

E-news May 24, 2023



Unitarian Society of Hartford

"Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, and Working for Justice"

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com
www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours:

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

***Office Closed Monday, May 29 in observance of
Memorial Day**



For Peace

Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.

May 28, 2023

"Our Peacemakers: A Memorial Day Forum"

**Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest
Michael Michaud, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

[View this Sunday's Order of Service](#)

Matters of the Heart

**Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: [Matters of the Heart Email](#)
In person – use the MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning**

**Religious Education in person 10:30 a.m.
[Annie Witzler](#), Interim RE Coordinator
**Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom,
immediately following the service****

Can't be here in person for worship?

[Join us on ZOOM 10:30 a.m.](#)

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

Virtual Coffee Hour to follow!

The service is also streamed on **[Facebook](#)** —
Follow our page and receive notifications every time we go live.

Couldn't make it to USH, and missed the livestream?

Watch any service, anytime, here on **[Vimeo](#)**



Rick Tsukada– Pulpit Guest

My Grand Fathers: One was a tailor, one was a Farmer, My Grand Mothers: Okaasan to big families... brave people, those Issei...I never met them...But my father, Hiroshi, and my mother, Yuriko, and my aunts and uncles...the Nisei ...knew them well...I am Sansei



Michael Michaud– Worship Associate

Michael has been a Unitarian Universalist since 2001. He practices yogic and Buddhist spiritualities and is a yoga teacher. Michael has a deep appreciation for mindfulness, meditation, sacred chanting and Earth-centered spirituality.

Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services:

Join us, in person or online.



June 4 – "Celebrating Pride Month, Norbert Capek and the 100th Anniversary of the Flower Communion", Ron Friedman, Pulpit Guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate, USH Choir

June 11 – Youth Sunday: "A New Generation of Principles" USH Youth, Teachers, and Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator, Bryant Moore, Pulpit Guests/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate Consultant

June 18 – "Jumping On It", Rev. Stephen Kendrick, Pulpit Guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

June 25 – Sunday Service Livestreamed from the General Assembly in Pittsburg from **11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**, Hosted by Dana Donovan

Summer Services

Pulpit Guest and Worship Associate Teams have been identified for the summer. Details to follow in June.

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



USH News

Annual Meeting Action Summary

The Annual Meeting, during which USH typically brings before the congregation a review of the past year as well as any matters requiring a congregational vote, took place last Sunday (5/21/2023). An [Annual Report](#) had previously been compiled, summing up activities and accomplishments during the 2022/23 year.

Items presented for discussion, if necessary, and for voting:

1. Our USH Constitution has stated that only members *present* may vote; however, there is no specification that a person needs to be physically present, and in recent years it has been common to interpret virtual participation as present. The membership was asked to affirm the interpretation of virtual, or electronic, presence as "being present" for the purpose of satisfying a quorum and voting. This was unanimously approved.
2. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the Social Justice Council introduced the idea of dividing undesignated Sunday offerings (cash or unspecified-purpose checks) evenly between USH and the Good Neighbor Offering recipient of the month. It was agreed, at the time, to test this arrangement for one year, and

then determine whether to make it permanent. As the program appears to have been successful, the congregation was asked to approve institutionalizing the plan, and the vote to make the 50/50 share permanent was unanimously approved.

3. A list of proposed changes to the USH Constitution had been presented by the Governance Task Force (see [HERE](#)) and the congregation was asked for approval. The vote was substantially in favor of approval; there were two votes against the changes.
4. Considering proposed alterations by the UUA to Article II of its bylaws, the congregation was asked whether they were in favor of advancing the proposed revisions for consideration and final acceptance at the 2024 General Assembly, or whether a preference existed for the proposed revision not to be advanced (in other words, that the current Article II with its exposition of Principles and Sources would continue essentially in its existing form). This vote, while not binding, has been requested so the delegates to GA may be informed of the general attitude of the congregation toward the proposed changes. The reported vote tally indicated that, among those present and voting in Fellowship Hall, 40 members were **not** in favor of advancing the proposed revision, while 13 voted in favor of the revision. The vote on Zoom indicated 3 members were **not** in favor, and 1 voted in favor of the changes.

