USH E-News June 26, 2024

"Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"

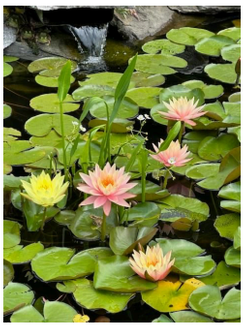

Photo: Janice Newton, June 2024

Unitarian Society of Hartford
"Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice"
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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.

Sunday Morning Service
10:30 a.m. June 30

"Sacred Stories Celebrating Pride"

The *Progress Pride Flag* expands on the iconic Pride Flag, a global symbol of pride for four decades. Black and brown stripes portray queer communities of color; and baby blue, pink and white are included from the trans flag. The arrow leads to the right to signify forward movement. It represents Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+) individuals and communities.

Rev. Bob Janis and USH Congregants
Michael Michaud, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Music Director

Julie Smith and Deb Nardi
Julie Smith and Deb Nardi. Pride means to us that the doors of equality opened up for us allowing us to marry, which we did on August 14, 2010, in the chapel here at USH. Pride has been exciting and terrifying, but also life-affirming.

Steve Gavron
Steve Gavron has been causing all sorts of good trouble as a gay activist since 1985. Steve was instrumental in passing CT's "Hate Crimes" and Gay Civil Rights laws. He also worked on passing legislation and adequate funding for HIV/AIDS issues. He joined USH in May, partially due to the absolute acceptance and support of LGBTQ folks.

Miriam Byroade
Miriam Byroade was once a queer youth at Hall High School in West Hartford, circa 1995. Now she's a middle-aged queer lady who feels most comfortable wearing men's clothes.

Judy Sullivan
Judy Sullivan is a proud mother of five and grandmother of eight vastly diverse characters, who have expanded her world in deeply meaningful and often humorous (and exhausting) ways. Her commitment to LGBTQIA+ education began 20 years ago when the first of her three transgender family members came out.

Mike Covault
Mike currently serves on the USH Committee on Shared Ministry. He and his husband Jon Covault have been married for nearly 20 years and have been members of USH for the past 8 years.

Michael Michaud– Worship Associate
Michael Michaud enjoyed being an activist in his young adulthood. Decades ago he led the Hartford Chapter of Dignity, an organization of LGBTQ+ Catholics. He now identifies as a queer, sun-loving, agnostic, Buddhist, pagan, UU Yogi who finds USH to be a perfect religious home.

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:

SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN NEXT WEEK
in Fellowship Hall, 10:30 a.m.

July 7 – "The Four Noble Truths", Reverend Bob/ Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

July 14 – "The Mythical Jesus", David Klotz, member of UUS:E, pulpit guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

July 21 – Nina Elgo, pulpit guest/Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

July 28 – "The Creative Life", Artists' Way, pulpit guests/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

August 4 – Reverend Bob/ Miriam Byroade, Worship Associate

August 11 – Gloria Bent, pulpit guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

August 18 – Rev. Andrew Millard, pulpit guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

August 25 – Reverend Bob/Peter Meny, Worship Associate

September 1 – Annie Witzler, pulpit guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

New Worship Associate Coordinator

It is my pleasure to announce Michael Michaud will become the Coordinator of the Worship Associates for the next two years, starting on July 1. He brings his deep spirituality; appreciation for meaningful, inclusive worship; warmth, and enthusiasm to this important role and sacred work.

May we all continue to Seek, Share, and Soar.
~ Sue Smolski

USH E-News Summer Schedule "Lite"

During July and August, the E-News will be published twice monthly, rather than weekly. The dates when you can expect us in your inbox are:

July 10
July 24
August 7
August 21

Our regular weekly schedule will resume effective **Wednesday, September 4.** During July and August, you'll receive the usual worship reminders each Saturday. Any urgent news will be communicated via E-Briefs.

Thoughts From Rev. Bob...

Happy summer! I hope you enjoyed the bazillion-degree weather we had recently – or at least endured it!

