and leaders.

Special guests Cosmic Legends
featuring Sylvie Degiez and Wayne Lopes – [Cosmic Legends](#) website.

“Cosmic legends is dedicated to the Improvising Artist, A conversation among those for whom art’s substance is time: music and the spoken word, Shaper of the Subtle realm. Special thanks to all who contribute

technical, stage, administrative, and artistic skills to make each performance happen.”

Sylvie Degiez is a pianist, composer and educator who lives in New York city. She has created and directed multiple performances that integrates music with words and visuals such as multimedia operas, voice recitals, music & words videos, poetry readings with music. She teaches music @ The Young Composer Workshop, a program in it's 3rd decade she created for young people.

Wayne Lopes is a guitarist and composer who has been a presence on the NY music scene for decades. He has created the music for many art performances, dance pieces and plays and has performed with The Human Arts Ensemble, Judith Malina and Hanon Reznikov of The Living Theater, Nico, Ken Little Hawk Andy 3 Raven of Brothers of the Wind, and Perry Robinson. He is a founding member of the Gift of Eagle Orchestra with Van Manakas and Sylvie Degiez.

Cosmic Legends video

link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn61Xovdx2U>

Coming Next Month:

Friday, December 2, 2022 at 7:00

Oldies Rock & Roll Show with Rod Muck – Details will follow.

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

Social Justice

GHIAA Information

GHIAA is excited to share that we now have our **December 7 GHIAA ASSEMBLY** at **Weaver High School on Granby Street in Hartford.**

Date: December 7

Time: 7 p.m.

See Power Summit Flyer [HERE](#).

Weaver has a beautiful new auditorium with the same capacity as did Welty Hall in New Britain, with much better parking.

This is our large action where we officially launch campaigns, negotiate with legislators and other power brokers, and welcome new congregations. **More details coming shortly.**



The November Good Neighbor Offering supports Connecticut Foodshare, whose mission is to provide nutritious food to people in need throughout the state. They partner with food retailers, growers, financial donors, and volunteers to source food and distribute it through a network of 500 food access points that include community-based pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, as well as their Mobile Pantries, Dairy Express, and Senior Supplemental Food Program.

According to estimates from Feeding America, more than 490,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger; and more than 131,000 children are food insecure. These are people from all walks of life – children, working parents, seniors, or people living with disabilities. They are our neighbors.

Last year, Connecticut Foodshare distributed enough food to prepare nearly 37 million meals to people in need in Connecticut.

We can help fulfill their mission by:

- Donating in November at USH
- Volunteering your time

- Advocate – learn about the issues affecting hunger in our communities and help share the message with our representatives.

Learn more at: <https://ctfoodshare.org/>

West Hartford Food Bank Information

If you are a West Hartford resident, the Food Bank is at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Pasta Sauce (almost out)

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Baked Beans

Check on your local needs by going online. Some towns like Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester have multiple sites from which to choose.

Please give as you are able! Thanks!

Grocery bags are now being collected by the office door rather than the main entrance.

~Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



The temperature is dropping, but our fun levels are off the charts at USH!

We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18. Signup online [here](#) or on Sundays in person at the welcome table.

Please note that we will not be holding Time for All Ages this weekend, so children and youth who wish to participate in RE programming should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category!

A Quick Announcement:



Our RE department is aware of the rise of RSV and influenza (and the persistent Covid-19) cases among children and youth this season here in Connecticut and around the country. There is also a worry of a further increase in cases as many are traveling for the holiday season.

To do our part in promoting a safe and healthy environment for our children and youth, we have begun disinfecting all used surfaces and materials (tables, toys, books, etc) both before and after RE on Sundays.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out any time via email or phone (text messaging works best) at re4ush@gmail.com or 706-248-9438.

Thank you and happy holidays!

-Annie Witzler, Interim Coordinator of RE.

