

September 27, 2023



Unitarian Society Of Hartford
50 Bloomfield Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105
www.ushartford.org

Fall into the Fun with USH RE!



The Religious Education programs for 2023 – 2024 are happening every Sunday!

Registration is ongoing with the link available down below, along with in-person registration during Coffee Hour every Sunday!

Please contact Annie Witzler (re4tush@gmail.com) with any questions about our RE programming.

We hope to see you Sunday!

RE Participant Registration Form

THE VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Join Us for Faith Focus Sunday!



This Sunday, October 1st, will be a Faith Focus Sunday. All children and youth are invited to be present in the upstairs service with a "Prayground" area of fun, quiet activities for all ages! We hope to see you there!

Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull has also shared with us a fun reading for all ages to take part in! Check it out below to familiarize yourself with it before Sunday!

"Some beliefs have gates. You have to have a key to open them. They make us think we're the only ones with a key.

Other beliefs are open to everybody and help us to listen and to love.

**Some beliefs are like storms about to happen,
making us afraid,**

Other beliefs are like sunny days, bringing a smile to our faces and helping us to feel that it's all okay.

Some beliefs tell us that we're the cool kids, and we shouldn't be friends with others who aren't like us.

Other beliefs remind us that we're part of a big beautiful world made beautiful by all our differences.

Some beliefs are like blindfolds, making it impossible for us to choose where we want to go.

Other beliefs help us to be open to a big wide world to discover and play in.

Some beliefs make us feel like we can't do much for ourselves or anyone else. They don't let us know all our cards.

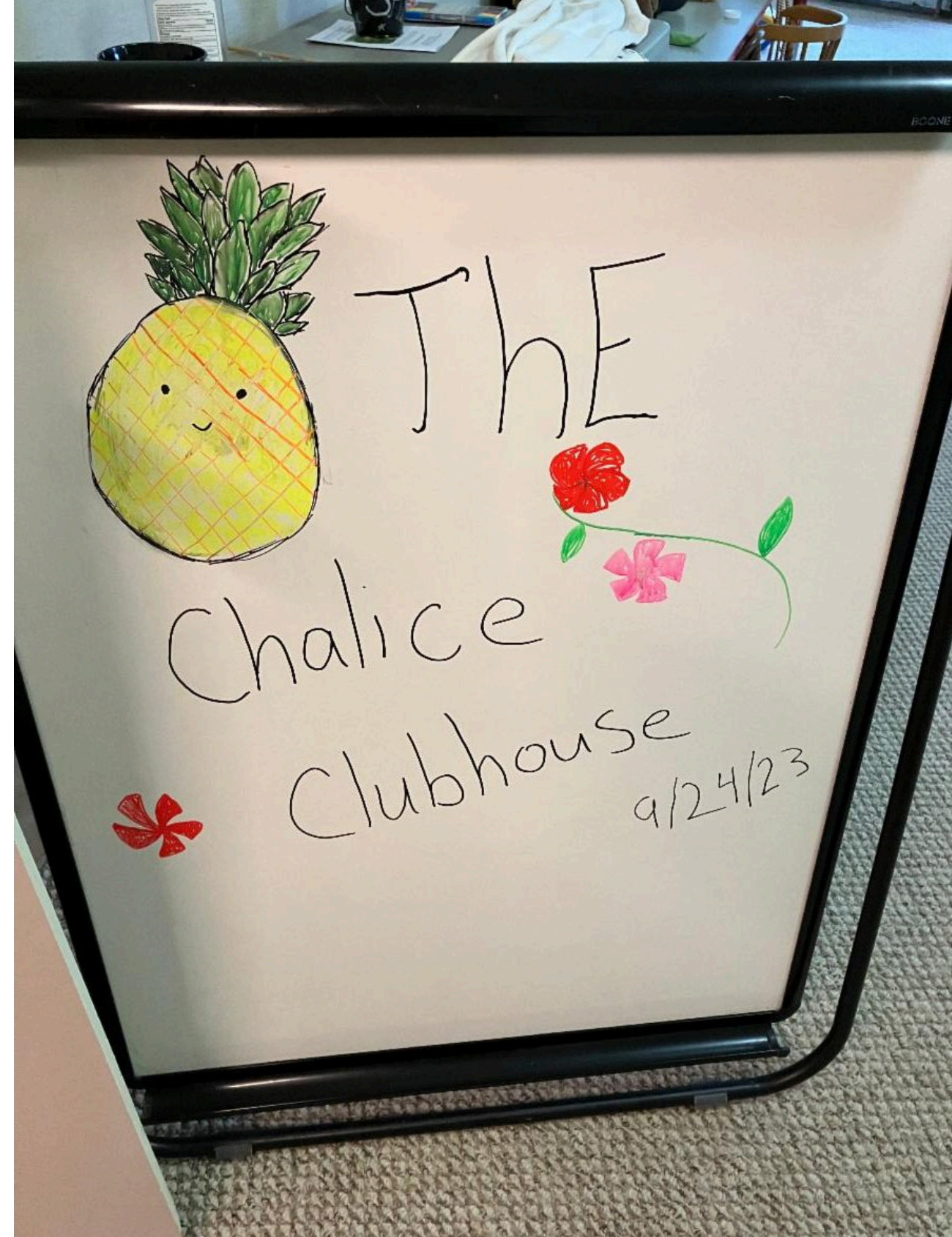
Other beliefs help us feel strong and remind us that we matter.