Last week was the UUA's General Assembly, which was just as divisive as the weather. Our delegates will relate their experiences and report back in greater detail. Briefly, this year's General Assembly was held entirely online — thus saving on airfares and carbon emissions, though it also meant a lot of interacting through screens. Sometimes, the conversation got heated. Delegates voted for solidarity with Palestinians, approved a resolution in support of the October 7 hostages, as well as a resolution affirming our determined and loving support for Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People.

The most closely watched vote of all, however, was the vote on Unitarian Universalism's Article 2. It was approved with just over 80 percent of the vote. This is a very different vote from our congregation (and several other congregations, too): at our annual meeting, USH voted emphatically against the revised Article 2.

Without going into it at any depth, there were theological and practical concerns with the loss of the seven principles from our governing document, the new language of the six sources, and the potentially changing relationship of the UUA "central office" and the congregations and other entities.

So there may well be some deep disappointment here, and a need to mourn – and worry about the future. While change is certainly happening – and change is not always good – I don't believe there is an immediate need to panic. We can continue to make use of the seven principles at the congregational level. We will certainly keep our collective eyes on the evolving nature of our denomination, but our congregational mission, and the exciting things that are going on here, remain unchanged.

As I said, you'll have a chance to hear more about General Assembly in the weeks to come, and to discuss it all. For now, I just want to thank our delegates, who gave an incredible amount of time and attention to representing us at our democratic process. Thank you! And stay cool, everyone!!

Blessings,
Rev. Bob

USH News

Endowment Committee Asks FOCUS Group for Guidance

On June 16, a FOCUS group of interested USH members and friends gathered in Servetus to assist the Endowment Committee in its plans for an Endowment Campaign in late summer through the fall.

Sherry Manetta briefed the group on the general governance of the Endowment Committee's activities and outlined the present status of our Endowment. Then, she asked the group what questions the congregation might want answered during a campaign; what modes of communication would be most effective; and if there were specific concerns and clarifications that might be helpful to address with the congregation.

As part of the presentation, a brief history of the USH Endowment (posted **here**) was passed out. We discussed how endowments are an important element in present and future success of USH; how a strong financial base supports future USH leaders; and how our present actions and preparation can help those who follow us, just as we have been helped by past generations.

The group enthusiastically supported the idea of aiming for 100% participation among the congregation — offering a 'menu' of ways to participate (i.e. bequests, gifts of appreciated securities, cash) noting that no contribution is too small — or too large. The **most** important aspect is to involve everyone, at all ages and income levels, so we all share in the success of this effort.

Other comments and suggestions were recorded, and will form a basis for the ongoing refinement of the campaign. We will see more in coming weeks, as the responses from the group are molded into a widespread approach.

Can You Help Save a Life ??

Joe Rubin and Diane Cadrain asked this plea be shared with our community... **Nate Parks needs a liver transplant**.

Nate is the partner of their youngest daughter, Lucia Rubin-Cadrain, who grew up at USH. Nate's been waiting for six years, and his family and friends are sharing Nate's story as broadly as possible to find potential donors. If you want to familiarize yourself with his story this far, visit the website made by Lucia Rubin-Cadrain: **https://linktr.ee/nateyneedsaliver.**

A liver donor donates *only a portion* of their liver, which then regrows.

Over the last year or so, several potential donors, including Nate's brother, have been screened as donors and all have been turned down. The search continues, and the more potential donors reached, the better the chances of finding someone who can in fact donate a part of their liver to Nate. Donor eligibility is subject to a variety of factors — blood type, health, family history, physical condition, community support during recovery, and more.

Find out more about living organ donation **here:**

If think you'd like to be screened as a potential donor, pease contact Nate's brother, benjaminhparks(at sign)**gmail.com**.

The Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser 2024

Hartford public schools ended on May 31; the new year begins August 28. Families in need are already planning for their children's return to school. Students in Hartford public schools wear school uniforms. Uniforms are school-specific colors, tops and bottoms assigned to each school, as you can see in the photo above.

Uniforms are an equalizer and diminish concerns about having the newest, "in" clothes. Each outfit – one top and one bottom – costs about $50. This amount can be a financial stretch for some families.

Since 2013, the Unitarian Society of Hartford has participated in a summer Uniform Fundraiser sponsored by our neighbors at The Village for Families and Children. Last year, USH donated $2,059 to the Uniform Fundraiser, helping to send over 1,000 children back to school with pride. The Village is grateful for the support they continue to receive from USH.

