USH E-news January 17, 2024

"Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"

Photo: Ann Schwamb-Hartford, 2023

Unitarian Society of Hartford
"Seeking, Sharing, Soaring" Religious Education for Justice
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Minister's Office Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
or by appointment.

Office Administrator Hours:
Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Virtual Hours: Monday – Thursday, 1 – 3 pm

Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
January 21

"Ritual and Repetition: The Pathways to Spirituality"

Laurie Kelliher, *Pulpit Guest*
Michael Michaud, Worship Associate
Sam Mallett, Director of Music Ministries

Following worship and before the drink & food, by-law, in fellowship that for now coffee and **Soup Sunday** *– you'll be glad you took time to eat!*

Matters of the Heart

To have a day or lesson read from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail **Ann Schwamb-Hartford**.

In person – use the Matters of Heart basket for notes such as Sunday morning. **Please use a different basket for anything else you would like to have read from the pulpit.*

Religious Education: 10:30 a.m.
Jamie Sirabian, Interim RE Coordinator

Can't be here in person for worship?
Join us on Zoom!
Meeting ID: 312 4388 7444
Passcode: 12Soup
***Virtual Coffee Hour immediately follows – then, join the Article II Team in a 2pm Zoom link!**

Worship 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 sermon, anytime, here on Vimeo.

Worship Calendar

Join us, in person or online.

Upcoming Sermons:

January 21 – "Ritual and Repetition" Reverend Aaron Pacum, pulpit guest/Carol Wrapsky, Worship Associate.

February 4 – Reverend Rick Michael Michaud, Worship Associate.

February 11 – "What's Love Got To Do With It?" Jim Burgess, Worship Associate/Sam Mallett, Music.

February 18 – Rev Ed Johnson, Pulpit guest/Pete Mezey, Worship Associate.

Thoughts from Rev. Rob…

Excerpts from Sermons: Thursday, January 18, our first discussion of **The Burn of Writing**.

Heather McGhee's bestselling book and podcast look at how divided our country has become — and how there is a way for positive social movements across the environment, criminal justice, and economic justice to come together. McGhee's book is a heartrending message – which is not to say that the problems that we face are not real.

However, I think we're so often plied with the message, "Here's nothing really can do to" when it comes to the epidemic. As Bryan Stevenson put it, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that has."

Interested? Register here and come along Thursday.

Speaking of coming together for a good cause, there's also a discussion of our impeached president's 2024 Kickoff Celebration. It's free, but registration is mandatory on Zoom. See below for details! What a busy time here!

Rev. Rob
Rob@uuhartford.net
Rev. Rob

First Thursdays in the Chapel, starting February 1 – 6 p.m.

On the first Thursday each month, come to a gathering in the Chapel to discuss a book we read or our chapel space. Featuring gently mom from Allman genre, and lively discussion, this is a great way to meet people and make friends. The Article II Team invites you to participate in the work to bring, breathe, and take the time to make our Chapel a place of sanctuary. Meet on the first Thursday night at Unitarian Society of Hartford. First Thursdays in the Chapel, starting February 1 – 6 p.m. Meet the First Thursdays begin at 6 p.m. and finish around 6:30 – 7:00.

USH News

USH Receives Generous Gift

We are **very** excited to announce that USH has received an generous commitment of $1,000 from the Endowment fund, spread over a period of three years.

Starting immediately, the money will be available for building improvements. The Endowment Committee will be developing a long-range plan over the next year.

Please remember that funds drawn from the Endowment are mostly for long-range, capital improvements. Our operating budget is funded by our operational search of our beloved congregation.

While we do not know the details of the donor and so cannot thank them directly, let's all celebrate this wonderful gift and show our appreciation by dedicating our time, talents, and treasures to USH.

– Jim Newsman, Chair, *Council on Finance*

USH Hosts Statewide Touch-in on Article II Revision January 21

We're having an inter-congregational **Touch-in on the Article II Revision** in the Sanctuary **this Sunday** at noon.

Join with other UUs from across Connecticut and, possibly, beyond, to discuss the Article II Revision in a Zoom link. The session will also be recorded for later viewing. Zoom link: **https://zoom.us/j/91871244911**

This one-hour presentation/look at where Unitarian Universalism came from and where the Article II revision might take us. The presenter will be Rev. Ed Cantrell, Director of Congregational Ministries of the UCC and, unlike most of what happens here, every congregant will feel the effects, so it is important to be there. Rev. Cantrell will be joined by Rev. Jeffrey Ogden, Rev. Mark Ansbro from UUSB and Carol Lewis from the UU Society: East in Manchester, CT.

Article II of the UCS Bylaws details the purpose of the Association and the covenant among its member congregations. It is where the principles and purpose of our UCS are found. It is the most important purpose of the UCS and controls the Principles into Values. The Touch-in will help you understand the proposed revision and provide a chance to share your ideas about it.

More information here: https://uuhartford.org/event/touch-article-ii-revision/

Next Month —

Help celebrate Groundhog Day with a March UUs meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 4. Bring your PB and jelly sandwiches, or, spring is in the air, a picnic lunch. Dessert & drinks provided by us.

