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                  USH E-News May 22, 2024
               "Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"
                   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.
            The office will be closed Monday, May 27
                 in observance of Memorial Day
                      Sunday Morning Service
                         10:30 a.m. May 26
                      "Grief and Gratitude"
  "You who have an eye for miracles regard the bud now appearing on the
  bare branch of the fragile young tree. It's a mere dot, a nothing. But
  already it's a flower, already a fruit, already its own death and
  resurrection." ~ Diego Valeri
               Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest
                   Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
                     Sam Moffett, Music Director
                                 Choir
                    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 to follow
                 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:
   June 2 – "This Is Me. This Is Us"
   Join us on Youth Sunday June 2 for our annual
   Youth Service led by USH's middle and high school RE participants. Our
   theme this year is: How Do UU See the Future? Don't miss this
   glimpse into the next generation of UUs.
   June 6 – First Thursday Service in the Chapel with Reverend Bob
   6 - 7 p.m.
   June 9 – "Furious Flowers", Reverend Bob/Miriam Byroade,
   Worship Associate/GNO Speaker /Flower Communion
   June 16 – "Can We Find the Divine in Father's Day in 2024?",
   Julia Cadrain and Joe Rubin, pulpit guests/Carol Simpson, Worship
   Associate/Board Message
                       Thoughts From Rev. Bob...
                 It was a momentous Sunday last weekend, as we
                 welcomed eight wonderful new members, partnered with
                 Urban Hope Refuge Church in preparing soup, and
                 celebrated our congregational year at the Annual Meeting.
                 Thank you to everyone who made the day possible.
  We also talked about science fiction for some reason. For anyone who
  didn't get enough Star Trek, here is my poem, "Live Long and Prosper"
  (also available on my blog, spiritbob.com, and wherever good poems are
  sold)
                        Live Long and Prosper
  Two children of Jewish immigrants. A factory worker's daughter.
  A preacher's kid. A D-Day vet. A boy from the internment camps.
  They put their shirts on, walked into the studio, and explored the galaxy
  together.
  The Captain of their crew
  Had directed bombing missions in the Pacific theatre, in a Flying
  Fortress.
  Had been a cop. Believed in a better world.
  So they put on their shirts, the ship's insignia on their left breast,
  And blasted off, to new planets
  Of balsa wood and polystyrene. And the world marveled.
  Not at the aliens, with their foam heads and babbling tongues -
  We've known aliens since the caves. We have always looked out at the
  rocks
  And seen something fearsome ambling along.
  No, we marveled at the humanity.
  Oh, the humanity.
  All the people, in a room together – in space – and they find a way
  To get along.
  All the people, in a room together – in space – arguing and joking,
  Compassionate and logical, finding strange new worlds
  Of human potential. On the move, and in peace.
  A humanity so civilized
  It didn't ride in on another's backs.
  And one of them had pointy ears. And served well. And carried a
  blessing.
  And even the Klingons
  Have a past, even the Klingons
  Have possibility.
  Then the working day ended and the actors
  Took off their shirts, with the insignia on their left breast.
  Walked out of the studio.
  But their old home was not there. The world had moved.
  Yours gratefully,
  Rev. Bob
                                 On May 19 our Sunday service opened
                                 with the hymn of joyful invitation,
                                 "Enter, Rejoice and Come In". Our New
                                 Member Ceremony was the welcome
                                 celebration of our year of Seeking
                                 Sharing Soaring.
   Laurie Kelliher and Rev. Bob flank the newest members of the Unitarian
   Society of Hartford. Pictured from the left are MJ Thoms, Josh Knopf,
   Joanne Lefferts, Steve Gavron, Shirley Ferguson and Ben Harvey. JoAnne
   Gaffron-Hargrove and Rachel Winchester were unable to attend the
   ceremony and will soon sign the Membership book.
   -Laurie Kelliher, Council Chair, Membership
                              Newcomers —
               Are you
                              Join other newcomers at "First
              UU Curious?
                              Connections", an informal gathering
                              Under the Stairs Sunday June 2,
                              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
      "Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"
                                    Stewardship Update
        Pledge for 2023-2024
                           A loud THANK YOU to all of you who
                   250K
250K
220K
190K
160K
                           have sent in your pledge. So far, we have
                           received pledges totaling $307,228, or 99.75%
     $308,000
                           of our $308,000 goal for 2024/25. This is
                           11.7% higher than the $275,000 in pledge
                           income that is part of the current year's
                           budget. I attribute this success to the new
     $307,228
                           level of optimism all of us see since Rev. Bob
                           joined us. Yes, USH is SOARING again.
                           However, several pledges are still
                           outstanding. I ask that anyone who has not
                           sent in their pledge do so soon, for we are
   finalizing next year's budget now. If you need a pledge form, please
   contact Karolina at 860-233-9897.
   To help USH continue to thrive and grow, Rev. Bob has accepted a five-
   year contract and on July 1 Karolina is being promoted to be our Church
   Operations Manager, which is a full-time position. The current status of
   the budget anticipates using $40,000 of the money that was received but
   not spent in prior years. In other words, even though this year's pledges
   are expected to exceed the goal, USH will likely incur a deficit. This is
   clearly unsustainable. We must continue to look for additional sources of
  funds to support our church.