From July 7 – August 17, USH will again be participating in this special summer Uniform Fundraiser. Donations may be made via **check** (to USH, with ***uniforms*** in the memo line, placed in the collection plate or mailed to the Meeting House) **or** through the online Giving portal.

Any amount is welcome.

Thank you for thinking of the children.

~ Joanne Orlando

USH Gatherings

**Everyone's invited to see *Princess Mononoke*
on Sunday, July 14, 3 p.m.
at the AMC Plainville theater**

This is a Japanese animated film created by master filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki and the famed Studio Ghibli, who recently won an Academy Award for Best Animated Film, for
The Boy and The Heron.

It is an epic fantasy story set in 1400s Japan, where the rapidly modernizing civilization of man and the ancient spirits of the forest are on a collision course set for a catastrophic war. An outsider, Ashitaka, seeks to stop the fighting before all is lost for both sides of the conflict.

This film is rated PG-13 for its depictions of war and violence, suggestive themes, nightmarish imagery, and brief strong language.

Please contact Annie Witzler via email (re4ush@gmail.com) or by phone (706-248-9438) if you would like to reserve tickets, which can be refunded up to an hour before showtime. **Tickets are $15 per person.**

Stay tuned for further details closer to the show!

SpiritChat Summer Dates

SpiritChat is a meditation and conversation program that explores the concept of non-duality — the belief that everything is connected. The moderator is Nicholas Bartoli, a former monk, who has had a profound spiritual awakening. Sessions are open to all. Summer meetings will be **Fridays, July 5, July 19, and August 2; 10-11:30 a.m.** at USH in Classroom D.

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

Social Justice

May Social Justice Council Minutes have been posted **here**

Manhattan Beach, California ~ Swimming Together

Join ***The Sum of Us*** discussion group in person to reflect on the final session. **Podcast description:** After pressure from white residents and the Ku Klux Klan during the early 1900s, a local government seized a thriving Black-owned beach resort in Manhattan Beach, CA. Activists won the return of the beach to the Bruce family in the first-known U.S. case of land reparations for Black people. The community confronts what it lost when it destroyed a Black beach paradise, and redefines itself as reparations become reality. Also listen to the final reflection podcast, *The America that's Becoming*, focused on how to move to action locally to address similar issues. Both podcasts are available to listen to at: **https://open.spotify.com/show/19VMtc487rqmrb6GC8eRvd**

We will be gathering at **USH in Classroom D from noon – 1:00** following coffee hour after the **June 30** service to discuss both podcasts. If you have questions, contact Gloria Mengual at **gloriafmengual@gmail.com** or call her at 860-729-2093.

Pictured above is a photo of the family of color holding up their property paperwork.

Church Street Eats.

A simple act of kindess goes a long way to help those in need.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL

June Good Neighbor Offering

The USH Youth Group has chosen ***Church Street Eats*** as this month's Good Neighbor Offering. A cooperative ministry operating out of the historic Christ Church Cathedral, meals and clothing are provided to people in need, in and around Hartford. The number of people who depend on Church Street Eats continues to increase. Likewise, the opportunities to be a part of this caring community also continue to grow.

Food Pantry News:

SUMMER IS THE TIME OF GREATEST NEED AT THE HORACE BUSHNELL CHILDREN'S FOOD PANTRY!
Please give as generously as you can
THANK YOU

RE and Chalice Clubhouse

Join the fun at USH —

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.

It's summertime and there's still so much fun at USH – join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for free play for all ages while we listen to the service. All are welcome.

USH Resources

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Tuesday, July 9

6:30 p.m. Hybrid

Zoom Link HERE

2024 – 2025 USH Board of Directors (effective 7/1/24)

Nancy Kemmerer: President
Nina Elgo: President-Elect
Jon Covault: Treasurer
Gloria Mengual: Secretary
Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair
Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair
Laura Cipriano: 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

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for **June 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 or Zoom Meeting click **HERE**.

Unitarian Society of Hartford | 50 Bloomfield Avenue | Hartford, CT 06105 US

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