The final vote elected members of the 2023/24 Board of Directors. Effective July 1, the Board will be constituted as follows:

- President – Dana Donovan
- President-Elect – Nancy Kemmerer
- Secretary – Gloria Mengual
- Treasurer – Jon Covault
- Council Chair, Administration – Paul Cipriano
- Council Chair, Community Within – Tina Davies
- Council Chair, Finance – Jim Venneman
- Council Chair, Membership – Laurie Kelliher
- Council Chair, Social Justice – Judy Sullivan
- Council Chair, Spiritual Life – Rick Tsukada

Exceptional Volunteer Recognition Awards

Each year, the board highlights the exemplary and ongoing volunteer contributions of a small number of members. This year, there was a strong desire to single out the enormous effort and dedication of a *group* of people — but doing so would not have conformed to the "design parameters" of the award. What to do?? A special award category was created — the Hero Award — to recognize the exceptional circumstances and, of course, each of our Worship Associates was presented with a certificate and our profound

thanks for all the care, thought, enthusiasm, imagination, adaptability — everything which went into keeping our worship fresh, engaging, and deeply spiritual.

Our Worship Associates and recipients of the Hero Award are Sue Smolski, Laurie Kelliher, Margaret Leicach, Judy Robbins, Carol Simpson, Rick Tsukada, Michael Michaud, and Peter Meny. Congratulations to all: Well done!

A Banner Soup Sunday

Finally, this Sunday marked the last Youth Group Soup preparation and sale until September, and the soup crew set a new record. 20 gallons of beef soup produced, 8 gallons sold to hungry annual meeting attendees (totaling \$340 in sales). That left 12 gallons, which were delivered to Hartford soup kitchens. Thanks go to John Bengtson, Annie Witzler, Bryant Moore, and the entire Youth Group for the energy and compassion they bring to this initiative.



Newcomers... are you UU curious?

Join an informal gathering Under the Stairs **Sunday, June 4, 2023** following our Sunday service. Bring your coffee or tea for a 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.

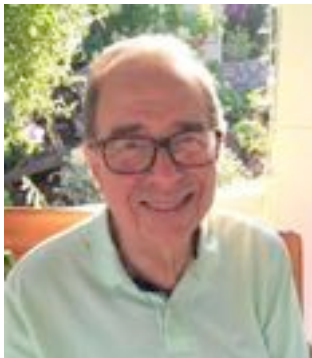
Cookies and fruit and conversation...and you...join us Under the Stairs.

Become a Member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford

“You hardly knew how hungry you were to be gathered in,

to receive the welcome that invited you to enter entirely...
You began to breathe again...You learned to sing”.
~ Jan Richardson

Spring... a time of renewal, of blossoming, of rebirth in the fullest sense of being alive. It is a season when USH enjoys welcoming new members into the embrace of our UU community. If you have been considering membership at the Meeting House please contact **Karolina Wojtysko** in the office, **Laurie Kelliher**, or visit the Welcome Table in the lobby.



Remembering Bill LaPorte-Bryan

Long-time member Bill LaPorte-Bryan passed away on May 15. There will be a memorial service and reception on September 16, 1:00 p.m.

For Obituary, Click [HERE](#)

USH Paving Project

The driveway/front parking area reconstruction project is under way; top surfaces are removed, and we are in a compacting phase prior to final grading and resurfacing.



One important point to notice, though, is that **the parking area is not level with the walkway leading to the front entrance. Use caution — watch your step!**

This week, attention has focused on the sidewalk: several slabs of pavement, cracked and uneven, have been removed and repoured, creating a smooth, level

surface. When you come this Sunday, you should be able to walk upon these new squares without fear of tripping.

During the paving process, plans are to generally have one of the two driveways available for use, allowing access to the large north parking lot.
The results should provide new pavement and improved drainage to catch basins.

Your patience and cooperation during the project is appreciated.

~ David Newton, Chair, Building and Grounds



General Assembly: 2023

"Faithfully Becoming"

"The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is the annual gathering of UUs where we conduct the business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean into our mission and principles."

Participate either online or in person. To register, access uua.org, click on "menu", and select "General Assembly" for the details.

When you register you may now choose to pay with a payment plan option to spread out your payments over several months. Registration can be paid in installments, with as little as \$50 down." [Click here for more information.](#)

~ Contributed by Sue Smolski

Love In Action

If you haven't pledged yet, please make it a priority. Pick up a pledge form at the Welcome Desk or in Fellowship Hall if you need one, or contact [Carolyn Carlson](#).



ARTIST'S WAY GROUP ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

The Artist's Way group is open to new members at this time. Currently the Artist's Way group is meeting every other Monday from 6:30 to 8 pm on Zoom, using Rick Rubin's book *The Creative Act: A Way of Being* to spark discussion. Group trips to creativity-related places including museums, beaches, supply sites and such are scheduled on a frequent basis. Usually, we start in mid-October and go through May with special events happening during this time as well as during late Spring and Summer.

