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# USH E-News: July 24, 2024

*"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**
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
or by appointment.
***Rev Bob is away July 13 – August 1.**

**Office Hours:**
Sunday 9 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Monday – Thursday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Sunday Morning Service**
**10:30 a.m. July 28**

## "The Creative Life"

*"From where does my creativity emanate? Once here, where does it sit? Is it in every fiber of me? All of me takes in everything...consciously unconsciously, automatically. It's not something that stays still...it's all images, sounds, smells, tastes, feelings, movements from whatever source just flowing through and leaving essences...bits and pieces...great gulps...joys...awe...a participatory dance in the oneness and everything of life."*

~ Diana Heymann

**Artist's Way, Pulpit Guests**
**Carol Simpson, Worship Associate**
**Sam Moffett, Music Director**

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## Matters of the Heart

To have a Joy or Sorrow read from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail **Matters of the Heart**

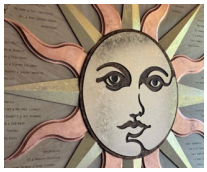
In person – use **Matters of Heart** basket for written cards on Sunday morning. Please provide concise information.

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**
***Please note Coffee Hour ends at 12 p.m.**

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**



## Upcoming USH Summer Services in Fellowship Hall:

**August 4 – "This is The Life"**, Reverend Bob/ Miriam Byroade, Worship Associate

**August 11 – "Are We There Yet?"**, Gloria Bent, pulpit guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

**August 18 – "Where the Magic Happens",** Rev. Andrew Millard, pulpit guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

**August 25 – "The Blue Diary"**. Reverend Bob/Peter Meny, Worship Associate

**September 1 – Theme: Beatrix Potter,** Annie Witzler, pulpit guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

## Message from Rev. Bob...

Happy Summer everyone! I'm away this week. As your neighbor and mine, Mr. Mark Twain, put it:

"Summer is the time when it is too hot to do the job that it was too cold to do last winter."

Good point, Mark! Happy summer, everybody!

*With gratitude,*
*Reverend Bob*

## *A Matter Of Heart...*

*a meditation from Rick Tsukada*
*preceding candles of memory and hope*
*Sunday, July 21*

A sign of the times... not too long ago ...
we had the weird experience of the Covid Pandemic,
it was both real and unreal...
and as that experience has drifted back into memory we are still oddly living in a space that feels still real and unreal...
I mean I have trouble believing, or, I don't want to believe
what is happening in the world around me.
And now, with the words "Matters of the Heart"...
I resist checking inside...
not wanting to feel what is stirring there...
however ...
in my heart, perhaps in our hearts,
there is something giant sitting along side my heart...
indeed in this moment of time,
in this country...
on this world ...
something makes my heart feel... oh so heavy...
sometimes it is just there...
just sitting there, as if it is just waiting for something to happen...
sometimes it is stirred up and
wanting my body to flay around against the air itself...
whatever it is... there is a hurt...
why a hurt...?
we hurt because we are good people...
we are people who live toward being loving...
we are people who endeavor to be kind...
we are people who endeavor to be generous ...
we are people who endeavor living in harmony with our life spirit...
and those of others...
yes our hearts are heavy...and yes it hurts...
but remember it is not bigger than the size of your goodness
or the depth of your desire for goodwill and
the wanting of well-being for all that dwells on this planet...
that is who you are...do not doubt that ever...
remember always you are good people and that is why we hurt...
and remember the planet needs us...
because we have hearts.

# USH General Interest

# *It's Official — Meeting House Designated Historic!*

We've now received official notification: our Meeting House is now the latest addition to the National Register of Historic Places!

This follows more than two years of planning, research, writing, learning, meetings, and an immense amount of time and work on the part of a small group of volunteers. Notable among the group was Toni Gold, whose familiarity with historic preservation was instrumental in initiating and propelling the project through myriad requirements.

A large public celebration is in the works for spring 2025, with details to come as plans are solidified. In the meantime, please reflect on Victor Lundy's vision in designing our home, and celebrate the accomplishments of many who work to care for it.

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## *Endowment Campaign Gears Up; Seeks a Few Volunteers*

**Update:** The Endowment Committee has met to map out campaign actions planned for mostly September and October. This effort will largely be educational as it's likely many may be unfamiliar with endowments, and we will be discussing methods of assuring the opportunities presented by today's USH continue to be available to current and future attendees as we pass the "torch" to those coming aboard.

**You** might be interested in helping by joining the *Endowment Campaign Committee*. Just being interested is qualification enough. If you happen to have knowledge related to endowments or tax advantages related to charitable contributions, you will certainly be welcomed as well. (And you *won't* be asking anyone for money!) Just let me know that you'd like to be involved.