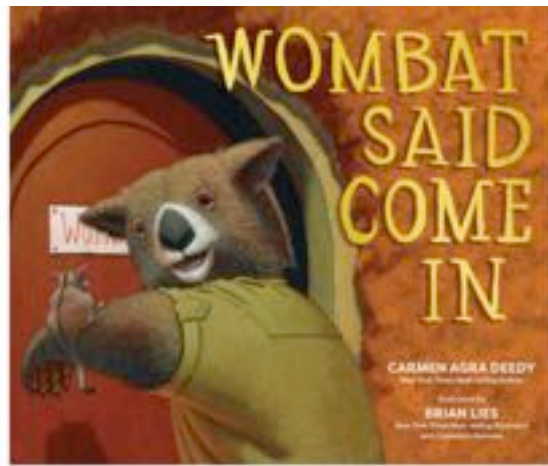


The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant-Pre-K):

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free!

We have dedicated personnel and volunteers there to supervise every week and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual!

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon! **Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.**



The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th):

Last week we heard the story *Wombat Said Come In* by Carmen Agra Deedy, a brand new picture book published just last month and was featured in The New York Times book reviews. It tells the story of animals living through the Australian wild bushfires and one very brave and kind Wombat who opens his home to his friends and neighbors in their time of need.

The story reflects on our 1st and 2nd principles as Unitarian Universalists: “We believe that each and every person is important.” and “We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly”. Everyone faces struggles in their lives, and in those times it is never more evident that we need one. Reaching out for help when you need it, and giving help when you can, are some of our best qualities as people and as Unitarian Universalists, we strive to cultivate them every day.

After the story, our clubhouse children played a game of mimicry where we imitated the Australian wildlife seen in the story. We waddled like wombats, paddled like platypi, and even glided like sugar gliders!

THE CHALICE CLUBHOUSE



COMMUNITY SUNDAY

This Sunday, November 20, the Chalice Clubhouse participants will be able to participate in fun, age-appropriate activities to help The Youth Group prepare for their Soup Sunday. This will give participants a chance to discover what they like to do, how they best work in a team, and how being part of a community can be a fun and rewarding experience. Whether they like decorating, sorting, washing, selling, counting, or just having fun — they'll have a unique role in our RE community this Sunday. **It all begins at 10:30 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall.** We hope to see you there!

USH Youth Group (Grades 6 – 12):



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!

Youth wishing to help with the soup preparation should arrive roughly an hour before service at 9:30 a.m.

We will also have some Thanksgiving-themed treats available...

We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings



UU SpiritLife

November's next *SpiritLife Conversation* is 11/19 on Insights from a Nondual Rabbi. Saturday mornings, 9 – 10:30. Read the article first at UUSpiritLife.org and then drop in to a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no registration required. For the complete fall schedule, and log-in instruction, go [here](#). One of last year's participants said: "Wow, what an interesting, heartfelt opportunity to go deeper with other UUs!"

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday December 9**, for conversation, pizza, a movie, and more conversation (about the movie). Movies are recommended by your friends at USH who have found them interesting, perhaps provocative, and worth seeing. The December feature is still under consideration: stay tuned. Sign up at Coffee Hour, at the Caring Network table. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.

Second Saturday Sing-Along –

Sing-Alongs, 2nd Saturday each month: NEXT UP: **December 10**.

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

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, DECEMBER 13, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Sue Smolski will be speaking.



Book Cart News!

Our summer of giveaways has ended—we are now putting out new donations—look for some great nature books as well as award winning novels, mysteries, political and historical non-fiction, spiritual guides, and more. **We can use new books to replenish our supply.**

We **encourage donations of books that you enjoyed** and want to share with others in our community. Leave them in the office in the “Book Cart” bin.

All books just \$1.00

—your book cart team

Susan, Laurel, Ginny, Evan & Deb

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our December selection – *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig (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, December 8 at 2:30, by Zoom.

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 2022/23

Second Thursday of each month

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 December selection:

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

Nora Seed, faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one; following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist, finds she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

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 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. 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 **July, August and September 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 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 December board meeting will be 12/13, 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/

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/>

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

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

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper – Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
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

hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



[USH Calendar of Events](#)

The calendar
for November 2022 can be
viewed [HERE](#).

Please contact Buffie with
any questions or concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

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

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com



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