The group started with the reading of *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron, and some members continue her recommended practices of Morning Pages and Artist's Dates. Like Cameron, our members believe everyone has the potential to be creative. We believe our most important act of creativity is designing our own lives.

You do not need to be a member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford to join. However, members of the group are asked to make a commitment to attending, as we do with our Connection Circles, missing meetings only when illness, travel and significant conflicts occur.

To join the group, please contact [Diana Heymann](#) or [Marye Gail Harrison](#)



Potluck Dinner

Fundraising potluck dinner to support the Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project on June 6 in Fellowship Hall from 6 – 8 p.m. Local singer/songwriter and physician Hugh Blumenfeld will be performing followed by a question & answer with the Golden Rule crew. Any contributions and help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact [Fred Louis](#).

JOIN US FOR THE RETURN OF A BELOVED USH TRADITION!

THE USH ANNUAL PICNIC



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023 • POTLUCK, LAWN GAMES, AND
FUN! • STARTS AT 11:45 AM AFTER SERVICE

Join us Sunday, June 11 after the service for the Annual Picnic! It will be a potluck-style event, so please be sure to bring something to share (and please include an ingredients list on an index card!). Food and beverages will be 'served' in Fellowship Hall; you're welcome to eat there or wander outside with your plate (weather permitting). Contact Tina Davies or Annie Witzler for more information.



Stop by Servetus. Various Surplus items from the Meeting House are free for the taking. Everything must go.

All items left over will be donated to various groups/organizations.

Social Justice

May Good Neighbor Offering



The May good neighbor offering recipient is the **Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project**. In 1958 four Quaker peace activists attempted to sail a 34 ft. ketch named Golden Rule to the Marshall Islands to try and halt nuclear weapons testing. They were boarded and arrested in Honolulu. The Golden Rule sank in 2010 but has been restored and has been sailing around the United States since 2015 with the goal of

eliminating nuclear weapons.

The ship will be in Connecticut starting on Memorial Day, and will arrive in the Hartford area on June 5. The Central Connecticut chapter of Veterans for Peace, the Quaker Meeting House, Hope Out Loud, and others are organizing welcoming/educational events and arranging support for the Golden Rule and its crew.

Donations will go to Chapter 42 of Veterans for Peace to cover local expenses. Any leftover funds will go to the Golden Rule Project.

For more information visit vfpgoldenruleproject.org and/or hopeoutloud.org.



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, JUNE 24

West Hartford Pride – A Day to Celebrate Diversity and Unity!

USH will again share a booth with West Hartford Universalist Church at the West Hartford Pride Festival. Watch for volunteer sign-up and/or email Judy.



Champions for Children: The Village for Families and Children

On May 17, I represented the Unitarian Society of Hartford at

Champions for Children — The Village for Families and Children Annual Meeting, along with over 200 other friends of The Village. We heard from Galo Rodriguez, CEO of The Village, who reported that thousands had received services from The Village in the last year. The Village has a new short term Trauma Facility, which is designated for children and youth suffering from severe trauma. After they are stabilized these children are either returned home or sent to a psychiatric hospital when a bed becomes available.

We heard from a man and woman who were fostering-to-adopt two young siblings about the joys and difficulties of being foster parents. They could not have been foster parents without the continuing support offered by The Village. There is an enormous need for foster parents in our state.

A self-possessed tween-ager spoke about attending a basketball clinic through the Extended Day Treatment program, an after-school program for children who need additional support. The clinic was sponsored by the Connecticut Sun WNBA basketball team. His mentor, former, WNBA player Morgan Tuck was by his side. He described the experience of being in the clinic as feeling part of a group and helping him to develop skills in teamwork, cooperation and communication. As I was leaving, he proudly showed me his basketball, autographed by the whole Sun team.

~ Submitted by Joanne Orlando

Social Justice Council

Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Our next ZOOM meeting is **June 20th, at 7 p.m.** Everyone's invited. Contact [Judy Sullivan](#) for information.

Click the button below to Join!
Meeting ID: 819 3540 3837
Passcode: 026862

[ZOOM Link Social Justice Meeting Click Here](#)

Food Pantry News

Our food donations are now going to [The Horace Bushnell Food Pantry](#) on the corner of Albany Ave. and Vine St, Hartford neighbors about 2 miles from us. It is set up so that people shop for what they need/want.

The organizers have requested healthy foods.