ALSO: UUA's Annual Informational Meeting is coming, where we learn what we can do to be a more progressive congregation. Bring your questions and ideas and participate later in the month. The meeting follows our Sunday worship service.

New Lobby "Traffic Pattern"

As an experiment, we're opened up entry to the sanctuary by removing the "traffic pattern" in the lobby. Now, people can enter from either side. The subject was sure Rush the area rather than standing around in the middle of the lobby, so we hope people will feel free to stand in the lobby or in the sanctuary – but not in the arch of the entry.

Let's try this across for a few weeks and then solicit comments to **Laurie Kelliher**.

Spirit21 Life Conversation on 20-30 minutes of Sunday, January 21 sessions open to members of all three area UU congregations.

On January 21, we consider Rev. Michael Beckwith's article **Will Power**.

Personal Link? A great way to hold our own theology. It's open our minds to other ideas and beliefs.

Articles are posted weekly **click here** and we have added discussion questions **click here**.

Join us on Zoom **here** at 1 – 10:30 a.m. **January 21**.

Judy Robbins facilitates this month.

Announcing **Spirit21Soul**
An Exploration of Spirituality

Nonduality projects that, despite appearances, none of us is really a separate self independent of everything else in the universe. Spirituality, then, is the radically different way of perceiving the world and our place in it. It is also centered on elements of spiritual awakening.

Spirit21Soul Pauline Nicholas Barrett, a former coach, is offering a winter/spring series of 90-minute sessions on Zoom for those who want to explore and explore nonduality. Sessions are open to all on a drop-in basis, 10 – 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Pauline's website is www.Spirit21Soul.com. Donation is suggested. For more information and the dates of all sessions, go to https://nicholasbarrett.com

Meeting House Presents

Friday, January 19, 7 p.m.
Jon Crookston
Best donation at the door
Email MeetingHouse@uuhartford.net for directions – put "Jon Crookston reservation" in the subject line.

Jon Crookston is a force of nature on stage. He's toured with Grammy Award winner Ellis Paul, Ellen Stanton, and Alison Grimes International of "Alison of the Year".

Find more about Jon and his work in USH Gatherings and on his website: https://www.jonpcrookston.com/

Best for ages: 7 hide kids music, but I absolutely LOVE Jon Crookston's music!

In the Ambulatory — Behind the Glass

The winter art exhibit in the Ambulatory Gallery running from January 7 through February 4 is a collection of unique creations by artist painting by Anne Gaffron Burgess.

Reverse painting is an old art form, perfected in Italy and Europe for hundreds of years. In reverse painting, the images are painted on the back of the glass, so the viewer looks through the glass to see the art. Reverse painting is the art of the unexpected, the art of the hidden. Painting is done in layers, in the reverse order from the way we are used to seeing and understanding details and shading, so that first, then the fill in and background details are added. There is little room for error, other than completely wiping or scraping off the paint. Sometimes, the artist uses a reflective layer to highlight, such as an under-overlayer over the final layer is added, so that the light shines through the glass and reflects back. Or, in black and white work, the colors are brilliant and there is the added dimension of depth.

This exhibit includes a variety of themes which have given the artist inspiration over the years: Nature, Abstract, Spirituality, Mandalas, Hands, Snowflakes, Animals and people.

About the Artist

Anne was born and raised in Connecticut, but spent 35 years in West Berlin, Germany, where she studied art. She, as well as Germany, adores the Impressionists. Her favorite painting is Gibraking after the years living behind the Iron Curtain. Her favorite painting by Rembrandt hangs in the Frick paintings. She now lives in Revocable.

USH Gatherings

For information on our weekly and monthly gatherings, click here.

Social Justice

January GNO: Operation Fuel

Operation Fuel is the country's oldest fuel fund, serving as a model across the nation. Since 1976, Operation Fuel has provided over 1 million grants to low-income families to help them pay their energy bills. Operation Fuel's mission is to ensure that every family in Connecticut, aided by our statewide network of local fuel funds, has the resources they need to heat their homes and power their lives. In moderate-income households who are struggling financially and have exhausted other options.

Operation Fuel fills the gap for the state's most vulnerable residents – families with young children, and families struggling with chronic medical conditions. We help people keep their homes warm and their lives in order. Our programs include emergency fuel assistance, fuel fund and notification of and refrigerated transportation, and fuel access to running water for drinking, bathing, and laundry.

Free Zoom Discussion Series: "The Sign of the Times: Heart 2020 along with Stories of Hope, Collaboration & Stronger Communities

If you're tired of the Divide-and-conquer strategies of our politicians, and the "Us versus them" mentality, you're not alone. Heart 2020 is a nonpartisan, nonprofit social media, linked to the Heart 2020 Facebook page, and Rev. Rob Michael Beckwith's podcast, **The Burn of Life**. In them, she notes that Americans are tired of the Divide-and-conquer strategies of our politicians, and the "Us versus them" mentality, which is why