Photo: Kevin Girouard, February 2024 **Unitarian Society of Hartford** "Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice" 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com www.ushartford.org **Minister's Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. or by **appointment**. **Office Administrator Hours:** Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Virtual Hours: Monday – Thursday, 5 - 7 p.m. Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m. February 25 "How We Were Saved by Rock and Roll: A Brief Spiritual History of American Music" **Reverend Bob Janis, Minister** Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate MeetingHouse, Guest Musicians Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries **Matters of the Heart** To have a Joy or Sorrow read from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail Matters of the Heart In-person – use Matters of Heart basket for written cards on Sunday morning. *Please provide concise information Religious Education: 10:30 a.m. **Annie Witzler**, Interim RE Coordinator 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 follows via Zoom 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 service, anytime, here on **Vimeo Worship Calendar** Join us, in person or online. **Upcoming Services:** March 3 - RE Faith Focused Service, "Courage", Reverend Dianne Daniels, pulpit guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate March 10 - "A Simpler Life" Reverend Bob/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate/Paul Bisaccia, guest pianist **CLOCKS SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR** March 17 - "Risking One's Neck", Reverend Bob/Miriam Byroade, Worship Associate, Choir March 24 - Theme: GHIAA, Reverend Jocelyn Gardner-Spencer, pulpit guest/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate, Choir Thoughts From Rev. Bob... I am deeply honored that you voted your approval of us extending our ministry together for five years. I have already enjoyed working with you and getting to know you, immensely. To get to continue to do so is a privilege and a great opportunity. I do not take it lightly. I don't need to tell you that we live in challenging times. We're all aware of the news headlines and the carbon levels. Specifically to our enterprise, religious involvement is generally on the decline, and congregations are having to change or fold. Which makes what is happening here, each and every Sunday, all the more remarkable: a sense of community and abundance; a generous spirit; a willingness to pay attention; a cleareyed, courageous hope. The songwriter and prophet Holly Near wrote, in one of her songs, that we are "singing for our lives." Never has a truer word been sung. The quality of our song – the quality of how we are together – makes our lives what they are. And it can even change the world. (And, oh yeah, Holly Near will be here on May 4, thanks to Meeting House Presents). Glad to be in the choir with you, friends. Let's be bold, connected, and joyful, as we seek, share, and soar. Yours gratefully, Rev. Bob **USH News** Vote Enthusiastically Affirms Reverend Bob Last Sunday at USH's normally information-only Semi-Annual Meeting, we had the opportunity to add some formality to the proceedings: we were asked to vote on what we thought about giving Reverend Bob Janis a 5year contract extension. The board of directors had voted unanimously at the January meeting to offer Rev. Bob a 5-year contract. But all agree that the entire congregation should have a say in this. So, a space was carved out of the informal meeting for an official meeting, including an official vote. Needless to say, the response was overwhelmingly positive -100% of ballots returned were **in favor** of Reverend Bob remaining with us! Several ballots expanded on the "yes" option with comments like "Absolutely!", "Yeah!", and multiple exclamation points. This does **not** mean that Rev. Bob has pre-emptively decided to leave at the end of his 5-year contract. It only means that he can't be sure beyond that point. If we are really, really nice to him, we may be able to convince him to stay longer! Rev. Bob will be back in our pulpit this Sunday, so we'll celebrate with him — and cake — at coffee hour. Join us! Getting Clear On Proposed Changes to Unitarian Universalism: Sunday, February 25 Under the Stairs A few weeks ago USH hosted a Teach-In on proposed changes to the UUA bylaws. You can see the edited Teach-In **here** That session raised many questions for folks in our congregation. Judy Robbins will be available "under the stairs" directly after the service on two Sundays: February 25 and March 24. More information to follow. **Wheelchair Request** Do you have a wheelchair you would like to donate? The Meeting House needs a folding wheelchair to replace our current one. If you have one in good working condition, contact **Evan Williams**. **USH Gatherings** For information on our weekly and monthly gatherings, click here. SpiritChat Meets February 23 An Exploration of Nonduality Nonduality proposes that, despite appearances, none of us is really a separate entity; that everything arises from and is part of a fundamental Oneness. This is a radically different way of perceiving the world and our place in it. It is often considered an element of enlightenment. Most people first approach nonduality as an intellectual concept and then finally as a lived experience. Spiritual Teacher, Nicholas Bartoli, a former monk, is offering a winter/spring series of Friday morning SpiritChats at USH to explore nonduality. Sessions are open to all on a drop-in basis, 10 - 11:30. A free will offering of \$20 or whatever fits your means is suggested. The next February session is 2/23. For more information and the dates of all sessions, go to https://nicholasbartoli.com New 30s and 40s Group Starting - Leap Year Coffee & Tea Are you in your 30s or 40s? (Or close enough — late twenties are welcome too.) There's a new group forming, to have occasional monthly social meetups and get to know each other. The first meet-up will be February 29, 7 p.m. at Tisane Euro-Asian Café, 537 Farmington Ave, Hartford, 06105. Ideas for future meet-ups will be decided by the group — come along and suggest an activity! All are welcome — you do not have to be an attendee at USH, so feel free to invite a friend. See you on Leap Year's Eve. For questions, feel free to email Rev. Bob at **USHMinister@gmail.com**. Thanks! **Connection Circles** New Connection Circles Forming You asked, and we answered. New Connection Circles begin the week of March 11. You can sign-up for daytime or evening groups after service on Sundays in