*~ David Newton, Chair, Endowment Committee*

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## *General Assembly 2024 Delegate Report*

*by Marye Gail Harrison*

My participation in the UUA virtual GA began on June 20, the summer solstice, with a full moon that night. The thought of that comforted me as I looked toward three days of business meetings and voting on Zoom for which I was one of three USH delegates. Also participating from USH were Rev. Bob, Nancy Kemmerer (our new USH president) and Paul Cipriano.

On Friday afternoon, 6/21, we met together at USH to watch in the library. That was the best experience of those three days for me. GA by Zoom lacks a lot of fizz compared to 'in person'. But it created greater accessibility, reduced costs, and was far better for the environment.

The big question before that GA was a vote on changes to Article II of the UUA By-Laws. Our congregation after exploring this in various ways had voted "no" and we delegates voted accordingly. At the 2023 GA, prior to the final vote, there had been discussion opportunities on line and amendments were proposed, voted up or down within carefully explained guidelines. Conduct protocols were clear and
repeated. Self- identifying speakers of color, with disabilities, or/and identifying as LGBTQ were given preference in the first speaking slots. Everyone was limited to two minutes and they alternated between pro and "concerned".

As I've said, our USH delegates voted "no" to the changes. However, the changes to Article II passed by an overwhelming vote by the 2000 some delegates. It is clear there is a massive attempt by the UUA and many Unitarian Universalists to compensate as a much as possible for the indignities and hardships those who are minorities of any kind have experienced in this country. This seemed to me to be
the primary motive for changes.

My conclusion from this experience is that the challenge for all of us is to act from the freedom and agency we have, not to succumb to victimhood, nor martyrdom nor any other response than being as authentically who each of us is as possible.

This means doing the hard work of self-reflection, discernment and open hearted communications, living with ambiguity and constant change. May it be so for us at USH as we move forward in these challenging times. This is what a spiritual community is meant to do.

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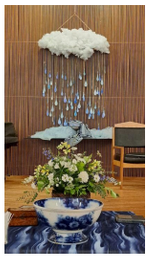

## *Chancel Arts Openings*

Do you look at the chancel decoration every Sunday and think, "I'd like to do something like that?" Paula Bazydlo Bleck, the chair of the Chancel Arts Sub-council, is beginning the process of arranging this year's Chancel Art schedule. The commitment is small, usually only a handful of Sundays each year.

If you are interested in joining the group please email **pmbleck@outlook.com** to be added to the list. Planning meetings will begin soon. We would love to have you.

**New exhibit on view:**
***Artistry and Adaptation***

The artwork of Stuart Williams returns to our Ambulatory Gallery. This time we are showing his work representing a creative pivot from masterworks replications to the new media of computer software and inkjet printing.

Created between 2003 and 2013, these works were an expression of pure experimentation for him: breaking out of traditional media and subject matter into playing with scanned objects and Photoshop, resulting in abstract illustrations.

Stuart's children have each contributed to bringing together this showing. His daughter, Evan Williams, pulled seventeen paper prints from over one hundred possible choices. Eleven were her brother John's favorites, which he named, and another six were Evan's picks. More than a decade ago our other brother, Todd, served as a mentor and facilitator for our 80 year old father on Photoshop. He also printed the illustrations that are on canvas.

This work is in the gallery until October 1.
Paper prints are priced at $50.
Prints on canvas are $100.
Proceeds will benefit USH at a rate of 70% instead of the usual 30%.
*~ Evan Williams*

New USH mugs, displaying our logo and theme, are available to purchase. If you would like one, for your morning coffee or for a gift, mugs will be available for sale for $10 each.

Pay, **in the office, please,** by cash or check.

# Share Hope for Nate

Nate is a smart, curious, connoisseur of music, movies, and video games. He's a friendly, generous, loving, silly presence with a booming laugh.

**Nate needs a liver to live.** Liver failure has turned Nate's life upside down. His life has been on hold for over six years. That's a long wait. Your action of sharing can connect us to the right person. We're asking you to share Nate's story with your network to help us find a liver donor who will save his life.

**Nate is looking for a living organ donor** who gives Nate a part of their liver (it grows back in a couple months.) You *could* be a life-saving match.

**Share his story.**

**Save his life.**

**Every share brings us closer to a life-saving donor.**

Learn more:
**bit.ly/NatesLiver**

**Take a picture of this poster and show it to your friends and family.**

# Social Justice

**The Village for Families and Children:**
**Uniform Fundraiser 2024**

"After Bianca Haughton enrolled in Hartford's Capital Preparatory Magnet School in September, she learned to take the time to get to know people because the cues she relied on at her old school – clothing styles – were replaced by uniforms. "I opened my eyes to getting to know people by personality, Haughton, a senior, said Tuesday. "I'm friends with people now who I wouldn't talk to at my other school". This quote is from The Hartford Courant, May 10, 2006, when the Hartford School Board was formally choosing to require school-specific uniforms for Hartford schools.