   ~ Jim Venneman, Finance Chair
                      USH News
                              The Building and Grounds Aesthetics
                              Group is taking steps toward a color
                              upgrade of Fellowship Hall.
                              We've met with a consultant from John
                              Boyle Decorating Center for advice on
                              modern, neutral colors for our gathering
                              space.
  For two Sundays, May 26 and June 2, plus the week between, several
  paint swatches from that consult will be up for you to see.
  We'd like to know if you have a favorite by dropping your vote in a box
  provided.
  More information to come.
  Questions? Contact Evan Willams or
  Paula Bleck
                  Spring Choir Dates
     We're approaching the finalé of 'choir season' but there are a few
     more opportunities to sing in May and June. The choir is open to all
     USH members, friends, and guests interested in singing.
     Participation only requires one rehearsal at 9 a.m. on the morning
     of a choir performance. Choir dates are:
                                May 26
                             June 2 and 16
     Interested? Contact Sam at smoffettuu@gmail.com or (860)
     371-8880.
                                      30s & 40s Group
                                  June Hike! June 1, 2:30 p.m.
                              The 30s & 40s groups are open to all who
                              are "around that age" who'd like to hang
                              out and get to know others. It only started
                              a few months ago, so please come along
                              (and bring a friend if you wish!)
   This month, we'll meet on Saturday, June 1, to hike at the West Hartford
   Reservoir. Please meet us at 2:30 p.m. in the car park nearest the
   entrance. In case of rain, meet at the church.
   This is a less challenging hike, but do wear good shoes for walking,
   possibly including some encounters with water. We want to make this
   hike as accessible as possible; if you have any questions, or if we can
   accommodate any requests, please get in touch with Rev. Bob
   at USHminister@gmail.com.
   See you in June!
                UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD
                   BENJAMIN DIX
                 PIANO SOLO CONCERT SERIES
                       June 15, 2024 1-3 PM
                        FREE ADMISSION
            USH Gatherings
     For more information on our weekly and monthly
                     gatherings, click here...
                                  USH Picnic – June 9
                           Borrowing Rev. Bob's recent sermon title: "the
                           end is nigh" — the end of this program year, that
                           is. Much good stuff came into being, and we are
                           going to celebrate on June 9 with a pot-luck-style
                            picnic.
                           Weather's always a factor, so the plan's to grill
                           some burgers, dogs, and veggieburgers outside
                           but probably eat in Fellowship Hall. (If it's a nice
day, take a chair or blanket outside, and enjoy some sun and fresh air.)
As always, we'll be looking for folks to help with set-up, moving things around,
taking down — and, if anyone's up for organizing some games or activities,
that'd be great!
If you're able to help, let Karolina know your ability and availability. (We'll
provide stuff to grill, and you can bring your summer picnic specialty.) More
info to come, closer to June 9...
               Social Justice
     April Social Justice Meeting Minutes have been posted here
      KEEP THE PROMISE COALITION
                       May Good Neighbor Offering:
                       Keep The Promise Coalition
Our Good Neighbor Offering recipient for May is Keep the Promise Coalition
(ktpcoalition.org). Since 1999 Keep the Promise Coalition has worked to
improve Connecticut's mental health system by protecting the rights of all
people who require provided services. "We strengthen voices, share lived
experiences and build the leadership needed to create change and affect policies
on all levels."
                           Horace Bushnell Food Pantry
                           The folks at the Horace Bushnell Children's
                           Food Pantry who are the recipients of our
                           generous protein offerings are so grateful for
                           what USH does!
                                 PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE AS
                                   GENEROUSLY AS YOU CAN
     RE and Chalice Clubhouse
                  Join the fun at USH —
     THE CHALICE CLUBHOUSE
                  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.
                      Join us on June 2 for our annual Youth Service led by
                      USH's middle and high school RE participants. Our
                      theme this year is: How Do UU See the Future?
                      Don't miss this glimpse into the next generation of
                      UUs!
              Click HERE for this week's RE Newsletter
             USH Resources
                        Board Meeting
             The next board meeting is Tuesday, June 11
                           6:30 p.m. Hybrid
                         Zoom Link HERE
    2023 – 2024 USH Board of Directors
Dana Donovan: President
Nancy Kemmerer: President-Elect
Jon Covault: Treasurer
Gloria Mengual: Secretary
Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair
Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair
Laurie Kelliher: Membership Council Chair
Jim Venneman: Finance Council Chair
Rick Tsukada: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email
to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.
The latest financial reports for FY 2023-2024 have been posted;
click HERE to view.
See the 2023/24 Annual Report HERE
The Board Meeting Minutes for April 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
password.
Link for Welcome Team Sign-Up Genius
USH Staff:
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
Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
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.
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.
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-in-Chief: Tina Davies
Production and Technology Manager: Karolina Wojtysko
                           Email Your Submission
                    Missed Last Week's Enews? Click HERE
                   Want to Donate Online? Click Here
                                              May 2024 🐺 🔻
USH Calendar of Events
The calendar for May 2024 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.
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