Fellowship Hall, or by email or text to marthabraadley49@yahoo.com, (860-305-3307). The Tuesday afternoon Circle at Seabury is full. If there are enough people who are still looking for a daytime group, we may be able to add one. The Wednesday and Thursday evening groups, facilitated by Ron Friedman and Martha Bradley respectively, still have spaces. A couple of people have asked for a Connection Circle on Zoom, which served us well during the pandemic. If there is enough interest in an online circle, that is a possibility. We would like to accommodate as many needs as possible. Let me know your preferences. Contact Martha **Bradley** for more information. Spring Equinox Labyrinth Walk UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD **FELLOWSHIP HALL TUESDAY, MARCH 19** 6:00-7:30PM Guided Labyrinth Walk with Lisa Haupt, Certified Labyrinth Facilitator, with Harp Music by Marcie Swift, **Certified Therapeutic Musician** Refreshments Free Will Offering 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford 860.233.9897 www.ushartford.org **Social Justice February GNO:** Interreligious **Interreligious Eco-Justice Network** Eco-Justice Network IRĖJN (IREJN) **The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network** (IREJN) is Connecticut's only faith-based environmental non-profit organization. Committed to justice and grounded in hope, IREJN is a unifying voice dedicated to positive, hopeful action on behalf of the earth, the one thing we all share and the one place we all call home. **Free Zoom Discussion Series:** 'The Sum of Us' Podcasts -**Stories of Hope, Collaboration** & Stronger Communities Listen to the hope in Heather McGhee's podcasts *The Sum of Us*. She notes that Americans have been fed a "zero-sum story" that says progress for people of color will take away what white Americans already have. Facilitated Zoom discussions about each podcast will take place monthly from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Though the discussion series has started, people are welcome to join the Zoom sessions at any point in the schedule. The next meeting is February 22. Podcast #4: Kansas City, Missouri: Flipping Burgers (40 *minutes*) https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/e4-kansas-city-moflipping-burgers/id1640137860?i=1000581640801 Terrence Wise was a Black man flipping burgers at a McDonald's in Kansas City, Missouri. Bridget Hughes was a white woman punching the clock at a local Burger King. After feeding hundreds of people a day at work, Terrence and Bridget were both struggling to feed their families at home. Neither saw a way to improve their lives until they teamed up to join the movement for a living wage. During this podcast, these improbable modern-day labor leaders share the story of their friendship and how they came to see racism as the common enemy in the battle against poverty in America. They helped launch the Missouri Workers Center, a state-wide organization that organizes low-wage workers across racial and geographic dividing lines. Their stories show how even people whose jobs put them among the least respected in society can take on corporate greed and win. "I came to realize through the Fight for \$15 Movement that we get more together than we do apart," said Terrence. "So nowadays when I go to work and I clock in, what I have that's greatly different from in the past is hope." To register, email **ushsocialjustice@gmail.com** to obtain the Zoom link. For more information, talk with Judy Sullivan or Gloria Mengual during coffee hour, read your USH Enews, or email them at jasullivan57@gmail.com or gloriafmengual@gmail.com Here's the link to all of *The Sum of Us* podcasts: https://open.spotify.com/show/19VMtc487rqmrb6GC8eRvd Fo r some of the podcasts, a local person will join the Zoom to describe local efforts related to the podcast topic. To register, email ushsocialjustice@gmail.com Zoom Link for **Sum of Us** discussions **Here Terrence Wise Bridget Hughes The Horace Bushnell Food Pantry Still Needs Contributions** The Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry receives funds primarily from State and Federal Grants as well as getting pallets of food at reduced prices from sources like Food Share. State grants are currently not available and Food Share has increased the prices food pantries pay for many items, chiefly those that are protein-based. Let's gather our resources and give them **protein-based foods** — • Lots of peanut butter (some jelly too!) This is primary! • Lots of canned fish and poultry • Lots of shelf-stable milk • Lots of chicken and beef broths • Lots of packaged soups that have high protein content! Let's fill our bin, folks! **Coat Drive Extended All Winter** Spring is on the way, but it's still cold out there and your outgrown or outdated coat could make a big difference to someone. Donate new or gently-used coats to support the community of Horace Bushnell food pantry. Please place donations in the bin located in the lobby. All sizes for men, women, and children are needed. **RE and Chalice Clubhouse** Join the fun at USH — THE CHALICE Looking for a supportive, inclusive, non-judgmental 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. Sunday School will take place for all age groups from 10:30 to 11:30 in the classrooms around Fellowship Hall. The Chalice Clubhouse are hearing a story and playing a game to help visualize some of our Unitarian Universalist values, while The Youth Group is hard at work beginning to plan their upcoming Youth Service for June 2. **Our Whole Lives (OWL)** for 9th and 10th graders (ages 14 to 16), in a joint venture with the Universalist Church of West Hartford, every Sunday from 12:15 −1:45 in Servetus. **Please contact Annie Witzler** (reqush@gmail.com) for details. **Our Whole Lives Click HERE for this week's RE Newsletter USH Resources** Flu and Covid seasons are here; pharmacies, clinics, and local health departments offer vaccines. Please protect yourself and those around you. Masks are available at the Welcome Table for anyone who wants one. We have both children's and adult sizes. If you come to a USH event and test positive for Covid in the week following, we ask you to please let the office, or Rev. Bob, know. These things happen – as we know, many of us have had the virus once or twice – and we just want to keep people informed and care for you, if needed. 2023 – 2024 USH Board of Directors Dana Donovan: President Nancy Kemmerer: President-Elect Jon Covault: Treasurer Gloria Mengual: Secretary Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair Laurie Kelliher: Membership Council Chair Jim Venneman: Finance Council Chair