In her comments this student gives us insight into how uniforms act as an equalizer and can be a source of community for kids attending school in Hartford.

The Village for Families and Children is having its annual Uniform Fundraiser to help provide 1,500 families in need with uniforms when their children return to school in August. For the 12th year USH is participating in this Fundraiser.

Donations may be made by check, written out to USH. The word UNIFORM must be in the memo line.

You may also give online through the designated link.
Thank you to all who have already given.

**THE FUNDRAISER ENDS ON AUGUST 17.**
Thank you for thinking of the children.

## *Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry*

**Please make sure your offerings have current expiration dates, are unopened, and are properly labeled.**

The bins have been moved downstairs for the summer and sit centrally located in front of the sitting area under the stairs.

**Lots of protein foods, please!**
**(Checks with "Horace Bushnell" on the memo line in the offering basket would be greatly appreciated as well! )**
***Thank you!***

# Religious Education

### RE Welcome Retreat

An RE Welcome Retreat will be held **September 13 – 15** in Granby at a waterfront location. Families with kids/youth in RE and those who have assisted **or would like to assist** are invited.

A flyer for the event may be found **HERE**

Sign-up and permission to attend may be found **HERE**

More photos and information about the location are **HERE**

**USH Lake Compounce Day, October 5:** Kids and youth are invited to a USH Lake Compounce Day on October 5. Special thanks to Makenzi Hurtado who will help organize this. The **permission form** must be completed for those wishing to attend this fun outing!

If you are interested in helping with RE and/or wish to be part of an RE Committee, kindly contact Shahan at **shahan06410@gmail.com**

# USH Gatherings

### *SpiritChat Summer Date*

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. The next summer meeting is **Friday, August 2; 10 – 11:30 a.m.** at USH in Classroom D.

## Disability Support Group — August 3

This group meets online on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. In this group, participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness), and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the group stays in the group. To confirm summer scheduling, please Email **Gloria Bent** or call 860-904-7768.

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## Security Subcouncil Meeting August 4, noon

after Coffee Hour in the Library.

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## Magdalene Circle Monday, August 10

Join us as we explore the Divine Feminine principle with particular attention to the historical, archetypal, and spiritual Mary Magdalene. We look at ancient and modern material as well as practices we can integrate into our daily lives to expand Love of ourselves and each other. If you are interested in participating in this group please contact **Lisa Burch** before attendance for orientation. A free-will donation is requested, to be directed to USH.

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## Saturday Sing-Along
## August 17, 2 – 5 p.m.

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along. Song sheets and some loaner copies of ***Rise Up Singin***g or ***Rise Again*** are available.

Come early or come late, whatever fits your schedule. Some of us bring snacks, but that is not required (or organized). If the weather is good, we meet outside around to the right of the building, in the Memorial Garden.
Contact: **Fred Louis** or **Ed Savage** for more information.

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## USH Book Club

The Book Club meets from 2:30 - 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, September through June, either on Zoom or occasionally as a hybrid meeting. If you would like to participate in a discussion of the book and related issues, please contact Ginny Allen at **fiddlenurse1@gmail.com**. An email with the Zoom link will be sent to you a day or two before the meeting.

**Book Selections for 2024-2025**

**September 12, 2024:** *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry
**October 10, 2024:** State *of Terror* by Louise Penney with Hillary Rodham Clinton
**November 14, 2024:** *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon
**December 12, 2024:** *Mad Honey* by Jodi Pecoult with Jennifer Finney Boylan
**January 9, 2025:** *Heart-Treasure* for the Mother of the World by Robert Janis
**February 13, 2025:** *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann
**March 13, 2025:** *Tom Lake* by Anne Patchett
**April 10, 2025:** *Trust* by Herman Diaz
**May 8, 2025:** *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
**June 12, 2025:** *The Women* by Kristen Hannah

**During July and August, the following gatherings/events are on break for the summer:**

USH Book Club
Men's Group
Spirit Life
First Tuesday Hangouts
First Thursdays in the Chapel
Gentle Yoga
Pizza and Movie Night
Lunch Bunch
30s – 40s Group

# USH Resources

## 2024 – 2025 USH Board of Directors

**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 2024-2025 have been posted;** click **HERE** to view.

See the 2023/24 Annual Report **HERE**

The **Board Meeting Minutes** for **May 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**

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## USH Staff:

**Rev. Bob Janis**, Minister
**ushminister@gmail.com** | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

**Karolina Wojtysko**, Church Operations Manager
**hartforduusociety@gmail.com** | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

**Shahan Islam**, Director of Religious Education
**shahan06410@gmail.com** | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

**Sam Moffett**, Director of Music
**smoffettuu@gmail.com**

**Patty Peck**, Bookkeeper
**ushtreasurer50@gmail.com**

### 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*
*Church Operations Manager: Karolina Wojtysko*

## USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for **July 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 Ave | Hartford, CT 06105 US

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