Here are some examples, all shelf-stable packaged, canned, dried:



1. Oatmeal and other breakfast cereals and bars
2. Milk and alternative milks and fruit juices
3. Vegetables, tomatoes, peas, beans/ legumes
4. Fruits, applesauce, jelly and preserves
- 5 .Chicken, tuna, and other meats and fish
- 6 .Peanuts, nuts, seeds, nut butters and alternatives
6. Soups and stews

PLEASE CHECK DATES FOR EACH ITEM. Food donations can only be accepted with the current month and all future dates."

-Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



Looking for a supportive, inclusive, non-judgemental home for your family's spiritual needs? Let USH be yours! Visit and learn about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and how USH can foster your family's religious or spiritual journeys.

Sign up for Sundays [here](#) online or in person at the welcome table. Questions? Reach out to our Interim Religious Education Coordinator [Annie Witzler](#) for more information.

[Click HERE for this weeks RE Newsletter](#)

Monthly Gatherings

Monthly Gatherings



June 2023



Disability Support Group 06/03
10:30 a.m.

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. The Zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting.



USH Book Club 06/08
2:30 - 4 p.m.

Our UU Book Group meets from 2:30 - 4 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through June, either on Zoom or occasionally as a hybrid meeting. Our selection for June 8 is *The Book of Long Friends* by Lisa Wingate.



Pizza & Movie Night 06/09
5 p.m.

Sign up at the Caring Network table in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour or by email!



Sing-Along 06/10
2 - 5 p.m.

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along! All are welcome! Bring your copy of 'Rise Up Singing' with you. Loaner copies are available.



Lunch Bunch 06/20
12 p.m.

Please brown-bag your own lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Whatever the direction the conversation takes, it should be interesting!



Social Justice 06/20
7 - 8 p.m.

Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Everyone's invited!

See something you like? Email hartforduusociety@gmail.com for more information!

Click the photo above for detailed information

USH Book Group

Our UU Book Group meets from **2:30 – 4 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month**, September through June, either on Zoom or occasionally as a hybrid meeting. If you would like to participate in a discussion of the book and related issues, please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com. An email with the Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Our selection for **June 8** is ***The Book of Lost Friends*** by Lisa Wingate. The books selected for September and onward will be posted during the summer.

Events Around CT

Sailing for a Nuclear Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future

**Historic Sailboat
Project Supports UN
Treaty to Ban Nuclear
Weapons**



In 1958 four Quaker peace activists sailed the Golden Rule toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt nuclear weapons testing. The US Coast Guard boarded her in Honolulu and arrested her crew, causing an international outcry. The arrest of the crew and the raising awareness of the dangers of radiation led to worldwide demands to stop nuclear testing.

This spurred the U.S., the U.S.S.R., and the U.K. to sign the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. In 2010, the Golden Rule was rebuilt in Humboldt Bay, Northern California, and is now, “Sailing for a Nuclear Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future.”

Central Connecticut Schedule

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

- Tuesday, 3 pm: Press Conference in front of Hartford City Hall.

- Tuesday, 6 pm: Potluck Dinner, Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105. Enjoy musician Hugh Blumenfeld followed by film “Making Waves,” and presentation by Golden Rule crew.

Wednesday, June 7

- Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Silent Vigil for a nuclear weapons free world, peace and non-violence, Old State House plaza, Hartford.
- Best viewing of Golden Rule; preparing for departure with sails unfurled, 1:00-3:00 pm. Visible from area around Charter Oak Landing, Hartford.
- Golden Rule will arrive Harbor Park, Middletown at approximately 5 pm

Thursday, June 8

- Thursday, 9:00 to 10:00 am: Harbor Park, Middletown; meet over breakfast with the crew.

For More Information:

www.hopeoutloud.org

[Facebook: GoldenRulePeaceBoat](#)

www.vfpgoldenrule.org

USH Resources

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

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

June Board Meeting

June 13, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. In person, Library

Zoom Link for Board Meeting

The latest financial reports for FY 2022-2023 have been posted,
click [HERE](#) to view.

The 2022/23 Annual Report is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting Minutes for March 2023 have been posted. Click [HERE](#) to view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes, and other church business information online. Contact [Karolina Wojtysko](#) for the username and password.

USH Staff:

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
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is
Tuesday at Noon.

Please write in the 'Subject' field "USH Enews", and include the dates that your submission should be featured. Announcements about upcoming events 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.

Thank you for your submission!

Email Your Submission

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click [HERE](#)

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for June **2023** can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