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USH E-news February 21, 2024

"Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"

The latest financial reports for FY 2023-2024 have been posted; click **HERE** to view. See the 2022/23 Annual Report HERE The **Board Meeting Minutes** for January 2024 have been posted.

Click **HERE** to view the USH Directory, Reports, and other church business

information online. Contact Karolina Wojtysko for the username and

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Tuesday, March 12

6:30 p.m. Hybrid

Zoom Link HERE

Rick Tsukada: Spiritual Life Council Chair

to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

password.

USH Staff:

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper

Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister **ushminister@gmail.com** | 860-233-9897 ext. 103 Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104 Sam Moffett, Director of Music smoffettuu@gmail.com

ushtreasurer50@gmail.com Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100 The deadline for USH E-news submissions is

noon Tuesday 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.

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for February 2024 can be viewed

upcoming events coordinated by the

Unitarian Society of Hartford

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all

HERE.

click **HERE**.

Note that all material is subject to editing prior to publication. Articles should be sent as email file attachments, (MS Word preferred) and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thank you for your cooperation. Editor: Tina Davies Production and Technology Manager: Karolina Wojtysko

When forwarding information concerning an "outside" event or organization, please pre-edit your copy in order to keep the piece to 200 words or less.

Email Your Submission Missed Last Week's Enews? Click HERE

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February 2024

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering)

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