**Some beliefs are stiff, like they're not even alive
and can't begin to bend and stretch in our
changing world**

Other beliefs help us bend and stretch and dance like a young tree growing strong and

tall."
***Adapted by Rev. Jan from Reading #657 in
Singing the Living Tradition, "It Matters What
We Believe" by Sophia Luons Echs***

Inside our Classrooms:



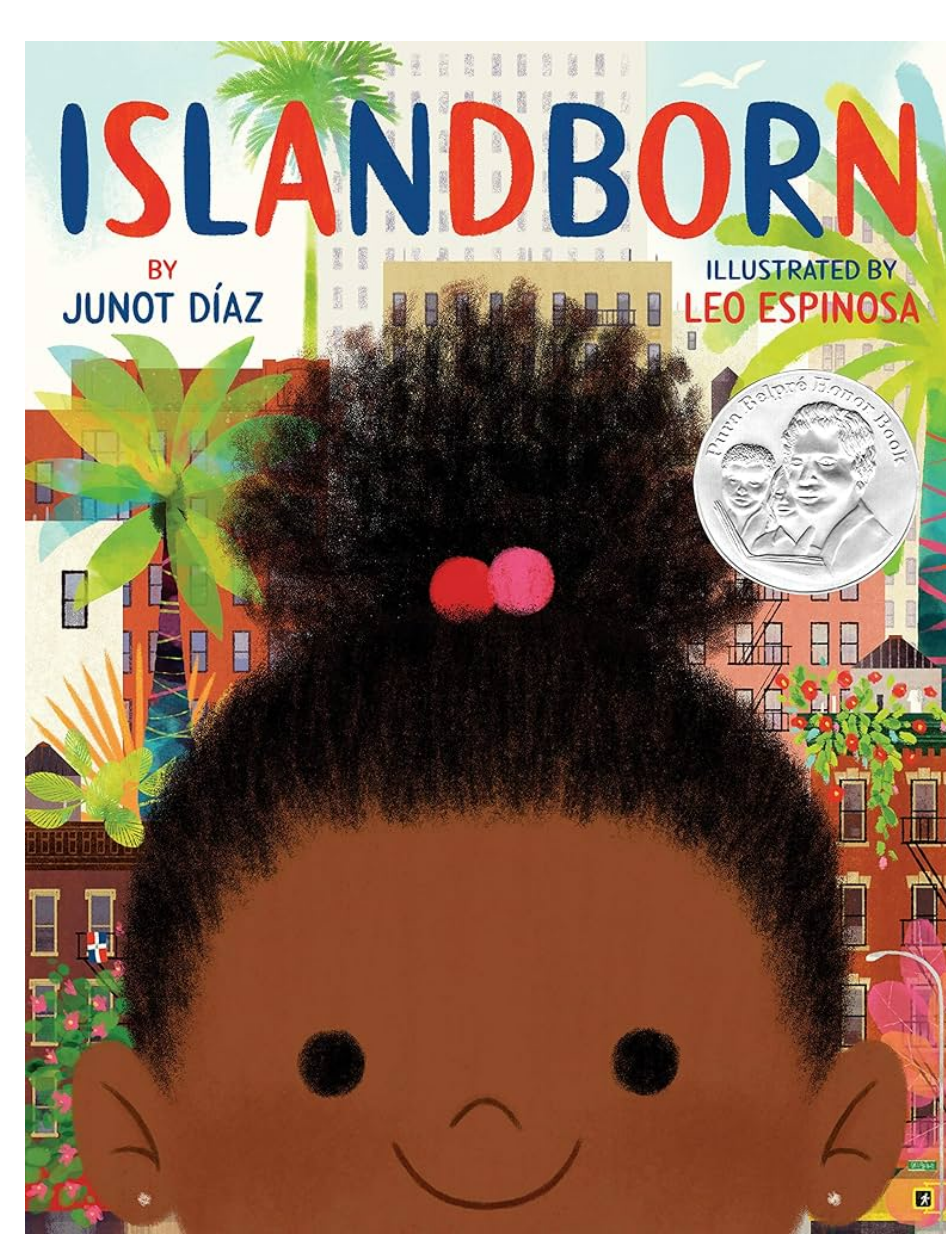
Last weekend, we had our first RE classes of the 2023/24 year!



In the Chalice Clubhouse, our participants heard the story of *Islandborn*, written by Junot Diaz and illustrated by Leo Espinosa, in honor of Hispanic/Latinx heritage month. It tells the story of Lola, who lives in a community where everyone is from someplace else, and she learns of where it is she comes from - a beautiful island full of wonderful and sometimes scary things, but also proud and brave people. This story promotes our 2nd and 3rd Principles of Unitarian Universalist: "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations" and "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

Taking time to learn about other people's experiences is the first step to being able to empathize effectively with others. And we should all strive to be accepting of others the way Lola and her community are, welcoming

After the story and a discussion of these themes, we made our own islands using paper plates, oil pastels,



This Sunday, October 1st, the Chalice Clubhouse participants will be sitting in the main service for our first Faith Focus Sunday. We hope to see you there!



Meanwhile, next door, our USH Youth Group met for the first time to make their yearly covenant and choose some roles to help with during the coming year on Sunday mornings in the near future! Be on the lookout

Their younger peers in the Chalice Clubhouse decided to spruce up the teenagers' sign with some artwork of their own after finishing their paper plate islands -

This Sunday, the Youth Group participants will be sitting in the main service for our first Faith



Annie Witzler
Interim RE Coordinator
E.mail: re4ush@gmail.com
Phone: 860-233-9897 EXT. 104